



Beyond Borders: Unraveling The Strategic And Cultural Ties Between India And Vietnam.

Bikranta Paul^{1*}, Dr. Manish Roy²

¹Ex-Student, Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar, Email: bikranthpaul75@gmail.com, Mobile No: 9101944563

²Assistant Professor, S.K.Roy, College, Katlicherra.

***Corresponding Author:** - Bikranta Paul

*Ex-Student, Department of Political Science, Assam University, Silchar, Email: bikranthpaul75@gmail.com, Mobile No: 9101944563

Abstract

India and Vietnam, relation is characterized by similar national crusade against foreign power for liberation, share traditionally tight and generous bilateral cooperation. Mahatma Gandhi and Ho Chi Minh, obeyed as the Father of Nation in India and Vietnam respectively. India was the Chairman of the International Commission for Supervision and Control (ICSC), which was created in pursuant to the Geneva Accord of 1954 to promote the peace operation in Vietnam. India initially followed Consultative-level ties with Vietnam the then North and South Vietnams and later solidified full diplomatic ties with united Vietnam on 1972. Relations between the two nations were improved to the level of 'Strategic Partnership' in July 2007. In 2016, during visit of PM Modi's to Vietnam, bilateral relations were heightened to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership". The improvement of Vietnam-India relations is not simply the outcome of India's Look/Act East Policy. It also result of Vietnam's high preference of the Indian factor in its foreign policy since the advancement of multilateralism by Southeast Asian country in their international relations and Vietnam's promotion of cultural diplomacy strategy and India's pushing of its soft power strategy in recent years. The article is an endeavor to comprehend the history and phases of the bilateral ties, and the magnitude of India in Vietnam's relation by examining its connections with India in realms of strategic and cultural.

Key words: Bilateral, Strategic, Culture and Cooperation.

Objective

1. To review the accomplishments and potentials of Vietnam- India cultural cooperation.
2. An attempt to comprehend the evolution of Strategic cooperation between India Vietnam.

Research Methodology:

For the purpose of the study of India Vietnam cultural and strategic cooperation and their growth and potential over the years, here descriptive method is observed. For the study of this topic material have been collected by secondary sources. Secondary material and data have been collected from different books, journals, internet sources, published research papers and articles, news paper etc.

Introduction

After the triumph in the 2014 elections, PM Modi's Administration initiated the Act East policy, aspiring to bank on its geographic advantages in the indo-Asian subcontinent to enlarge its strategic concerns east ward, while strengthening its hegemonic stature in South Asia. Understanding the current necessities of geo-politics and regional strategy, Vietnam has serve a crucial strategic figure for the India's Act East Policy. The two governments continue to encourage multi-channel communications and dialogues and possess incremental development into a comprehensive strategic cooperation and enhanced political, security, economic and other partnership at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

However the cooperation is established on the practical requirements of strategy and security, as both the nation have common neighbor and face similar security challenges in many scenario, such as territorial invasion. Now it has become a fundamental objective for the development of cooperation between the two nations to strategically counter China's prominence in the region. Further, the partnership will benefit to strengthen the evolving multipolarity in the Indo-Pacific region, which is now the center of global diplomacy.

India and Vietnam formally established strategic partnership in 2007. This was a significant development in bilateral relations, opening freshdoors for the robust and deep partnership between the two nations in all domains comprising the development in political - security and economic ties, cultural partnership has become a significant realm. Vietnam and India have had trade and cultural interaction from the first centuries AD. Political relation has also been established and consolidated since the two countries gained independence in the 1940s. However, until the 1990s, Vietnam - India relation in all sectors remained limited. It was in the beginning of the 1990s, when India began its Look East policy and

Vietnam implemented its open door policy, that Vietnam – India relation began to prosper. Along with the development of political – security and economic relations, cultural cooperation has increasingly become an important sector in bilateral relations and is considered one of the three pillars of Vietnam – India relations. This paper is an attempt to provide information on the achievements of Vietnam- India cultural cooperation over the past decade and the past achievements and future prospects of India – Vietnam cultural cooperation is based on the foundation of Vietnam – India historical ties.

A Concise Historical Background of India-Vietnam Bilateral Relations:

The India-Vietnam strategic cooperation is established on the historical and cultural connection. This friendship has no record of any bitter history between the two countries. Instead their hardship at the hands of outer imperialist superiorities has directed to a robust understanding which would assist in shaping up the geo-political realignment being noticed today. It is crucial to remark that despite disparities in their political doctrines and their techniques of government, their relationship illustrates an extraordinary case of being established on the commonality of regulations between the two countries. This is relatively obvious while exploring the bilateral connections, beginning in the post-independence era. Although their formal diplomatic connections were specified only on January 1972, India favored Vietnam's anti-imperialist campaign for its sovereignty. Moreover, the 'Open Door' reforms initiated by Vietnam in 1986 and the 'Look East' policy endorsed by India in 1992 changed both countries foreign strategies and gave opportunities to strengthen their bilateral ties. The development of the bilateral ties has encouraged the foundation of the strategic partnership in 2007, which was heightened to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2016, during the visit of India's PM to Vietnam. The establishment of the Comprehensive strategic partnership reflected existing degree of mutual confidence as well as the urgency for sustaining peace, stability, development, and prosperity in the region. Moreover, the India-Vietnam friendship would be significant in the context of the arising security challenges in the recent era. Both countries have emphasized the necessity to entirely and effectively execute the Declaration on the Conduct (DOC) of Parties in the Vietnam Sea and the establishment of (COC) in the South China Sea. As Vietnam and India geographically position at the heart of the rising up Indo-Pacific region, both the countries would play an important role in this strategic area which is evolving a hub theatre for contest for power and influence amongst the main powers.

