



Sansad TV Vishesh: Prime Minister's Visit to America

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

For Mains: [Significance of Quad and US for India](#).

Why in News?

Recently, Indian Prime Minister visited the United States and attended the [6th Quad Leaders' Summit 2024](#) 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 Summit of the Future](#).

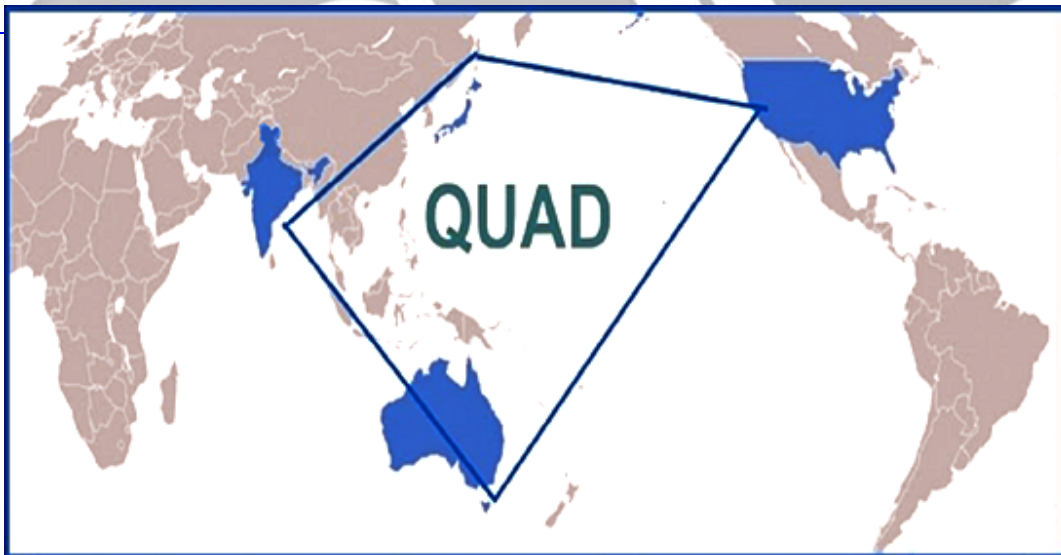
What is the Summit of the Future?

- **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 UN Security Council**, advancing nuclear disarmament, enhancing climate finance, and establishing **responsible AI 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 [Israel-Hamas](#).
 - India highlighted **terrorism and new conflicts in cyber and space**, promoting global digital governance and India's willingness to share its [digital infrastructure](#).

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 cervical cancer** in the [Indo-Pacific region](#).

- This initiative is supported by India's commitment of **USD 10 million** to the [World Health Organisation's Global Initiative on Digital Health](#).
- In addition, the Serum Institute of India has pledged to provide up to 40 million doses of the [HPV vaccine](#).
- **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 [Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness \(IPMDA\)](#).
 - 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 [biotechnology](#) and [quantum computing](#).
 - 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 [Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) 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 MQ-9B remotely piloted aircrafts**.
 - This procurement aims to enhance India's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance

capabilities.

- A [Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap](#) 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 [unmanned surface vehicle systems](#), 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 [cybersecurity](#) 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% [Goods and Services 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 [Russia-Ukraine War](#) 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 [South China Sea](#), 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 [Covid-19 pandemic](#) 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)

Prelims:

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

Mains

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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