



Quad and G-4 Meet

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The **foreign ministers of the Quad countries - India, US, Australia and Japan** - met on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting on 27th September 2019.

- The group is seen as a **regional counterweight to China** and has **only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017**. The latest meeting is seen as an upgrade by at least three levels.
- The Ministers met to discuss cooperation on counter-terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airtime security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts etc.
- The Quad countries were “resolute” in their view of the **centrality of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in South East Asia.

The notion of ASEAN centrality broadly refers to the group of countries being at the centre of security and strategic frameworks for the Asia-Pacific region.

Quad

- The Quadrilateral security dialogue or Quad was **first mooted by the Japanese Prime Minister in 2007**.
- However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.

- **In November 2017**, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave **shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition** to develop a new strategy to keep the **critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China)**.
 - **Australia** is worried about China's growing interest in its land, infrastructure and politics and influence on its universities.
 - In the last decade, **Japan** believes that China has tried to bully it on several territorial issues.
 - China has border disputes with **India**. China is also blocking India's path into the **Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
 - A weakened **US** sees the coalition as an opportunity to regain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **India has been hesitant about the Quad**, in part because it does not want to isolate China and because it has had a history of staying clear of security alliances.
- **Members of the Quad, barring Australia**, are currently engaged in the annual **Malabar exercises** – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.
 - **India has not permitted Australia to participate in these exercises**, concerned about what message it would send to China, which is wary of the exercise.

G-4 Meeting

- The foreign ministers of **G-4** grouping also held a meeting on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- **G-4** is a group of four countries i.e. **Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** which support each other's bids for **permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**
- The G-4 countries have decided to prepare for a **fresh push for reforms at the UNGA in 2020** when the **UN celebrates its 75th anniversary**.
- It was highlighted that there is a clear need for an enhanced role of developing countries and of major contributors to the United Nations to make the UNSC more legitimate, effective and representative.
 - This means that **India and Brazil** — the two developing countries in G-4 grouping — should get a place along with **China**, which is the **only developing country in the UNSC**.
 - The countries also put a focus on the **role of the African continent** in the Council.
- G-4 said that the **reforms-related decisions should be by a two-third majority** in the UN General Assembly, which was enshrined in the 1998 resolution of the UNGA. This is **contrary to the position taken by China**, which has always said that the decisions should be taken through **"comprehensive consensus"**.

Source: IE