The soaring Geo-Strategic atmosphere in shaping the Bilateral Partnership between two countries:

The introduction of the 'Look East' policy in 1992 and its promotion to the 'Act East' policy in 2014 under Modi. India has been connecting with Southeast Asia with a plenty additional efforts as the region is strategically important for India. The emergence of new camps of power, coalitions, and alliances, forced the aged relationships to reconsidered and reshaped. India's friendship with the ASEAN played an important function in developing its partnership with the ASEAN partner nations. Vietnam has invariably been keen on India assuming an extensively bigger security function in the region. India became a partner of the ARF with decisive support from Vietnam in 1996. It is crucial to remark that India's push towards consolidating its security relations with Southeast Asia was brought possible as an outcome of the preponderance of mutual faith as well as the commonality of interest between India and the partner nations of ASEAN. In the post-Cold War time, the new security atmosphere which steered to India's intensifying engagement with ASEAN, also enabled India and Vietnam to consolidate their bilateral security cooperation. However the relation between these two country has going through several ups and down but most of the time it was very friendly from both the side.

The strategic partnership between India and Vietnam became crucial considering the challenges from an increasingly aggressive China in the region. Historically, Vietnam had a hostile relation with China. The Sino-Vietnamese ties have, since early 1990, grown up into a usual relationship, with China and Vietnam also ascertaining a CSP in March 2013. Over the past few years, Vietnam has created, through a series of consensuses, tight political, financial, military as well as artistic relations with China. Although Vietnam has been equipped to decipher most of its border disagreements with China, the reciprocal relation between the two nations has not been entirely replenished. Vietnam's anxiousness about China goes on till today and this compels it for consolidating its mutual security cooperation with other countries such as India. Vietnam is boosting its military spending, particularly on its navy, in partner with its thriving economy and in reaction to the anticipated threats, comprising from China. Over the years, China has expanded its naval extend in order to strengthen as well as maintain it's claim on the South China Sea islands and reefs. This comprises a massive formation of synthetic islands in south china, with the motive of building military facilities on them. The problem over the South China Sea is the substantial challenges for Vietnam's foreign strategy in tasks of safety. This has directed to Vietnam embracing a more practical technique in its foreign strategy based on multi-lateralization and diversification. Which coerced Vietnam to improves its relations with India, Nonetheless, it is also vital to point out that by ratifying a CSP with India in 2016, Vietnam has given rise to India the third nation, besides Russia and China, with which Vietnam has embarked into a Comprehensives strategic partnership. It should be underlined that though China may be a vital element in Vietnam's and India's strategic deliberation, it is not the foremost factor that is molding the India-Vietnam CSP. While China's heightening vehemence in the disputed South China Sea puts forward suspicions, its increasing Infiltration into South Asia and in Indian Ocean area also distresses India. However, it must also be brought into invoice that the India-Vietnam relationship has been erected on a strong footing of trust and common principles that strives the sustenance of peace and resilience in the region as well as in the enormous Indo-Pacific region. As India and Vietnam

geographically stationed at the heart of the developing Indo-Pacific region, both India and Vietnam would play a leading role in this strategic expanse which is coming to be a core theatre for contest, power and leverage amongst the main powers. Through the more deepening of their bilateral strategic ties, based on their shared curiosities and doctrines, this relationship would play a critical and constructive part towards a permanent, comprehensive, and prosperous region.

Historical Bases of Cultural Relation between India-Vietnam:

