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QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE ALLIANCE STRENGTHENS INDO-PACIFIC COOPERATION

SYLLABUS MAPPING:

GS-2- *International Relations*-Quadrilateral Security Dialogue Alliance Strengthens Indo-Pacific Cooperation

FOR PRELIMS:

Discuss the role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) in strengthening cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. Highlight its objectives, member nations, and key areas of collaboration?

FOR MAINS:

Analyze the significance of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) in enhancing regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Discuss the challenges it faces and its potential impact on global geopolitics?

RECENT CONTEXT:

The Indo-Pacific region, a critical nexus of global trade and strategic interests, has emerged as a focal point of international diplomacy and security. Amidst rising geopolitical tensions, particularly concerning China's assertiveness, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) has gained prominence as a key multilateral alliance aimed at fostering stability, security, and economic cooperation in the region. Comprising the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, the Quad represents a strategic partnership that seeks to address common challenges and promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

BACKGROUND:

The roots of the Quad can be traced back to 2007 when then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed a "Confluence of the Two Seas," envisioning a coalition of democratic nations to ensure security and prosperity in the region. However, the initial momentum faded due to various geopolitical factors and changes in leadership. It wasn't until 2017, amid rising concerns about China's growing influence, that the Quad was revitalized. The member nations recognized the need for a coordinated response to challenges such as maritime security, terrorism, and the promotion of democratic values.

OBJECTIVES OF THE QUAD:

- 1. Promoting Regional Security** The foremost goal of the Quad is to enhance regional security, particularly maritime security. The alliance seeks to ensure freedom of navigation and overflight in critical maritime routes, especially in the South China Sea, where territorial disputes have become increasingly contentious.
- 2. Strengthening Economic Cooperation** The Quad also emphasizes economic collaboration among member nations and regional partners. Initiatives aim to promote trade, investment, and sustainable infrastructure development, countering initiatives like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- 3. Addressing Non-Traditional Security Threats** Recognizing that modern threats transcend traditional military concerns, the Quad focuses on non-traditional security challenges, including cyber security, climate change, and health crises. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of health security and resilience.
- 4. Enhancing Partnerships** The Quad seeks to build broader coalitions by engaging with other regional powers and multilateral organizations. This collaborative approach aims to create a more comprehensive network for addressing common challenges.

KEY AREAS OF COLLABORATION:

- 1. Maritime Security** Maritime security is a cornerstone of Quad cooperation. Joint naval exercises and patrols in the Indo-Pacific emphasize the alliance's commitment to ensuring freedom of navigation and deterring aggressive actions in contested waters. The 2021 Malabar Exercise, which included naval forces from all four member nations, showcased the Quad's resolve to uphold international norms and enhance interoperability among their armed forces.
- 2. Infrastructure Development** The Quad recognizes the critical need for sustainable infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific. Through initiatives like the "Blue Dot Network," the alliance promotes quality infrastructure investment that adheres to principles of transparency, sustainability, and inclusivity. This initiative serves as a counterbalance to the BRI, providing an alternative model for infrastructure development that emphasizes local needs and governance standards.
- 3. Cyber Security** In an era where digital threats are ever-present, cyber security has emerged as a key area of collaboration. The Quad members have committed to sharing intelligence, best practices, and capabilities to counter cyber threats, particularly those emanating from state-sponsored actors. Joint exercises and forums aim to bolster their collective resilience against cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructure and democratic institutions.
- 4. Climate Change and Health Security** The Quad's approach to climate change emphasizes the urgent need for collaborative action. Member nations are working together on initiatives aimed at disaster response, climate resilience, and sustainable development. In the realm of health security, the Quad has been instrumental in coordinating vaccine distribution and public health initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic, showcasing a commitment to global health as a security concern.

CHALLENGES FACING THE QUAD:

- 1. Diverse National Interests** The member nations have different strategic priorities and national interests. While they share common concerns regarding China's influence, their approaches to engagement and defense can vary significantly. This diversity can complicate decision-making and limit the scope of joint initiatives.
- 2. China's Counteractions** China perceives the Quad as a direct challenge to its regional aspirations and has responded with diplomatic, economic, and military measures. Beijing has sought to strengthen its alliances and assert its territorial claims in the South China Sea, complicating the Quad's efforts to promote a rules-based order in the region.

3. Regional Perceptions The Quad's activities are sometimes viewed with skepticism by countries that prioritize non-alignment or have strong economic ties to China. The alliance must work to communicate its intentions clearly and engage constructively with regional players to build trust and support.

