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Centre for Vietnam Studies
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Over the years, Vietnam has emerged as a significant player in India's foreign policy projection—a partner in sub-regional, regional, and multilateral fora. It is an integral member of ASEAN and plays an important role in India's Act East policy. The elevation of the Strategic Partnership between the two countries to that of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' is a clear indication of the goodwill, trust and importance the two countries place on their relationship. It is also an acknowledgment of the existing strong bilateral defense and security ties and our mutual desire to contribute to regional peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity. Moving beyond the ideological linkages, both countries have endeavoured to revamp their relations in the changing geo-politics of the Indo-Pacific.

From the strategic lens, Vietnam's geographical location in Asia Pacific has added to its geo-political importance for the regional players like China, India, Australia and Japan and also for the external powers like the United States and its rebalancing strategy in the Asia-Pacific. In the changing architecture of the Indo-Pacific, Vietnam emerges as a significant player in India's foreign policy projection—a partner in sub-regional, regional, and multilateral fora.

Vietnam is looking to multiple partners in Asia and beyond. India has been of very special strategic interest to Vietnam. Over the years, New Delhi has gradually expanded its defence and naval cooperation with Vietnam and assisted in its urgent effort at modernizing the military force. Over the years, New Delhi has gradually expanded its defence and naval cooperation with Vietnam and assisted in its urgent effort at modernizing the military force. Given the cultural-religious linkages, based on their closer association with the historical kingdoms and the impact of Buddhist philosophy to the anti-colonialist struggle during the colonial rule and foreign intervention during the Second World War and thereafter, both the countries have developed closer ties and a shared destiny based on a shared world view. In the context of geo-strategic paradigm and the forces shaping the internal dynamics of Vietnam, its foreign policy orientations vis-à-vis the 'Great Powers' in the region and its engagement with India is a critical area of concern.

In this background, the Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi proposes to provide a platform for all the scholars in India to engage on the past, present and future of India-Vietnam relations. Although initially launched as a Centre, it is expected to grow and evolve as a major interactive research forum for sharing ideas and exchange of scholars between India and Vietnam, organizing lectures, panel discussions, workshops, conferences and associate emerging scholars working on India-Vietnam relations. The Centre envisages an active association of all the stakeholders for mutual exchange of ideas and dissemination of information about the archetypical relationship between India and Vietnam encompassing centuries and beyond.

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MANDATE
The proposed Centre for Vietnam Studies is timely as it aims to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the relationship with one of India's most important and enduring strategic partners in Southeast Asia – Vietnam. Some of the major issues to be covered under the broad rubric of India-Vietnam relations by the Centre for Vietnam Studies could be as below:

1. Vietnam in India's Foreign Policy
2. India-Vietnam Historical and Cultural Linkages
3. India-Vietnam Relations and the Changing Geo-politics of the Indo-Pacific
4. Political and Diplomatic Engagements between India and Vietnam
5. Value-chain and Development Partnership between India-Vietnam-ASEAN
6. Security, Defence and Strategic Concerns in India-Vietnam Relations
7. Trade-Commerce and Connectivity Concerns
8. Science & Technology, Culture and Education in India-Vietnam Relations
10. Traditional and Non-traditional Security Issues in India-Vietnam Relations

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES
1. Exchange of Faculty, Research Scholars and Students
2. Panel Discussion and Workshops for engaging with the critical audience on Vietnam Studies in India
3. Hosting of Annual Events such as Conferences/Seminars/Lecture Series
4. Research Projects focused on strengthening India-Vietnam Relations
5. Publication of Monographs and Occasional Papers focused on the theme of India-Vietnam Engagements
7. Policy Recommendations to the MFA and other concerned stakeholders
8. The Centre will try to enter into MoU with other institutions (Universities and think-tanks) for the promotion of Vietnam Studies in India
9. Language training could also be provided for the interested students
10. Annual Newsletter could be published by the Centre to review the state of India-Vietnam relations

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019
The Centre would plan the following activities:

March 2018: Launch of the Centre by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
April 2018: Launch of the Website
May 2018: Roundtable Discussion on the state of Vietnam Studies in Indian Universities and think tanks and recommendations on promotion of interest among scholars and researchers in India
July 2018: One day Conference on India-Vietnam Relations as a follow up of the July 2017 Conference
September 2018: Delegation from the Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi to visit Centre for Indian Studies, Hanoi and explore the possibilities of signing MoU and collaborative projects with other institutions in Vietnam such as Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Foreign University (FVU) and others.
October 2018: Review of the activities of the Centre
November 2018: Publication of the Newsletter of the Centre for the year 2018
January 2019: One day Conference on India-Vietnam Relations as a follow up of the January 2018 Conference