



THE DYNAMICS OF QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE (QUAD) IN THE INDO – PACIFIC REGION

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Abstract

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) has played a vital role in the contemporary global world. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue is also known as QUAD. The United States, India, Australia and Japan are members of QUAD. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue came into existence in 2007. The resurgence of the QUAD/ Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) took place in 2012 with the return of Shinzo Abe as Prime Minister of Japan. It has been decided that Quad countries have to contain China's aggressive and assertive behaviour and promote democratic values in the Indo–Pacific region. Quad 2.0 was revived on the 2017 ASEAN summit to ensure development, peace, and stability in the Indo–Pacific region. The United States of America (USA), Japan, Australia and India have been part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. The main objective of QUAD is to contain/counter the belligerence behaviour of China in the Indo–Pacific region and the Himalayan region. Chinese Media and officials have described the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) as "Asian NATO". The Quad members have been regularly meeting and conducting military exercises in the Indo – Pacific region. In the context of the intertwined and globalized economy, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) will play a dynamic role in the contemporary multipolar world order (Ashok Rai, Maritime Affairs 2019). The resurrection of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has led to the convergence of interests between the USA, Australia, Japan and India (Andrew O'Neil, Lucy West 2020, and Routledge). The minilateral Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has extensively contributed to non - military cooperation and counter China's Belt – Road Initiative (BRI) in the Indo–Pacific region. The Quad countries also extensively focusing on infrastructure development and trade among the Quad members (Wooyeal Paika 2020)

In Washington, U.S. President Joe Biden had hosted the first-ever – in-person Quad summit on September 24 2021. In this connection, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japanese Premier Yoshihide Suga have participated in the Quadrilateral summit. The four leaders have extensively discussed various strategic issues related to combating COVID -19, strengthening bilateral relations, addressing climate change issues, and promoting a democratic and free Indo – Pacific region.

Previously, US President Joe Biden had hosted the first virtual summit of the Quad on March 12, 2021. In this connection, all Quad members have strongly advocated for an inclusive, free, open and democratic Indo – pacific region. Quad countries have strongly condemned China's assertive and aggressive behaviour in the Indo – Pacific region, including the resource-rich South–China Sea. Biden – Harris administration has given top priority to elevate the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. The QUAD members have been actively engaging with various multilateral configurations to deal with the various challenges of the 21st century. China has claimed that 1.3 million square miles of the South China Sea belong to its sovereign territory. China has established military bases on artificial islands in the region, and Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Brunei, and the Philippines also claim these islands. These developments have forced the Quad member countries to revive the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue to develop an innovative strategy to protect the sea routes from the influence of external



agencies in the Indo–Pacific region. In this context, the article will critically analyze the latest trends and dynamics of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue in the Indo – Pacific region.

Key Words: *QUAD, Indo – Pacific region, belligerence behaviour, climate change, Asian NATO, South China Sea, COVID -19 Vaccines, AUKUS.*

Introduction

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) was convened on September 24 2021, by Joe Biden, President of the USA. The Quad members have extensively discussed various issues related to vaccines, illegal fishing, and climate change. The US Official stated that Quad is an informal gathering. It is not a security or military partnership. In this connection, the Quad members have decided to firmly deal with the Indo – Pacific region (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, September 24, 2021). Quad countries will be supplying 1 billion manufactured COVID -19 vaccines to the Asian countries by 2022. Quad members have announced the supply chain initiatives to identify the vulnerabilities and issues in the Indo – Pacific region. In this connection, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has discussed this issue with the CEO of Qualcomm chip manufacturer.

Further, the Quad countries have decided to develop a 5G technology network to provide alternative networks and reduce the dependency of Indo –pacific countries on China for a 5G network (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 24, 2021). Fellowship will be provided to 100 Students. 25 Students from each Quad country will get the opportunity to pursue their Master and PhD in the United States of America (USA). Quad countries have also decided to share information on the maritime domain, illegal fishing and space. The Quad members have decided to deal with cyber security threats firmly. Recently, India and the USA have witnessed and experienced cyber threats from Chinese companies (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 24, 2021).

