



CENTRE FOR
JOINT WARFARE
STUDIES

GL/12/26

**INDIA-VIETNAM RELATIONS: LESSONS FROM HISTORY
AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE**
BY
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**ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
19 MAR 2026**



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The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies hosted a detailed session on 19 March 2026, featuring Mr Manish Jaiswal as the key speaker to discuss the strategic evolution of India-Vietnam relations. The speaker highlighted that the contemporary partnership is built upon over two millennia of shared cultural and historical heritage, which provided a robust foundation for modern diplomatic engagement.

Historical Context and Diplomatic Foundations

The discourse traced the roots of bilateral ties to the early years of the Cold War. The speaker highlighted India's significant role during the 1954 Geneva Accords and its early recognition of North Vietnam as foundational milestones that established India's reputation as a trusted partner. This anti-colonial solidarity was further cemented through mutual support during various regional conflicts, creating a legacy of strategic trust that continues to define the relationship today.

Economic Synergy and Manufacturing Trends

The speaker pointed out that simultaneous economic reforms in both countries during the post-Cold War era acted as a catalyst for deeper integration. A major focus of the session was Vietnam's rise as a pivotal manufacturing hub in Southeast Asia. The speaker highlighted how this aligns perfectly with India's pursuit of supply chain diversification under the China plus one approach. The synergy between India's industrial aspirations and Vietnam's manufacturing capabilities was identified as a core pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2016.

Strategic and Maritime Cooperation

In addressing the evolving Indo-Pacific geopolitical landscape, the speaker highlighted the South China Sea as a critical area of shared concern. The lecture underscored

that maintaining regional stability and a rules-based order is essential for the national interests of both nations. The speaker highlighted several key policy options for the future, including:

- Enhancing joint defence production and technology transfer to build self-reliance.
- Strengthening maritime presence through frequent naval exercises and information sharing.
- Integrating digital economies with a specific focus on semiconductor collaboration and emerging technologies.

Recent Developments and Future Outlook

The speaker noted that recent high-level exchanges, such as the Vietnamese Defence Minister's visit to India in 2023, reflect an ongoing commitment to deepening institutional ties. The session concluded with the speaker highlighting that the full potential of India-Vietnam relations lies in expanding cooperation beyond traditional security into the domains of digital infrastructure and sustainable economic growth. By leveraging their historical affinity, both nations can effectively navigate the complex strategic dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.