India and Vietnam have had business and cultural exchange from the several centuries. Political ties has also been assured and compressed since the two countries attain independence. Nonetheless, before the 1990s, Vietnam – India ties in all sectors remained confined. It was only in the advent of the 1990s, when India undertook its Look East policy and Vietnam carried out its innovation policy, that Vietnam – India ties started to flourish. The earlier cultural interchange between India and Vietnam was associated to Buddhism. In the 2nd half of the second century BC, two Indian monks, namely Kalyanacuri and Mahajavaka came to Vietnam. Evidence of Kalyanacuri continued be understood at Đậu pagoda in Bac Ninh region in northern Vietnam. He promoted Buddhism to Vietnam, integrated with the regional folk sentiments and alleviated molded Vietnamese Buddhism. Subsequently, some Vietnamese monks moved to China to propagate Buddhism. The early cultural communication between Vietnam and India also seized place through maritime saleable activities. Several Indian merchants in the initial centuries AD succeeded to Southeast Asian seaports, encompassing Vietnam, to take part in the spice business. On their vessels, there were again monks who looked after them to appeal for peace, prosperity and to support in overcome hardships. Thus, there is no skepticism that peaceful cultural intercourse began relatively very earlier between Vietnam and India. In modern period, Vietnam – India ties was established by the great administrators of the two states, namely President Hồ Chí Minh and PM Jawaharlal Nehru. During the long struggle for freedom, Vietnam invariably received the religious and substantial assistance of Indian companions. The two nations founded full diplomatic relations in 1972. India and Vietnam Joint Commission for the financial, scientific and technical partnership was set up in 1982. This was a crucial tool to facilitate bilateral partnership in all fields comprising culture. From the 1990s, Vietnam – India tie has taken off through enormous modifications in the context of powerful multinational integration and globalization. Internally, the monetary reforms of India and open strategies of Vietnam were significant and encouraging components strengthening Vietnam – India relation. Nowadays, cultural diplomacy is widely adopted in foreign conspiracies of each nation as the strong stretch of culture has tremendous consequence in constructing mutual confidence and awareness, which enables in compressing political and financial connections among countries. Comprehending the crucial role of cultural diplomacy, the PM of Vietnam, Nguyễn Tấn Dũng, ratified —Strategy of cultural (artistic) diplomacy up to 2020 for Vietnam. With this Strategy, cultural diplomacy has evolved one of the vital pillars of the contemporary and extensive diplomacy of Vietnam. In the context of India, cultural diplomacy is a critical ingredient of diplomacy, as it were planted in Indian culture.

New Development in India-Vietnam Cultural Cooperation

In the last few decades, India began enforcing the technique of soft power diplomacy further systematically. The administration are instantly working overwhelming to use Indian soft power to facilitate Indian Look East policy (now the Act East policy) that Vietnam is one of the valuable pillars. India has large streams of soft power. Indians are pretentious of Bollywood, Buddhism, spirituality, yoga and a vibrant philosophical tale. India moreover has a comprehensive, prosperous and persuasive diaspora who are increasingly assuming role in the politics in several political and economic hubs of the world. However, the new and robust diplomacy of PM Modi has been relatively thriving in persuading the attention of world chiefs. These above illustrated components are important requirements to facilitate cultural partnership between Vietnam and India in current years. New growths in Vietnam – India cultural partnership since the foundation of Strategic cooperation between the two nations in 2007 Along with the advancement of political, monetary, safety and defense alliance, cultural teamwork has also been consolidated through the enactment of a volume of cultural exchange policies between the two countries since 2007.

Yearly, on the Independence Day, the National Day of respective state and the anniversary of the foundation of diplomatic relations between the two countries, various expositions and craft executions are arranged to showcase the magnificence of both the countries to the ordinary people of the two states. Vietnam cultural affiliation has been thriving strongly in current years. Today, our bilateral cultural partnership has bunches of alternatives for advancement in the case of the strengthening of India- Vietnam strategic cooperation and Opportunities. The optimistic transitions in Vietnam – India ties are to be recognized in the context of an extra globalized and blended world. Over the year, the administration of India has proceeded to bring adjustments to its Look East policy (now the Act East policy) in a way that India is increasingly seizing basis in the events of Southeast Asia and East Asia – Pacific. Adjustments of Indian Look East policy have frequently had favorable influence on Vietnam – India partnership. Vietnam has evolve one of the more crucial pillars of India's act East policy. All this developed promising opportunities in Vietnam – India cooperation in all areas including culture.

Conclusion

It is clearly visible, even after approximately one decade of the foundation strategic partnership, cultural teamwork between the two nations has earned convincing successes. Numerous cultural interactions or activities have been taken

place yearly in India and Vietnam. The amount of Vietnamese studying and touring India is rising, contributing to the improvement of mutual compassion between the two nations. However, specific complications persist like, problems in transportation, absence of accurate data about each other. Still, the past accomplishments and our reciprocal trust, we strongly recognize that Vietnam – India ties in all areas comprising cultural cooperation will thrive more powerfully. The conventional friendship between India and Vietnam has encouraged in the construction of a strategic partnership between the two. It has to be attributed that this relationship has thrived and is nourished based on the ancient bonds between the two countries which have no report of any example of imperialistic assault being executed by the two countries against each other. This complicated security urgency occurring from the conventional as well as non-conventional security menaces has also helped widen the extent of the bilateral strategic cooperation.

Despite China persisting perpetually existing In both countries' strategic attention, it is Crucial to comprehend that the relations Between China and Vietnam, or between China and India would not be disturbed, On account of particular issues of deviation. While for China and India , there is a steady endeavor on the piece Of the prime leaderships in New Delhi and Beijing respectively in order to curtail tensions. Thus, the India-Vietnam bilateral cooperation has to glance beyond the Challenges from simply China to comprise common challenges stood by economic, Social, and other patterns of conventional and non-conventional security dangers. Hence, the comprehensive strategic Partnership contributes an enormous opportunity for both Vietnam and India to Aggravate as well as widen the spectrum of their cooperation.

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