6th Quad Summit 2024

For Prelims: [Quad](#), [Pandemic](#), [Indo-Pacific Nations](#), Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), [Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)](#), [Digital Public Infrastructure](#), [Port, Tsunami](#), Quad-plus.

For Mains: Multi-dimensional initiatives of Quad countries for stability and prosperity of Indo-Pacific nations.

Source: PIB

Why in News?

Recently, the **6th Quad Summit** was held at **Delaware in the United States**. It was the 4**th in-person Quad Leaders' Summit**.

- The Quad is leading **ambitious projects** to help partners address **pandemics and disease**, confront the threat of **climate change**, bolster **cybersecurity** among others.

What are the Key Highlights of the 6th Quad Summit?

- **Health:**
  - **Quad Health Security Partnership (QHSP):** QHSP was launched by Quad in **2023** to enhance **health security coordination** in the Indo-Pacific region.
    - New initiatives like the **Quad Cancer Moonshot**, has been announced for treatment of **cervical cancer.**
  - **Pandemic Preparedness:** The United States has pledged over **USD 84.5 million** to enhance infectious disease **prevention and response** capabilities across **fourteen Indo-Pacific nations**.
- **Maritime Security:**
  - **MAITRI:** The Quad has introduced the **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)** to enhance regional maritime security capabilities.
    - The **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)** was launched in **2022** to improve **maritime security** and monitor illegal activities.
  - **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network:** The Quad has initiated a logistics network to improve **airlift capacity** for **rapid disaster response** across the Indo-Pacific, aiming for efficiency in civilian responses.
  - **Coast Guard Cooperation:** A first-ever **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** is planned for 2025, to enhance interoperability.
- **Quality Infrastructure Development:**
  - **Digital Infrastructure Principles:** The Quad has established principles for the development of **digital public infrastructure**, focusing on security and inclusivity.
  - **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership:** It aims to support resilient **port infrastructure development** and enhance regional connectivity across the Indo-Pacific region.
    - In 2025, Quad partners intend to hold the inaugural **Regional Ports and**

Transportation Conference in **Mumbai.**
- **Undersea Cables and Digital Connectivity:** Quad partners have committed over USD 140 million to **undersea cable projects**, aiming for primary telecommunication connectivity for all **Pacific island** countries by 2025.
  - For this, **Australia** launched the **Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre** in July 2024.
- **Quad Infrastructure Fellowship:** It aims to **improve capacity and deepen professional networks** across the region to design, manage, and attract investment in **infrastructure projects.**
- **Critical and Emerging Technology:**
  - **Open Radio Access Network (RAN) and 5G:** In 2023, the Quad initiated its first **Open RAN** deployment in Palau, aiming to build a secure telecommunications ecosystem, with an investment of approximately **USD 20 million.**
    - The Quad intends to support ongoin**g Open RAN** trials and the Asia Open RAN Academy** in the Philippines.
  - **AI-ENGAGE Initiative (2023)**: Through the **Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)**, Quad governments are deepening leading-edge collaborative research to harness artificial intelligence and robotics to empower next-generation agriculture.
  - **BioExplore Initiative**: It aims to utilise AI in studying biological ecosystems to innovate in **disease diagnosis, crop resilience, and clean energy solutions**.
  - **Semiconductors:** The Quad leaders finalised **Memorandum of Cooperation** to facilitate collaboration in addressing semiconductor supply chain risks.
  - **Quantum Technology:** The **Quad Investors Network (QUIN)**, a nonprofit initiative, highlighted ways in which Quad country's **Quantum ecosystems** can **work together** to collectively **leverage capital and expertise.**
- **Climate and Clean Energy:**
  - **Enhanced Early Warning Systems**: The US will provide **3D-printed weather stations** to help Pacific Island countries while Australia and Japan are enhancing regional disaster risk reduction efforts.
    - **Japan** is also enhancing cooperation with Pacific Island countries under its **Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative**.
  - **Quad Clean Energy Supply Chain Diversification Program (2023):** It aims to support the development of secure and diversified **clean energy supply chains** in the Indo-Pacific region.
    - India committed to invest **USD 2 million** in new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles.
- **Cybersecurity:** The Quad has developed the **Quad Action Plan** to protect **commercial undersea telecommunications cables**, to advance the Quad's shared vision for future digital connectivity, global commerce, and prosperity.
  - The Quad is working together to foster a **resilient information environment** through its **Countering Disinformation Working Group**, by supporting **media freedom** and addressing **foreign information manipulation** and interference.
- **Space:** Quad partners intend to share expertise and experience in **space situational awareness (SSA),** contributing to long-term sustainability of the space environment.
- **Countering Terrorism:** Quad leaders discussed counter **terrorism threats, Quad counter terrorism good practices**, and ways the Quad can work together to mitigate acts of terrorism through information sharing and strategic messaging.
  - The **Quad Counter Terrorism Working Group (CTWG)** currently focuses on countering the use of **unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS)**, **chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear devices (CBRN),** and the internet for terrorist purposes.
- **People-to-People Initiatives:** India announces a new initiative to award **fifty Quad scholarships, worth USD 500,000**, to students from the **Indo-Pacific** to pursue a **4-year undergraduate engineering program** at a Government of India-funded technical institution.

