

## Security in Friendship: On Tokyo Quad Summit

The article is related to  
General Studies-Paper-II  
(International Relations)

The Hindu

27 May, 2022

### **The Quad can help reshape economic alliances and regional security architecture.**

The recent summit meeting of the leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or Quad, could not have come at a more critical juncture in world politics. Between Russia's invasion of Ukraine that has destabilised accepted norms on respecting territorial sovereignty; its knock-on effects on commodity and input prices, fuelling inflationary pressures and impacting global supply chains; and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that spotlighted deficiencies in public health infrastructure, the leaders of India, the United States, Australia and Japan are likely to have had a full and multidimensional policy agenda in Tokyo.

For the leaders the obvious, if not always explicitly stated theme linking several global issues is the China factor and the unique strategic challenges that that country poses to the rules-based international order. While U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida were blunt in their condemnation of Russia's belligerence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and newly elected Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese avoided any direct reference to Moscow, as indeed did the summit's joint statement.

On China, however, the four nations were on the same page, and the Quad joint statement called for continued cooperation towards maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific; championing adherence to international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and in maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight; and meeting challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas.

The Quad leaders affirmed the Dialogue's two core messages. First, they will continue to strongly oppose coercive, provocative, and unilateral actions by Beijing that seek to change the status quo and heighten tensions across the region, including through manoeuvres such as the militarisation of disputed territories, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and maritime militia, and clandestine attempts to disrupt other nations' offshore resource exploitation activities.

To this end, military coordination between the Dialogue members will continue to provide strategic depth to the mission, including notably the annual Malabar exercise. The second message seeks to leverage Dialogue member resources in vaccine delivery, climate action, supply chain resilience, disaster response, cyber security infrastructure, and economic cooperation. Even though Beijing may consider the Quad to be an “Asian NATO”, the Dialogue can be about much more than a strategic pushback on China’s hegemonic intentions.

At a time when the liberal consensus on globalisation has anyway run its course and across the Indo-Pacific, there is, post-pandemic, a strong appetite for deepening regional cooperation for trade and investment. In this context, the Quad is in pole position to shape economic alliances and regional security architecture towards a new world order based on national interest and realpolitik.



## GS World Team Input

### \*IN THE NEWS\*

#### Quad Group

##### Why in news?

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on his two-day visit to Japan. During this, apart from participating in the Quad Leaders Summit, PM Modi will also meet leaders of many countries.
- Along with this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also attend the Quad conference.

##### What is?

- The Quad is an organization of four countries. This includes India, America, Australia and Japan. These four countries are also the economic powers of the world.
- In 2007, the then Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe established the Quad organization to deal with this disaster after the Indian Ocean tsunami.
- It is a kind of informal alliance. Its full name is Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.

##### Why was it needed?

- The purpose of forming the Quad group was to preserve democracy and help countries in distress, but due to the lack of cohesion among this group, its image has developed as an anti-China faction.
- It has countries whose borders touch China. Mongolia and Korea were also to be included in this group, but this did not happen. It is also the goal of this group to protect the borders with China.

##### India can have these five economic benefits

- Semiconductor : Self-reliance in manufacturing semiconductors is the agenda of the Quad countries. This is also the main objective of India. He may proceed with the Quad countries to have a semiconductor production unit on his soil.
- New Age Technical Services : There is agreement in the Quad countries to expand 5G service in the field of communication. Member countries have imposed sanctions on Chinese companies for security reasons. Indian companies can take advantage of this.
- In the field of rare minerals : In the growing technological world, there is a high dependence on China for rare minerals used in smartphones, laptops, hybrid cars, watermills, solar cells and many other technical items. India has six percent of the global reserves of such mineral elements (lanthanide, scandium and ytium).
- Increasing trade : In the year 2019-2020, 15 percent of India's total trade was with America, Japan and Australia. This business relationship can be further strengthened through Quad.
- Infrastructure Development : The Quad countries have prepared a quality infrastructure development plan to compete with China's Belt and Road Initiative plan. In India also, work is being done on the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). Japan is already working on several projects in India. With America and Australia, it can also be taken forward in this area.

## Expected Question (Prelims Exams)

**Q. Consider the following statements-**

1. The Malabar exercise is conducted among the Quad countries.
2. Australia has also participated for the first time in this year's Quad conference.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) 1 and 2 both
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Expected Question (Mains Exams)

**Q. The expansion agenda of the Quad reaffirms the stated intention to ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific. Discuss the importance of the Quad for the Indo-Pacific region.**

**(250 Words)**

World

Committed To Excellence

**Note: - The question of the main examination given for practice is designed keeping in mind the upcoming UPSC main examination. Therefore, to get an answer to this question, you can take the help of this source as well as other sources related to this topic.**