4. Sustaining Momentum Maintaining momentum in Quad initiatives is crucial. Leadership changes within member countries and shifts in domestic political landscapes can affect the continuity of collaborative efforts. A sustained commitment from all members is essential for the alliance's long-term success.

THE QUAD IMPACT ON GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS:

1. Shaping Regional Order The Quad represents a collective effort to shape a rules-based regional order that emphasizes international law and norms. By promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, the alliance seeks to counter unilateral actions that threaten regional stability, thereby contributing to a more predictable and secure environment.

2. Strengthening Alliances and Partnerships The Quad has inspired other nations to strengthen their security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific. Countries such as South Korea, Vietnam, and Indonesia have expressed interest in collaborating with the Quad, highlighting a growing recognition of the need for collective security measures in an increasingly multipolar world.

3. Economic Competition The Quad's emphasis on economic cooperation and infrastructure development poses a challenge to China's economic initiatives in the region. By promoting responsible investment practices and high-quality infrastructure, the alliance aims to create a competitive environment that encourages sustainable development and innovation.

4. Influence on Multilateralism The Quad's collaborative approach underscores the importance of multilateralism in addressing global challenges. As nations increasingly recognize the need for collective action, the Quad may serve as a model for future alliances seeking to tackle transnational issues such as climate change, health crises, and security threats.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECT:

As of 2023, the Quad continues to evolve in response to changing geopolitical dynamics. High-level summits and ministerial meetings have become regular features of the alliance, providing a platform for discussing pressing issues and coordinating responses. The member nations have committed to enhancing their cooperation in various areas, including counterterrorism, emerging technologies, and regional connectivity.

1. Engagement with ASEAN Recognizing the central role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in regional security, the Quad has sought to engage more actively with this bloc. Initiatives aimed at supporting ASEAN's unity and resilience are essential for fostering a cohesive response to common challenges, particularly those posed by China's influence.

2. Strengthening Defense Ties The Quad has also focused on strengthening defense ties among member nations. This includes increased military collaboration, joint exercises, and sharing of technology and intelligence. The growing alignment of defense policies among the Quad nations signals a commitment to countering potential threats and enhancing collective security.

3. Public Perception and Soft Power The Quad is also aware of the importance of public perception and soft power. Engaging with civil society, academia, and the private sector is crucial for building support for the alliance's initiatives. Public diplomacy efforts aim to convey the Quad's positive impact on regional stability, economic development, and democratic values.

4. Addressing Global Issues Looking ahead, the Quad is likely to expand its focus beyond regional issues to address global challenges such as climate change, health security, and technological governance. By positioning itself as a proactive force in tackling these issues, the Quad can enhance its relevance and appeal in a rapidly changing world.

CONCLUSION:

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue represents a significant effort by the United States, India, Japan, and Australia to strengthen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. By focusing on maritime security, economic collaboration, and addressing non-traditional security threats, the Quad aims to promote a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. While challenges remain, the alliance's potential to shape regional order and influence global geopolitics is profound. As the Indo-Pacific continues to evolve, the Quad will play a crucial role in addressing emerging challenges, fostering stability, and promoting shared prosperity in this strategically vital region.



PRELIMS QUESTION:

Q. What are the primary objectives of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)?

- A. Promote economic competition and bilateral trade
- B. Ensure a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific
- C. Strengthen cultural ties among member nations
- D. Establish a military alliance against NATO

ANSWER: B

MAINS QUESTION:

Q. Analyze the importance of public diplomacy and soft power in the Quad's strategy. How can the alliance enhance its appeal to regional partners?(150Words)

"Partners in Progress: The India-Australia Dynamic"

This article covers "Daily Current Affairs" and topic details of the "Partners in Progress: The India-Australia Dynamic"

Syllabus mapping:

GS-2: International Relations: India- Australia relationship.

For Prelims:

Key facts: Supply Chain Initiative, Quad, RCEP, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), ECTA free trade agreement. Malabar exercise and other bilateral exercises. Technology corporations.

For Mains:

What are the areas of the cooperation, the reasons for the increase in the cooperation in the recent period, and the significance of this cooperation for each other, what are the issues and future course of action to sustain bilateral relations?

Why in the News?

Shri Piyush Goyal to co-chair with Minister Farrell the 19th India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission meeting in Adelaide.