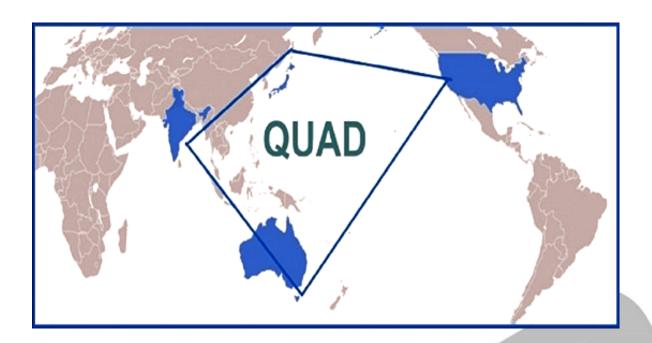## What are Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure?

- **About the Principles:** It was announced by the **Quad countries** that outline a framework

for **building and using digital infrastructure** that is inclusive, transparent, and respects democratic values.

- **About Digital public infrastructure (DPI):** It is described as a set of **shared digital systems** that are secure, reliable and interoperable.
    - They are built and leveraged by the public and private sector to provide **equitable access** and improve public service delivery at a large scale.
- **Quad Principles for DPI:** Quad affirmed the **following principles** for the development and deployment of DPI among others.
    - **Inclusivity**: Eliminate barriers to empower end-users and ensure **last-mile access,** avoiding algorithmic bias.
    - **Interoperability**: Use open standards for **interoperability** while considering legal and technical constraints.
    - **Scalability**: Design systems flexibly to manage **unexpected demand** increases or expansions.
    - **Security and Privacy**: Integrate privacy-enhancing technologies and security features to protect individual data and resilience.
    - **Governance for Public Benefit**: Ensure systems are **safe, trusted, transparent,** and promote competition, inclusion, and data protection.
    - **Sustainability**: Ensure continuous operations through **adequate financing** and technological support.
    - **Intellectual Property Protection**: Protect intellectual property rights based on existing legal frameworks.
    - **Sustainable Development**: Align systems with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What is Quad?

- **About:** Quad, or Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is a **diplomatic partnership** among Australia, India, Japan, and the US.
    - It focuses on stability and prosperity in the **Indo-Pacific region**, promoting an open, stable, and resilient environment.
- **Objectives of Quad:** The Quad aims to address pressing regional challenges, including **health security, climate change, infrastructure, technology, cybersecurity**, humanitarian assistance, maritime security, countering disinformation, and counter-terrorism.
- **Origins of Quad:** The Quad originated in response to the **2004 Indian Ocean tsunami,** where the four nations provided humanitarian assistance.
    - Formally established in **2007** by the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the group went dormant due to concerns over **China's reactions,** particularly after Australia withdrew in 2008.
    - It was revived in **2017 a**mid shifting regional attitudes toward China's influence, culminating in its **first formal summit in 2021.**
- **Expansion Potential: "Quad-plus"** meetings have included nations like **South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam,** indicating potential for future expansion.

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Conclusion

The Quad is dedicated to enhancing **health security against pandemics**, confronting the climate change threat, and bolstering cybersecurity. By fostering **collaboration and innovation** across these critical areas, the Quad aims to ensure a **resilient and prosperous Indo-Pacific,** contributing to global stability and sustainable development.

Drishti Mains Question:

Q. Discuss the significance of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) in addressing contemporary challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. The new tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. **(2021)**

Q. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times Discuss. **(2020)**