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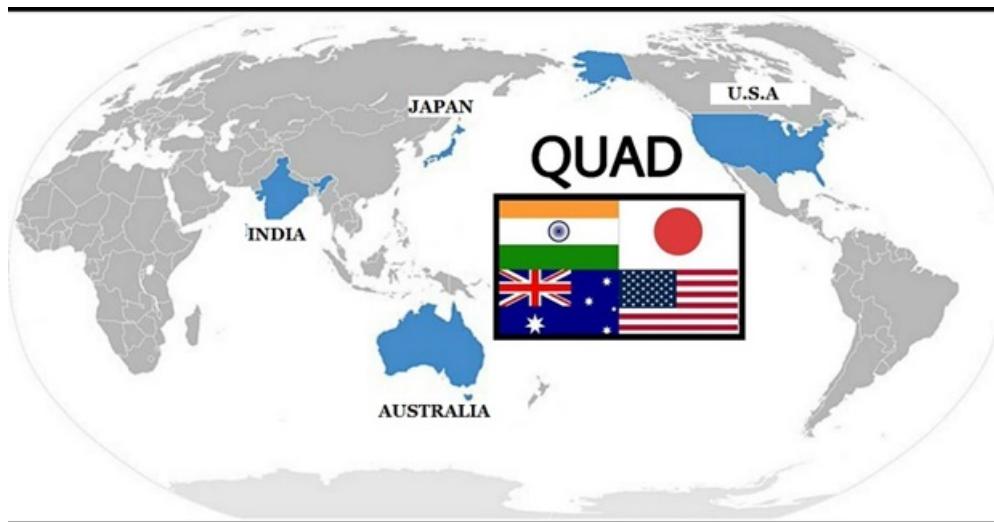
## Tokyo Quad Summit

### Why in news?

Leaders of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India gathered in Tokyo for a summit of the “Quad”.

### What is the Quad?

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue began as a loose partnership after the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to provide humanitarian and disaster assistance.
- It includes the countries of U.S., Japan, Australia and India.
- It was formalised by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007, but then fell dormant for nearly a decade.
- The group was resurrected in 2017, reflecting changing attitudes in the region toward China's growing influence.
- The Quad leaders held their first formal summit in 2021.
- While the Quad members say that the group is meant to deepen economic, diplomatic and military ties, China terms the grouping as an “Asian NATO”.
- The group has held “Quad-plus” meetings that have included South Korea, New Zealand and Vietnam, which could form the basis for future expansion or partnership in the region.



### What areas were discussed?

- **Russia's invasion of Ukraine-** US, Japan and Australia have taken an unequivocal stand against Russia's aggression, while India's position is neutral that calls for respect of territorial sovereignty and integrity and the UN charter.
- **The threat of China-** Every Quad statement has proxy references to China in the repeated

emphasis on a “rules based international order” and a “free and open” Indo-Pacific.

- In 2008, Australia pulled out of the Quad because it did not wish to antagonise China, with which it has deep economic ties.
- But China’s militarisation, aggressive foreign policy and determined push on its territorial claims had the effect of bringing the four together again in 2017, in what was called Quad 2.0.
- The pandemic, its controversial origins in China, and the resulting disruption of the global supply chain have also been instrumental in bringing the four closer.
- But, each Quad member views the Chinese threat differently.
  - For the US, it is about trade and Taiwan.
  - For Australia, trade and establishment of a Chinese military base in the Solomon Islands was the biggest issue.
  - Japan and India are closest to China, and both face Chinese claims to territory.
- **Adherence to international law**- Following international law as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and in maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight was also discussed.
- The challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas were a matter of discussion.
- **Non-security initiatives**- Cutting-edge technology, pharmaceuticals and infrastructure have been described as key battlegrounds in the contest with China.

## What messages were affirmed by the leaders?

- **Against unilateral actions**- The Quad leaders affirmed to strongly oppose coercive, provocative, and unilateral actions by Beijing that seek to change the status quo and heighten tensions across the region.
- For this, a military coordination between the dialogue members will continue to provide strategic depth to the mission, including notably the annual Malabar exercise.
- **Leveraging resources**- They seek to leverage resources in areas such as
  - Vaccine delivery
  - Climate action
  - Supply chain resilience
  - Disaster response
  - Cyber security infrastructure
  - Economic cooperation

## What are the difficulties in pulling out these initiatives?

- **Co-operation**- With India pulling together in different directions from other Quad countries on data management, it raises questions on the co-operation among the four.
- **IPEF**- The Biden Administration’s [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework](#) appears streamlined with the Quad initiatives but how it can counter Chinese economic clout remains to be seen as each of the Quad partners have flourishing bilateral trade with China.

## References

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