



Background:

- ✎ In March 2021, QUAD Nations held the first virtual summit and decided to work on 3 verticals, namely the Quad Vaccine Partnership, the Quad Climate Change Working Group the Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group. Prime Minister Modi's visit to New York for the UNGA session requires only a few steps to continue these working groups.

Quad Summit:

- ✎ The first ever Virtual Quad Summit held in March 2021. This meeting is based on the intent of Quad member countries - India, USA, Australia, and Japan - to ensure an Indo-Pacific region "free from coercion and disputes ... resolved in accordance with international law".

Discussed Topics of Concern:

- ✎ **Quad Senior Cyber Group, 2021:**
 - ✓ For the implementation of common cyber standards
 - ✓ Secure Software Development
 - ✓ Workforce and Talent Creation
 - ✓ Promote the scalability and cybersecurity of a secure and reliable digital infrastructure.
- ✎ **Start of space cooperation (2021):**
 - ✓ Exchange of earth observation satellite data and analyzes on the risks of climate change
 - ✓ Sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources.
 - ✓ Will contribute to climate change monitoring
 - ✓ Adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the Indo-Pacific region.



Quad Fellowship:

- ✎ Get 100 outstanding master's and PhD students (25 from each country) in STEM to study in the US among the Quad countries.
- ✎ It will build a network of S&T experts dedicated to promoting innovation and collaboration in the private, public and academic sectors within their own countries and between Quad countries.
- ✎ A scholarship program, the first of its kind, operated and administered by philanthropic initiative and in consultation with a non-governmental working group composed of senior executives from each Quad country.

Support for 5G deployment and diversification:

- ✎ Quad Partners will jointly enable environments for 5G diversification, including testing efforts and testing facilities.

Developments according to the Quad Climate Working Group:

- ✎ **Green Shipping Network:** The Quad countries will set up a Quad Shipping Taskforce and invite large ports including Los Angeles, Mumbai Port Trust, Sydney (Botany) and Yokahama to form a network, dedicated to greening and decarbonisation of the shipping value chain.
- ✎ **Clean Hydrogen Partnership:** Identify and developing the delivery infrastructure for the safe and efficient transportation, storage and distribution of clean hydrogen for end-use applications, and stimulating market demand to accelerate trade in clean hydrogen in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✎ **QuadLow Emissions Transport Corridors:** 23 of these corridors would be developed by 2030.
- ✎ **Developments Post "The Quad Vaccine Partnership:** Commitment to Donate 1.2 billion Doses of Vaccine Worldwide, in addition to the doses funded by the COVAX Initiative."



✎ **India's Vaccine Initiative:**

- ✓ Production at Biological E Ltd. (Hyderabad) will produce 1 billion doses of COVID 19 vaccines by 2022.
- ✓ India resumed supply of vaccines to the COVAX initiative.

✎ **Japan:**

- ✓ \$ 3.3 billion allocated through the Emergency Loan Program for COVID 19 Crisis Response, Japan.

✎ **Australia:**

- ✓ Provides \$ 212 million in grants to purchase vaccines for South Asia and the Pacific and \$ 219 million in support of last mile vaccine launch.

Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group:

✎ **Significance:**

- ✓ To meet the significant infrastructure needs in the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ An answer to the Chinese OBOR initiative.
- ✓ This group equates to thousands of projects, including capacity building, in more than 30 countries in support of rural development, health infrastructure, water and sanitation, renewable energy generation (Ex: Wind, solar and Water), telecommunications, trucks and more.

Recent Quad Meeting Significance:

- ✎ **Importance to the Indian economy:** Seeking to revive the Indian economy and its strategic role after the COVID 19 crisis.
- ✎ **Vaccine Alliance Revival:** PM Modi has given the United States an assurance that India, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, will resume deliveries to the global COVAX group under its Vaccine Maitri program.
 - ✓ In the first months of 2021, India stopped its exports due to the second wave, and around the same time the US also invoked its Defense Production Act, which effectively



prevented the export of raw materials for making vaccines to national production prioritize.

- ✎ **Newer Vision for Quad:** Upcoming Talks on Trade, Defense Relations, and More.
- ✎ **Strengthening the Alliance:** Affirmation by Mr. Biden that India remains a "senior defense partner," making it a key nation with which Washington could share information and strengthen collaboration on advanced military technologies, including, for example, a recent joint development project for UAVs.
- ✎ **'A Force for Global Good' PM Modi:** Issues of global concern, including the ongoing pandemic, climate change, technology collaboration, supply chains and security, and maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific were topics addressed at the Quad meeting.
- ✎ **Peace in the Indo-Pacific Region:** Intended to guarantee an Indo-Pacific region "free from coercion and disputes ... resolved in accordance with international law". While India has attempted its role as a member of the Quad from the recently announced Australia, U.K. and U.S. (AUKUS).

Conclusion:-

- ✎ This is a time for India to rapidly deepen cooperation initiatives with the US on vaccines and trade, and to continue to engage vigorously with the Quad to achieve regional stability. This is the optimal strategy for navigating the insecure global ecosystem you are in right now.

Q. Discuss the importance of the Quad Summit recently held in New York.