The Evolution of the Quad

The Quad emerged in 2004 to deal with the tsunami and earthquake situation in the Indian Ocean. India, Australia, the United States and Japan have extended their support and provided relief to the displaced and injured people in the littoral of the Indian Ocean. Gradually, an informal group of 04 countries has resulted in the formal group of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue in the Indo–Pacific region (Evan A. Feigenbaum, James Schwemlein, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 11, 2021). The Quad countries have regularly held meetings and launched joint initiatives to ensure the Indo-Pacific region's stability and security. The Quad countries have vehemently condemned China's belligerence and assertive behaviour in the Indo – Pacific region. Former USA President Donald Trump and his administration have viewed Quad as "*a useful means of countering China's rise in Asia*" (Evan A. Feigenbaum, James Schwemlein, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 11, 2021). Quad has adopted various measures to ensure Indo – Pacific region is "*free and open Indo – Pacific*". Quad has become the cornerstone of the Joe Biden administration's regional strategy to deal with China very firmly in the Indo–Pacific and South China Sea region (Evan A. Feigenbaum, James Schwemlein, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 11, 2021).

Quad Summit at Washington DC, United States of America on September 24 2021

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga have participated in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, which was hosted by Joe Biden, President of the USA at Washington DC (PTI, Indian Express, September 25 2021). In this connection, Shri Narendra Modi Ji had stated that QUAD countries would



be acting as a "force for global good "and also to ensure prosperity and peace in the Indo –pacific region as well as the entire world" (PTI, Indian Express, September 25, 2021). India, Japan, Australia and the USA have revised the long-pending proposal of developing Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as an innovative strategy and framework to keep the significant sea routes in the Indo–Pacific region free from the military presence of China (PTI, Indian Express, September 25, 2021).

US President Joe Biden has invited Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his counterparts to participate in the first-ever in-person Quad summit in Washington. During the summit, Biden had stated that four democratic countries had come together to deal with the challenges, i.e. Covid - 19, vaccines deliverables, health care, infrastructure and security scenario in the Indo–Pacific region. Further, Joe Biden stated that "This group has democratic partners who share world views and have a common vision for the future" (Joe Biden, PTI, Indian Express, September 25, 2021). In this connection, Prime Minister Modi has stated that "our participation in Quad will ensure peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific as well as the entire world." "I firmly believe it would act as a force for global good". Quad vaccine initiative will hold the Indo- pacific nations. "When the world is fighting COVID -19, we have, after the 2004 Tsunami in Japan, come together again for humanity in the form of Quad alliance" (Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, Indian Express, September 25, 2021). Prime Minister Modi has reiterated that Quad members will be working based on democratic values and a positive approach. Quad members have extensively discussed various issues, i.e. global security, COVID response, supply chain, technology cooperation and climate action (PTI, Indian Express, September 25, 2021).

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has stated that Indo – Pacific region has to be free from disputes and coercion, and issues should be resolved according to the rules and regulations of international law. "The Indo-Pacific region has great challenges, and challenges have to be overcome. In six months from the last meeting, so much has been accomplished. We stand here together in the Indo Pacific region" (Scott Morrison, PTI, Indian Express, September 25, 2021). Similarly, the Japanese Prime Minister said, "I hope we can hold a relevant summit" (Yoshihide Suga, Indian Express, and September 25, 2021). The four Quad members have reiterated that Quad countries will ensure an open and accessible Indo–Pacific region and effectively identify measures to deal with the COVID -19 situations and address the global climate crisis. Further, Quad leaders have announced various schemes related to the supply chain, 5G network deployment, and a working group on space (PTI, Indian Express, and September 25, 2021). Quad countries have strongly condemned China's assertive behaviour and military strategy in the Indo–Pacific region. China is claiming all disputed areas/islands of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei, and these countries also have been claiming their authority over the disputed areas. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji met his counter partners ahead of the Quad summit and reiterated the significance of maritime security towards the free and open Indo – Pacific region (PTI, Indian Express, and September 25, 2021).

