Geography of Vietnam

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | World Geography*

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his heartiest congratulations to Mr. To Lam on his election as the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

- **Location –** Located on the ***Indochina Peninsula*** in Southeast Asia.
- **Borders –** China (North), Laos & Cambodia (West), South China Sea/Eastern Sea (East), Gulf of Thailand (South & Southwest).
- **Capital –** Hanoi.
- **Topography –** Terrain slopes extend from *Northwest to Southeast,* where **75% territory** comprised of Low mountains & hilly regions.
- **Highest Peak –** Fansipan (3,143 m), tallest in Indochina.
- **Truong Son Range –** Granite mountains along western frontier; Central Highlands plateau lies east of the range, forming Vietnam's coffee-producing hub and strategic watershed.
- **Hai Van Pass** – Important divide between North and South Vietnam.
- **Deltas**
  - Red River Delta (Northern Delta).
  - Mekong River Delta (Southern Delta).
  - Central coastal deltas.
- **Rivers**
  - **Red River (Song Hong)** – Flows through Northern Delta, vital for agriculture.
  - **Mekong River** – Forms Southern Delta, highly fertile, supports rice cultivation.
  - **Other rivers –** Ma, Ca, Dong Nai.
- **Lakes**
  - **Ba Be Lake** – Largest natural freshwater lake.
  - **Hoan Kiem Lake** – Iconic Lake in Hanoi.

- **Seas & Gulfs –**
  - **South China Sea (Eastern Sea) –** Major maritime zone, strategic disputes over islands.
  - **Gulf of Tonkin** – Includes Ha Long Bay, Bai Tu Long Bay.

Ha Long Bay is an UNESCO World Heritage Site, karst topography.

  - **Gulf of Thailand** – To South & Southwest.
- **Islands & Archipelagos –**
  - **Tonkin Gulf –** 3,000 islets (Ha Long Bay, Cat Ba, Bach Long Vi).
  - **Eastern Sea –** Hoang Sa (Paracel Islands), Truong Sa (Spratly Islands).
  - **Southwest** – Con Son, Phu Quoc, Tho Chu islands.
- **Important Ports**
  - **Hai Phong Port** – Major northern seaport.
  - **Da Nang Port** – Central Vietnam, strategic location.
  - **Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon Port)** – Largest southern port, economic hub.
  - **Cam Ranh Bay** – Deep-water port, strategic military significance.
- **Climate & Vegetation**
  - **Climate –** Tropical monsoon, humid; distinct wet and dry seasons.
  - **Vegetation –** Dense forests in mountains, mangroves along coasts, fertile alluvial soils in deltas.
  - **Agriculture –** ***Mekong Delta*** is one of the world's largest rices-producing regions; Central Highlands – coffee cultivation hub.
- **Natural Resources**
  - Rich in **coal, bauxite, oil, and natural gas**.
  - Offshore oil reserves in the South China Sea.
- **Fisheries –** Long coastline supports one of Asia's largest fishing industries.



References

1. PIB | Geography of Vietnam
2. Vietnam Embassy | Geography of Vietnam

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