India- Australia Bilateral Ties:

Historical Perspective

The historical ties between India and Australia date back to the European settlement in Australia in 1788, when trade was largely managed by the British East India Company through Kolkata. Diplomatic relations began in the pre-independence era, highlighted by the establishment of the India Trade Office in Sydney in 1941. This marked the beginning of a formal engagement between the two nations, laying the groundwork for future collaboration. After India gained independence in 1947, formal diplomatic relations with Australia were established, reflecting shared values and interests. In 1950, India and Australia signed a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce, further solidifying their partnership.

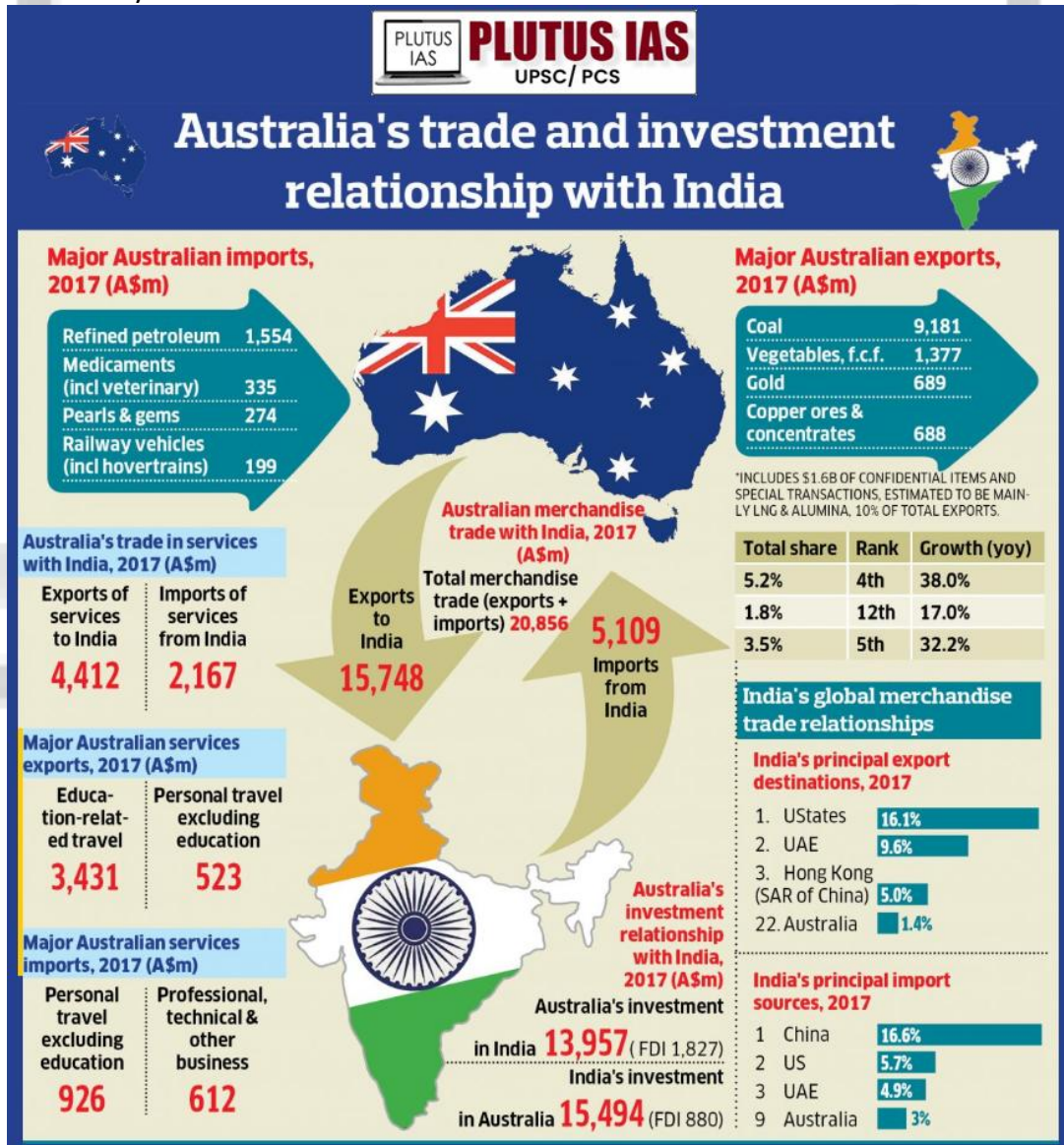
The India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC)