Free and open Indo-Pacific region

Quad leaders have given the following joint statement on the Indo – Pacific region on the auspicious occasion of the Quad summit on September 24, 2021. The Quad leaders have strongly advocated for a "free and open" Indo-Pacific region in the contemporary global world". Since China is increasing its military presence in the Indo – Pacific region and the South China Sea, the Quad countries have to design innovative strategies to deal with China's assertive, aggressive behaviour in the Indo – Pacific region. The US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga, and



Australian PM Scott Morrison have reiterated that they have to work together for the holistic development of the Indo–Pacific region and the global world. In this connection, Quad leaders have reiterated that Quad members will be promoting open, rule-based order, inclusive and accessible Indo – Pacific region to develop security and prosperity in the Indo - Pacific region. They have stood for the values of freedom of navigation, peaceful resolution of disputes, territorial integrity of states, democratic values and the rule of law (Joe Biden 2021 Narendra Modi 2021, Scott Morrison 2021, Yoshihide Suga 2021; Indian Express, September 25, 2021).

The Quad leaders have extended their support for the centrality and unity of ASEAN'. In this connection, Quad countries have reiterated that Quad members will be extending their support to the ASEAN and its member states, which are the heart of the Indo – Pacific region. Quad countries have welcomed the "*September 2021 EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific*". Quad countries have stated that they will contribute immensely to the development of the Indo – Pacific region and ensure a free and open Indo – Pacific region (Indian Express, September 25, 2021). The Quad members also have strongly condemned the terrorist activities and cross border terrorism in South Asia.

Further, Quad countries have stated that "no country should provide safe havens to terrorist activities". No State should sponsor terrorist activities. In this connection, the Quad countries have given the statement related to terrorism: "*Quad countries vehemently oppose the terrorist proxies and discouraging countries in providing financial support, military support, training to the terrorist groups to launch attacks against other countries. Further, they have condemned the border terrorist attacks in the South Asian region*" (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021).

In this connection, the Quad countries have stipulated that they will be coordinating human rights policies, diplomatic and economic policies, humanitarian cooperation and counter-terrorism policies towards Afghanistan to ensure peace and stability in the region. Further, they have stated that Afghan territory should not be used for terrorist activities in financing, training and sheltering. Terrorist groups should not be used for attacking or threatening any country. They designed a policy towards combating terrorism (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021). The Quad leaders reaffirmed that the Afghan territory should not be used to threaten or attack any country, shelter or train terrorists, or plan or finance terrorist acts. They also reiterated the importance of combating terrorism in Afghanistan. In this connection, the QUAD leaders have issued a joint statement related to Afghanistan that "Quad countries will support and provide safe passage to the Afghan nationals if any citizen wants to leave". Further, Quad countries have decided to protect the human rights of children, women and minorities in Afghanistan (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021).

The Quad leaders have extensively discussed contemporary global issues, i.e. the impact of COVID -19 on the global world, complex regional security issues, and global climate crisis. Quad Vaccine Partnership will be strengthened with the help of Hyderabad based firm, i.e. Biological E- Limited, which will be manufacturing more vaccines by the end of 2021. The leaders have reiterated that Covid -19 vaccines will be supplied to Indo–Pacific region countries, low and middle-income countries. Quad countries have decided to fulfil the gap by supplying COVID -19 vaccines to impoverished countries to combat the Covid -19 pandemic. The Quad leaders have appreciated the idea of supplying one billion vaccines by the end of 2022. The Quad members have welcomed India's decision of supplying COVID -19 vaccines under the global scheme of COVAX from October 2021. In



this connection, Biological E Limited, Hyderabad, India, was chosen as the manufacturing centre of COVID -19 vaccines (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021).

