Sansad TV Vishesh: Prime Minister's Visit to America

For Prelims: <u>Cervical Cancer</u>, <u>Indo-Pacific Region</u>, <u>World Health Organisation's Global Initiative</u> On Digital Health, HPV Vaccine, <u>Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness</u> (IPMDA), <u>Quad</u>, <u>UN</u> <u>Security Council</u>, <u>Biotechnology</u>, <u>Quantum Computing</u>, <u>Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting</u>, <u>MQ-9B</u> , <u>Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap</u>, <u>Cybersecurity Goods And Services Tax</u>, <u>Intellectual</u> <u>Property Rights</u>, <u>Russia-Ukraine War</u>, <u>Covid-19 Pandemic</u>, <u>Malabar</u>.

For Mains: Significance of Quad and US for India.

Why in News?

Recently, Indian Prime Minister visited the United States and attended the <u>6th Quad Leaders' Summit</u> <u>2024</u> in Wilmington, marking a pivotal moment for collaboration among Australia, India, Japan, and the US.

 A bilateral meeting was held between India and the US leaders. Also, the Indian Prime Minister attended the UN <u>Summit of the Future</u>.

What is the Summit of the Future?

- About: The Summit is a high-level gathering of world leaders aimed at establishing a new international consensus for improving the present and securing a better future.
- **Pact for the Future:** Signed in September 2024, this agreement seeks to reshape global governance for the 21st century.
 - It features a **Global Digital Compact** and a **Declaration on Future Generations**, focusing on peace, sustainable development, climate change, and human rights.
 - Leaders committed to reforming the <u>UN Security Council</u>, advancing nuclear disarmament, enhancing climate finance, and establishing responsible Al governance.
 The pact emphasizes inclusivity for future generations and promotes gender equality,
 - ensuring youth participation in global governance.
- India at the Summit:
 - India emphasized that global peace relies on reforming international institutions, addressing conflicts like Ukraine and <u>Israel-Hamas</u>.
 - India highlighted terrorism and new conflicts in cyber and space, promoting global digital governance and India's willingness to share its <u>digital infrastructure</u>.

What are the Outcomes of the Quad Summit?

 Quad Cancer Moonshot: The leaders launched the Quad Cancer Moonshot, a groundbreaking partnership specifically aimed at combating <u>cervical cancer</u> in the <u>Indo-Pacific region</u>.

- This initiative is supported by India's commitment of USD 10 million to the <u>World Health</u> <u>Organisation's Global Initiative on Digital Health</u>.
- In addition, the Serum Institute of India has pledged to provide up to 40 million doses of the <u>HPV vaccine</u>.
- Maritime Security Enhancements: One of the key maritime initiatives announced is the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, which is scheduled to launch in 2025.
 - This mission aims to **improve interoperability** and **enhance maritime safety** among the US Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard, Australian Border Force, and Indian Coast Guard.
- Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI): The newly introduced MAITRI initiative is designed to enable regional partners to effectively utilise tools provided through the <u>Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)</u>.
 - This initiative will boost regional partners' abilities to monitor waters, enforce laws, and deter illegal activities.
 - India will host the inaugural **MAITRI workshop in 2025**, strengthening the **Quad's** maritime security focus.
- Logistics and Infrastructure Development: The Indo-Pacific Logistics Network Pilot Project aims to establish shared airlift capacity among Quad nations, thereby enhancing the speed and efficiency of civilian disaster response efforts.
 - This initiative represents a crucial step towards **improving logistical coordination** in the face of **natural disasters** in the region.
- Ports of the Future Partnership: Through the Ports of the Future Partnership, Quad nations will collaborate to develop sustainable and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific.
 - This partnership aims to **leverage Quad expertise** to keep ports operational during disruptions from pandemics, disasters, or security threats.
- Joint Ventures in Emerging Technologies: The summit emphasised the importance of collaboration in emerging technologies, particularly in <u>biotechnology</u> and <u>quantum computing</u>.
 - By laying the groundwork for joint ventures in these critical areas, the Quad aims to foster innovation and enhance research capabilities among its member nations.
- Future Engagements: The next <u>Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting</u> is scheduled for 2025 in the US, while India will host the subsequent Quad Leaders' Summit.
 - A **Regional Ports and Transportation Conference** is set for **Mumbai in 2025**, highlighting the Quad's commitment to continued cooperation.



What are the Outcomes of the India-US Bilateral Summit?

- Enhanced Military Collaboration: Progress was made in enhancing military cooperation, particularly with India's ongoing acquisition of 31 <u>MQ-9B</u> remotely piloted aircrafts.
 - This procurement aims to enhance India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

capabilities.

