

# 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 <u>6th Quad Summit</u> was held at **Delaware in the United States**. It was the **4th 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 <u>digital public infrastructure</u>, 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 <u>undersea cable projects</u>, 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 ongoing <u>Open RAN</u> trials and the Asia Open RAN Academy in the Philippines.
  - AI-ENGAGE Initiative (2023): Through the <u>Advancing Innovations for Empowering NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE)</u>, 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 <u>space situational awareness</u>
  (SSA), contributing to <u>long-term</u> 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?

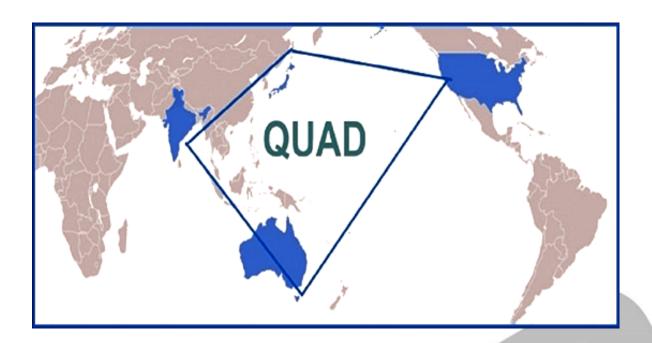
• **About the Principles:** It was announced by the **Quad countries** that outline a framework

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 amid 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.



## 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)**

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