According to the joint agreement, Japan will be helping the regional partners to purchase Covid -19 vaccines for US\$ 3.3. Billion as part of Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan. Australia will be delivering US\$ 212 million as a grant to purchase vaccines for Southeast Asia and the Pacific countries (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021). Further, Australia will be allocating US\$ 219 million to support the last-mile delivery efforts of COVID -19. These all developments led to the establishment of the Quad infrastructure partnership. The Quad countries have decided to coordinate their efforts to develop the infrastructure and meet the needs and opportunities of the Indo – Pacific region. Quad countries will be providing technical assistance, empowering the regional partners to develop sustainable infrastructure (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021).

The Quad members have supported the infrastructure efforts of G7, G – 20 and the European Union. They have supported the G20 Quality Infrastructure Investment Principles to expedite the Indo–Pacific region's efforts. Further, they have reiterated their support to the *Blue Dot Network*. They have emphasized transparent lending practices and international laws. The Quad members have reiterated that they will vigorously work for stability, security, prosperity and peace (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021). The Quad countries have adhered to the UN Convention's rules and regulations on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to deal with the challenges of rule-based maritime order in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. They have advocated for the environmental and economic resilience of the island states in the Indo – Pacific region. Quad countries have decided to extend their cooperation to Pacific Islands to deal with the economic and health impacts of COVID -19, developing infrastructure, and mitigating the challenges of global climate change (Indian Express 2021, September 25, 2021).

Quad's perspective on Counter-terrorism

The Quad leaders have extensively discussed various issues related to climate change, Covid -19 vaccines. Quad countries have decided to launch a new infrastructure partnership. Further, they have developed a joint framework to deal with the situation in Afghanistan. Quad leaders have given the following joint statement on Afghanistan. "They will closely coordinate their human rights policies and economic and diplomatic policies towards Afghanistan. They will be deepening their humanitarian and counter-terrorism cooperation according to the resolution passed on August 30 under the presidency of India and the 2593 resolution of the security council of the United Nations".(Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). This resolution has supported the negotiated settlement for Afghanistan, and Afghanistan territory should not be used as a haven for terrorists, harbouring terrorists, financing and training the terrorists to carry out terrorist activities in the contemporary global world.

Terrorist Proxies

The Quad countries have strongly condemned the terrorist proxies and emphasized that Pakistan should not provide financial, military support and logistical support to launch terrorist activities and cross-border terrorism. The Quad leaders have extensively discussed the scenario of Afghanistan in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue at the East Room of the White House, Washington DC (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021). Further, the Quad members also have extended their support to the Indo Pacific strategy of the European Union (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021). Recently, United Kingdom, Australia and the United States have established a



security partnership in the Indo – Pacific region on the name of AUKUS. They have decided that North Korea should engage with Myanmar to end violence for the restoration of democracy and release of foreigners and political detainees (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021). The Quad countries have also discussed climate change and decided to update climate action targets and upgrade Nationally Defined Contributions (NDC) before COP26, Glasgow UN Climate conference. According to this, countries have to work rigorously to reduce the emission levels to net-zero by 2050. India has yet to formally accept the 'net zero 2050' policy (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021).

Quad countries initiatives to supply vaccines to the Global world

Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian Foreign Secretary, had stated that India would commence supply of COVID -19 vaccines, and 8 million doses will be available by the end of October 2021. Hyderabad based Biological E Ltd has been manufacturing COVID -19 vaccines to supply to Indo –Pacific countries. The Quad members have appreciated the efforts of India to supply vaccines. Quad members have planned to produce 1 billion India manufactured vaccines by the end of 2022. The USA will be contributing 1.1 billion vaccines as part of the joint venture of vaccines supply to the global world (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021).