- A <u>Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap</u> was also discussed to advance co-production of critical defense technologies, strengthening ties between the two nations.
- Both countries welcomed collaboration between Liquid Robotics and Sagar Defence Engineering for co-developing <u>unmanned surface vehicle systems</u>, enhancing undersea and maritime domain awareness.
- Liaison Officer Deployment: The recent agreement regarding the deployment of liaison officers marks a significant milestone in defense collaboration.
 - The first Indian liaison officer will be stationed at **USSpecial Operations Command** to enhance joint operations and military coordination.
- Cybersecurity Initiatives: A Bilateral Cyber Engagement scheduled for November 2024, aims to strengthen the framework for <u>cybersecurity</u> cooperation between the United States and India.
- Supply Chain Resilience: The new agreement aims to improve the reliability and efficiency of the defense supply chain between India and the US
 - This initiative is vital for ensuring that both nations can quickly and effectively respond to evolving security challenges.
- Economic Collaboration: In an effort to bolster the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) ecosystem in India, the government has introduced a uniform 5% <u>Goods and Services</u> Tax on MRO services for aircraft.
 - This reform streamlines the **tax structure and strengthens** the MRO sector, boosting defense capabilities.

What are Challenges Related to India-US Relations and the Quad?

- Major Challenges for India-US Relations:
 - Trade Tensions: Economic frictions persist despite growing bilateral trade; issues include India's USD 36.74 billion trade surplus, market access barriers, and intellectual property rights concerns.
 - Strategic Autonomy vs. Alliance Expectations: India's commitment to strategic autonomy often clashes with US expectations, notably regarding the <u>Russia-Ukraine</u> <u>War</u> and continued Russian arms purchases.
 - Technology Transfer and Defense Cooperation: Challenges in technology transfer and joint production remain, with US export control regulations limiting advanced technology sharing.
 - **Human Rights Concerns:** US critiques of India's human rights record, including issues related to religious freedom and minority treatment, strain relations and are perceived as interference.
 - **Climate Change and Energy:** Differences over emission reduction targets and financial support highlight challenges in addressing climate change collaboratively.
 - **Balancing Relationships:** India must navigate ties with the US while maintaining historical relationships, especially with Russia.
- Challenges for Quad:
 - Diverging National Interests: Each member of the Quad has distinct national interests that can lead to potential disagreements regarding strategies related to trade, security, and climate action.
 - Finding common ground among these varying priorities will be essential for the Quad's cohesion and effectiveness.
 - Geopolitical Tensions: The increasing assertiveness of China in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in the <u>South China Sea</u>, poses significant challenges for diplomatic efforts.
 - The Quad nations must navigate this complex landscape while seeking to maintain stability in the region and addressing the strategic threat posed by China.
 - **Economic integration: Economic integration** among Quad members is vital for the alliance's strength. However, India's protectionist policies, differing regulations, and trade tensions with the US present challenges.
 - Supply Chain Vulnerabilities: The <u>Covid-19 pandemic</u> has exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, prompting calls for enhanced cooperation among Quad nations to ensure resilience.
 - Defense cooperation: Defense cooperation has improved with exercises like Malabar,

but challenges remain in interoperability, intelligence sharing, and technology transfers.

- Differences in military capabilities, defense export laws, and varying trust levels hinder deeper integration.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Increasing cyber threats faced by both India and the US necessitate coordinated cybersecurity strategies to protect national security interests.

What Should be the Way Forward?

- Address Trade Tensions: Engage in dialogue to resolve trade frictions, focusing on market access, intellectual property rights, and equitable trade practices.
 Initiatives to balance the trade surplus can enhance economic ties.
- Clarify Strategic Autonomy: Align strategic priorities while respecting India's autonomy. Open discussions on sensitive topics like the Russia-Ukraine conflict can build mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships.
- Enhance Technology Transfer: Streamline US export control regulations to facilitate greater technology sharing and joint defense production, fostering deeper defense cooperation.
- Collaborate on Climate Change: Establish common ground on emission reduction targets and financial support to enhance collaboration on climate change, reinforcing the partnership's global leadership.
- Navigate Diverse Quad Interests: Prioritise finding common ground among member nations' distinct interests.
 - **Regular consultations and joint initiatives** can foster cohesion and effective strategies in trade, security, and climate action.
- Counter Geopolitical Tensions: Adopt a unified approach to address China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, enhancing diplomatic efforts and collective security measures to maintain regional stability.
- Strengthen Economic Integration: Address India's protectionist policies and harmonise regulations to improve economic integration within the Quad, enhancing resilience in supply chains and promoting mutual economic growth.
- Advance Defense Cooperation: Continue military exercises, while improving interoperability, intelligence sharing, and trust among members to lead to deeper defense integration.
- Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges: Encouraging cultural diplomacy and exchanges among Quad nations can foster greater understanding and cooperation.
 - Building connections at the people-to-people level can complement official diplomatic efforts and contribute to long-term stability.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

<u>Prelims:</u>

Q. With reference to the 'Trans-Pacific Partnership', consider the following statements: (2016)

- 1. It is an agreement among all the Pacific Rim countries except China and Russia.
- 2. It is a strategic alliance for the purpose of maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: D

<u>Mains</u>

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

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The Vision