- **Establishment:** The JMC was established in 1989.
- **Scope:** Covers a range of topics related to trade, investment, and economic cooperation between India and Australia.
- **Significance:** Serves as a platform for enhancing bilateral ties and addressing challenges in the economic relationship.
- **Pillars of Cooperation in India-Australia Bilateral Relations :**
- **Shared Democratic Values :** Both countries are committed to pluralistic, Westminster-style democracies, which form the foundation for mutual respect and collaboration.
- **Economic Engagement :** India is Australia's sixth-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade surging from US\$ 22.2 billion in 2021 to US\$ 31.4 billion in 2022, a 41% increase. India's exports to Australia rose by 38% to US\$ 8.7 billion, while Australia's exports to India grew by 42% to US\$ 22.5 billion. The Economic Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement represents a significant milestone in their bilateral relations.
- **High-Level Interaction :** Increasing diplomatic and political engagement at various levels enhances strategic cooperation and coordination on global issues.
- **People-to-People Ties :** Approximately 3% of Australians have Indian heritage, with the Indian-born population being the second-largest overseas-born group. The Indian community plays an active role in various sectors, contributing to Australia's dynamism and enterprise.
- **Cultural and Sporting Links:** Shared interests in sports, particularly cricket and hockey, create a unique cultural bond and foster community engagement between the two nations.
- **Shared threat:** India and Australia both are suffering the heat of China's assertiveness and expansionism, so it is natural as per Kautilya's logic enemy of the enemy are friends.
- **Defense cooperation:** This extended from the joint exercises between both countries and logistics support in the Indo-Pacific. AUSINDEX, PITCH BLACK, Kakadu military exercises.
- **Resources & Energy Security:** Both countries have a strong relationship in critical mineral explorations and other energy domains.
- **Plurilateral Cooperation:** The QUAD, the IPEF, and Supply Chain Initiatives (SCI), are examples where both countries are actively engaging with each other.
- **Science and technology:** The formal cooperation started in 1986, and now extends to many sectors including, AI, innovation, and other emerging technology.



Significance of Australia for India

- **Shared Democratic Values:** Australia and India uphold common democratic principles, strengthening their partnership.
- **China Factor:** Australia's role is crucial in balancing China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Peace and Security:** Both nations can collaborate to enhance peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Indian Ocean Cooperation:** Joint efforts in the Indian Ocean promote stability and maritime security.
- **Economic Resources:** Australia offers critical resources, including minerals and energy, essential for India's growth.
- **Global Support:** Australia supports India's positions on various global issues, enhancing its international standing.
- **Role of the Diaspora:** The Indian diaspora in Australia fosters stronger economic ties and investment in India.
- **Skill Development Programs:** Collaborative skill development initiatives help enhance India's workforce capabilities.
- **Counter-Terrorism Cooperation:** Both countries work together to combat terrorism and enhance regional security.



Significance of India for Australia

- **Balancing China:** India plays a crucial role in countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Diversifying Trade:** Australia seeks to diversify its trade partnerships by strengthening ties with India.
- **Security Cooperation:** Collaborative efforts in security address major regional challenges.
- **Minilateral Cooperation:** Australia and India engage in minilateral arrangements to enhance strategic collaboration.
- **Large Market Potential:** India represents a significant market for Australian goods and services.
- **Shared Democratic Values:** Both nations uphold democratic principles, reinforcing their partnership.
- **Regional Stability:** Cooperation with India contributes to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Climate Change Goals:** Joint efforts in innovation and technology support climate change initiatives.

Challenges Impacting India-Australia Bilateral Ties

- **Untapped Trade Potential:** There remains significant potential for expanding trade and commerce between the two countries.
- **Agricultural Trade Exclusions:** Recent agreements exclude certain agricultural goods from free trade, hindering broader economic engagement.
- **Attacks on Indian Diaspora:** Incidents of violence against the Indian community in Australia create diplomatic tensions.
- **Divergent Foreign Policy Goals:** Differences in foreign policy priorities can complicate cooperation on various issues.
- **AUKUS Agreement:** The AUKUS pact's exclusion of India raises concerns about regional strategic dynamics.
- **Dependency on US-India Relations:** Australia's reliance on its partnership with the U.S. about India may limit independent engagement.
- **WTO Disputes:** Conflicts at the World Trade Organization, including Australia's opposition to India's subsidies, strain economic relations.
- **Indian Ocean Competition:** Leadership roles and competition in the Indian Ocean region can lead to strategic disagreements.
- **UNSC Reforms:** Differences over reforms in the United Nations Security Council affect collaborative diplomatic efforts.