The Quad members have also launched an infrastructure partnership to develop the infrastructure in the region and provide technical assistance to the projects. Quad countries will be working with Blue Dot Network to contain the influence of India's Belt Road Initiative (BRI). Further, Quad countries have agreed to cooperate on cyberspace, 5G Networks and transparent 5G. Quad leaders have reiterated that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue aims to promote inclusive, open and accessible Indo – Pacific region. The members of the Quad have stated that "QUAD is not a security partnership". This statement has been witnessed in the India – US officials meeting (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021). India, the USA, Australia and Japan have reiterated that the Indo-Pacific region should be based on rule-based international order, security, prosperity and coercion tactics should not be used in the Indo–Pacific region to ensure a democratic and open Indo –Pacific region. All Quad members have vehemently condemned the belligerence behaviour of China in the Indo – Pacific region and South China Sea (Sriram Lakshman, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021).

The significance of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the United States, September 2021

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has extensively participated in various bilateral meetings in Washington DC, United States. Narendra Modi Ji has participated in the bilateral meeting with the US President Joe Biden and delegation-level meeting with the US Vice President Kamala Harris, meeting with 5 CEOs of US companies, Quad Summit with US, Australia, Japan and the address at the General Assembly of the United Nations at New York (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has visited the USA seven times in seven years in 2014, 2015, 2016 (two times), 2017, 2019 and 2021 and met three consecutive US Presidents, i.e. Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The scholars have analyzed that this was historic and a milestone in many ways : (i) it was the first visit to the United States aftermath of the Covid pandemic (ii) In-person meeting with the US President Joe Biden (iii) First - ever in-person participation in the Quad summit (iv) First meetings with the Australian and Japanese Prime Ministers. (v) Quad summit amid declaration of US announced a coalition of the Security cooperation in the Indo – Pacific region, i.e. AUKUS (vi) first meeting with Kamala Harris – US Vice President



(vii) First visit the USA after Howdy Modi and Namaste Trump rallies(Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). The following aspects are the outcome of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the USA in September 2021.

(i)Focus on Indo – Pacific region: Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Quad leaders have strongly advocated that Indo –Pacific region should be free, inclusive and open. Indo – Pacific region should be based on the international rules-based order. Coercive threats by the nations have to be vehemently opposed by the Quad countries (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021)

(ii) Post - Covid 19 recovery: Countries have extensively discussed to combat Covid -19 in the global world. Quad members have congratulated and extended greetings to PM Modi for having been agreed to supply vaccines to the Asian countries. As part of this, India will manufacture 1 billion Johnson & Johnson vaccines, and the USA will provide funds to manufacture vaccines in India. Japan and Australia will be distributing vaccines in South East Asia (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021)

(iii) Climate Change Future: Quad countries have decided that global warming should be reduced to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and upgrade the ambitious NDCs before Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26). Mr Kerry wants India to produce 450 GW of renewable energy and targets of net zero (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, and September 25, 2021)

(iv) Afghanistan – Human Rights and Terrorism: Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden have reiterated that the human rights of women, children, and minorities must be protected in Afghanistan. Further, they have decided that no actor/force should use Afghanistan to train and harbour terrorists to launch strikes against other countries in the contemporary global world. Quad members have decided to implement the UNSCR 2593 to ensure peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan(Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021)

(v)Democracy as a common bond: US President Joe Biden and Vice – President Kamala Harris have reiterated that democratic values, democratic institutions, and democratic principles must be respected in both countries. PM Modi has invited Kamala Harris to India on this auspicious occasion (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021).

