



US' Indo-Pacific Strategy

For Prelims: US' Indo-Pacific strategy, Indo-Pacific Region.

For Mains: Free and open Indo-Pacific, US' Indo-Pacific strategy, Tackling China's assertiveness, India's Role.

Why in News?

Recently, the US administration has announced its long-awaited [Indo-Pacific strategy](#). The document focuses on building **collective capacity** to deal with challenges in the region.

- These include a focus on **challenges from China**, advancing the US relationship, a **'Major Defense Partnership' with India** and supporting its role as a net security provider in the region.
- There is an emphasis on working with other countries **not just from the region, but also from beyond**.
- Earlier, the [European Union had announced](#) that it will reinforce its strategic focus, presence and actions in the Indo-Pacific with the aim of contributing to the stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development of the region.



What are the Key Points of US' Indo-Pacific strategy?

- **Vision of Indo-Pacific:** The US will seek an Indo-Pacific that is **free and open, connected,**

prosperous, secure and resilient.

- **Free:** One of the strategic actions outlined is investing in civil society, a free press and democratic institutions.
- **Connections:** Within and beyond the region.
 - The US says it will work **“in flexible groupings”** to tackle major issues, “particularly through the **QUAD**.”
 - It will also deepen its (five) regional treaty alliances and work with groups such as **ASEAN, the European Union (EU) and NATO.**
 - **AUKUS**, a security alliance between Australia, the UK and the US has also been recently launched.
- **Prosperity:** To advance its prosperity goal for the region, the US’ strategy includes seeking **higher labour and environmental standards**, helping to establish secure supply chains and investing in clean energy.
- **Security:** The US has announced that **“Integrated deterrence”** will form the “cornerstone” of the US’ security plan for the region.
 - It will drive initiatives that reinforce deterrence and counter coercion, such as opposing efforts to alter territorial boundaries or undermine the rights of sovereign nations at sea.
- **Resilience:** The Indo-Pacific faces major **transnational challenges**.
 - **Climate change** is growing ever-more severe as South Asia’s glaciers melt and the Pacific Islands battle existential rises in sea levels.
 - Further, the Indo-Pacific governments grapple with natural disasters, resource scarcity, internal conflict, and governance challenges.
 - In this context, US envisages to build regional **resilience to 21st century transnational threats, including by:**
 - Working with allies and partners to develop 2030 and 2050 targets, strategies, plans, and policies consistent with limiting global temperature increase to **1.5 degrees Celsius.**
 - Reducing regional vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.
- **Role of India:** India’s role in the QUAD is an important element of the US-India relationship.
 - US will “continue to support India’s rise and regional leadership,” working with India bilaterally and through groups on a range of issues.
 - It refers to India as a **“like-minded partner” and “driving force” in the QUAD.**
 - China’s action along the Line of Actual Control (i.e., its border conflict with India) has had a **“galvanizing impact”** on India and US alignment.
 - Collaborate in new domains, such as health, space, and cyberspace, deepen economic and technology cooperation, and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- **China’s Assertiveness:** US allies and partners in the region bear much of the effect of China’s assertive policies.
 - The **economic coercion of Australia.**
 - The conflict along the **Line of Actual Control with India.**
 - The growing pressure on **Taiwan.**
 - Bullying of Japan, ASEAN countries in the East and **South China Seas.**

Source: TH