The Way Forward for Australia-India Relations

- **4Ds:** Focus on the "4Ds" — democracy, defense, dosti (friendship), and the diaspora. This broader perspective can lead to deeper engagement across various sectors.
- **Enhance Multi-Sectoral Cooperation:** Target key areas such as business, politics, media, education, and culture for collaboration.
- **Leverage the Diaspora's Influence:** Recognize and empower the Indian diaspora in Australia as vital contributors to strengthening bilateral ties.
- **Emphasize Common Values and Interests:** Build on shared values, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Critical areas:** Identify collaborative opportunities in critical areas like water management, clean energy, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity to drive mutual benefits.
- **Strengthen Trust Through Leadership Engagement:** Continue high-level visits and dialogues between leaders to reinforce trust and mutual respect.
- **Climate change:** Both countries share a border with the Indian Ocean which is affected by climate change. Hence both countries can reduce and work well on the impact of climate change.

- **Science and technology:** Both nations can cooperate in science and technology like the UK, Australia also can open its premier research institutes in India.
- **India Economic Strategy to 2035:** This roadmap emphasizes India as a critical growth market for Australian businesses, advocating for deeper economic integration.

Conclusion:

The Australia-India relationship is evolving into a robust partnership built on trust and mutual understanding. This collaboration aims to enhance interactions among the Australian-Indian diaspora, business communities, youth, and leaders from both nations. As the significance of this relationship continues to grow, this forward-looking approach promises to unlock further opportunities for cooperation and economic growth, solidifying the ties between Australia and India for years to come.

Prelims Question:

Q. India and Australia both are members of which of the following?

1. G20
2. Supply Chain Initiative
3. East Economic Forum
4. SAARC
5. Regional Comprehensive Economic partnership.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only four
- D. All five.

ANSWER: A

Mains Question:

Recently India and Australia have inked the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). In this light briefly discuss the features of such free trade agreements and what are its significance for India's overall economic growth.

(250 words 15 marks)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

WHY IN THE NEWS?

FATF warns India of serious threat from ISIS and Al-Qaeda-linked groups active in Jammu and Kashmir

Key Facts about FATF:

The FATF is an intergovernmental organization aimed at combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

Establishment: FATF was established in **1989** by the G7 to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Membership: Comprises **39 member countries and organizations**, including the European Commission and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Objective: Aims to develop policies to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and other threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Recommendations: FATF has developed a set of **40 recommendations** that countries are encouraged to implement to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Mutual Evaluations: Conducts **peer reviews** of member countries to assess their compliance with FATF standards and recommendations.

Grey List and Black List: Countries that do not meet FATF standards may be placed on the **grey list** (under increased monitoring) or **black list** (non-cooperative jurisdictions).

Global Influence: FATF's guidelines influence the policies of countries and international organizations, promoting a unified approach to combating financial crime.

Regular Meetings: Hold plenary meetings three times a year to discuss progress and emerging issues in global financial crime.

Public Awareness: FATF works to raise awareness of money laundering and terrorist financing risks and encourages public and private sector engagement.

Emerging Threats: Continuously updates its strategies to address new and evolving financial crime threats, including cybercrime and virtual currencies.

India and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

India has been an active participant in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since it became a member in 2010. The FATF is an intergovernmental organization aimed at combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

Commitment to Compliance: India has shown commitment to implementing FATF standards and has undertaken various measures to strengthen its legal and regulatory frameworks against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Action Plans: India has developed action plans to address deficiencies identified by the FATF, focusing on enhancing its financial systems, improving law enforcement capabilities, and ensuring better inter-agency coordination.

Regional Cooperation: As part of its engagement with the FATF, India collaborates with neighboring countries and regional organizations to combat financial crimes, recognizing the importance of a cooperative approach to security.

Advocacy for Global Standards: India has actively advocated for robust international standards to address the challenges of money laundering and terrorism financing, aligning its policies with FATF recommendations.

Challenges and Progress: Despite its efforts, India faces challenges related to domestic enforcement, the need for greater regulatory compliance, and addressing vulnerabilities in its financial systems.

Ongoing Monitoring: India is subject to ongoing monitoring by the FATF, with the organization assessing its progress in implementing necessary reforms to combat financial crimes.



Q. With reference to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Consider the following statement:

1. The FATF was set up by the G20 Group in 2010
2. India is the founding member of the FATF
3. Maynar is the only country on black list of the FATF.

How many of the above-given statements are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

ANSWER: D

[Munde Dhananjay Navnath](#)

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