(v) Contemporary Global Issues: Prime Minister Modi and US President Joe Biden have extensively discussed various contemporary global issues, i.e. Technology, climate change, Covid combating methods, and vaccines supply. Quad countries have extensively discussed contemporary global issues (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Indian Foreign Secretary has stated that "AUKUS has nothing to do with Quad". Both are entirely different from that of objectives and agendas. As part of AUKUS, the US and UK will be supporting Australia for the development of nuclear submarines (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021)

Quad and India – US ties

India has to actively engage with the United States on trade, vaccines to ensure and establish regional stability. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi's first in-person meeting with Joe Biden, the President of the United States and Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, has played a vital role in India's engagement with the global powers revive its economy and strategic autonomy in the contemporary global world(The Hindu, September 28, 2021). Both the leaders have extensively discussed the issue of vaccine supply. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has given assurance that India will be



resuming the supply of vaccines to the global *COVAX pool* under the scheme of the *Maitri* programme. India has halted the supply of vaccines due to the devastating second wave of COVID -19(The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

Meanwhile, United States also passed the *Defence Production Act*, which had prevented the export of raw materials of vaccines to other global countries. During these meetings, India and the USA have extensively discussed various defence, trade and global strategic issues. In this connection, Joe Biden has reiterated that "*India has remained a major defence partner*". Washington will be strengthening defence cooperation with special reference to advanced military technologies. Air-Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (AUAV) is one of the key components of defence cooperation (The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

Further, both leaders have discussed various issues, i.e. technology cooperation, security, free and open Indo–Pacific region, and supply chains. The Quad members have decided to ensure a free and open Indo - Pacific region. They have reiterated that Indo - pacific region should be free from disputes and coercion and disputes have to be solved in accordance with the rules and regulations of international law (The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

India is not a party to the AUKUS (Australia, UK, and United States) security alliance in the Indo – Pacific region. Nevertheless, establishing nuclear-powered submarines for Australia under the AUKUS framework will affect India's strategic interest in the Indo-Pacific region. Revival of the economy and dealing with the Covid -19 are the priority issues of India. Scholars have analyzed that India has to strengthen its diplomatic, bilateral and multilateral ties with the United States to further the strategic interests of Quad to ensure regional stability and development in the Indo - pacific region (The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

AUKUS – QUAD

Australia, United Kingdom and the United States have established AUKUS trilateral security partnership on the eve of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue on September 25, 2021, in Washington DC, the United States. The AUKUS will be playing a pivotal role in the Indo - Pacific region. AUKUS will also help Quad further its objectives (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021). In this connection, AUKUS allies would like to extend their support to Joe Biden in the Indo–Pacific region (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021). AUKUS would like to reassure its allies concerning security commitments. Sharing nuclear submarines with Australia will help Canberra deal with China with more conviction than hesitation (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021). Thus, AUKUS will be immensely contributing to Quad to further its objectives. AUKUS will not replace the Quad, but it has ventured into the military domain, which the Quad countries do not accept. Since Quad leaders have expressed a lack of desire and interest in the military aspects of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the AUKUS will be fulfilling the gap by expediting the military aspects (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021). Quad has to establish a Secretariat to implement the objectives and agenda of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. Quad has to play a vital role in the Indo – Pacific region; otherwise, AUKUS will dominate the Indo–Pacific region. India has reiterated "*no link between Quad and AUKUS*" (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

The Significance of Indo – Pacific region for India

Indo – Pacific region is significant due to the following factors: (i) Since the Taliban have captured the political power in the Afghanistan State, it will have profound implications for South Asian security in



general and Indian security in particular. India has to focus on maritime security to deal with the challenges. (ii) Since the dynamics of the geopolitical landscape is ever fast-changing and also global interests are increasing in the Indo – Pacific region, India has to make use of this opportunity to further its objectives and foreign policy agenda to ensure prosperity and security in the Indo – pacific region (iii) Since India is getting support from Quad and AUKUS, India has to take this opportunity to counter the hegemony of China in the Indo – Pacific region(Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

