

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 rice-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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