Indo – Pacific engagement

India has joined central regional economic frameworks in the Indo – Pacific region. India has to join *Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership* to establish dynamic trade relations with the rivals of China in the Indo – pacific region (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021). India has to strengthen its economic influence and security network in the Indo–Pacific region. Otherwise, AUKUS will dominate the Indo – Pacific region. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has established good relations with the South-East Asian countries through dynamic *Act East Policy*. Thus, India has to adopt innovative strategies to strengthen its security architecture in the Indo – Pacific region (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

Quad & Limitations on the part of India

India has been reluctant to convert the Quad into military/security domain. The following factors are contributing to the vital role of India in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue : (i) India would like to maintain its strategic autonomy (ii) India's reluctance to join military alliances (iii) Repercussions of militarizing the Quad into a security alliance (iv) India would like to explore military utility without converting into a formal military alliance (v) Extending support for mutually beneficial security and military framework within the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. (vi) Narendra Modi's Government would like to avoid military repercussions for national security and South Asian security. Domestic political considerations will play a more significant role in deciding the strategic interests of India in the contemporary global world (Happymon Jacob, The Hindu, September 28, 2021).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the General Assembly of the United Nations on September 25, 2021

Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has stated in the General Assembly of the United Nations that "*India is the mother of all democracies*". Modi Ji also extended his condolence message to the victims of the COVID -19 pandemic in the global world. Modi Ji also extensively discussed contemporary global issues, i.e. poverty alleviation, political developments and regime change in Afghanistan, global climate change, and the necessity of reforms in the United Nations Security Council (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Further, Narendra Modi Ji has stated that China and Pakistan have been extending support to terrorist groups and violating the rules and regulations of the international order. Modi has reiterated that "*I represent a country known as the mother of all democracies*". India has entered its 75th year of independence, but India has been continuing democratic traditions for thousands of years (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has stated that "*Indian diversity symbolizes a strong democracy; hundreds of dialectics and many languages have explained the significance of Indian democracy*" (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Prime Minister Modi Ji has highlighted the significance of human rights and democratic values in his address at the General Assembly of the United Nations.



Further, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has explained the significance of *"democracy as a shared value in the contemporary global world"*. India has made efforts to strengthen maritime security based on international law in the Indo - Pacific region. Modi has raised issues related to the origin of the coronavirus and the World Bank's cancellation of Ease of Doing Business policy. Modi has stated that it shows the lack of transparency of institutions in the contemporary global world (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Further, Modi Ji has stated that Pakistan has been extending its support to extremist groups globally. Further, Pakistan has been extending its support for financing, training and harbouring the terrorists and the terrorist activities in the neighbourhood countries. Modi Ji has reiterated that no country should use the territory of Afghanistan for their vested interests and should not be used as a political tool to fulfil their hidden agenda. (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021).

Indian Diplomat Sneha Dubey, IFS, has given a befitting reply to the speech of Imran Khan, Pakistan Prime Minister, who had mentioned the name of India 11 times and the Kashmir issue in his speech. Ms Sneha Dubey has reiterated that *"Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of the Union of India"*. Further, she has stated that *"Imran Khan has misused the UN platform to spread his false propaganda and to facilitate terrorists and harbouring terrorism in Afghanistan while the human rights of women, children and minorities are at stake in Afghanistan"*. (Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pointed out that India has immensely contributed to combating COVID- 19 pandemic in the global world. Modi Ji has stated that India has developed the nasal vaccine, mRNA vaccine and DNA vaccine. Further, Modi Ji has stated that India will be resuming the supply of the Covid – 19 vaccines under the *"International COVAX alliance"* scheme to the countries in need of it. Modi has highlighted the theme of the General Assembly of the United Nations as *"Building reliance through hope to recover from Covid -19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of the people and revitalize the United Nations"* (Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi 2021; Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021).

Indian Prime Minister has also stated that India is always committed to dealing with global climate issues and resolved to build 450 gigawatts of renewable capacity by 2030 and make India a "green hydrogen hub". Modi has reiterated that the world is immensely benefitting from the development of India and also stated that *"When India grows, the world grows, When India reforms, the world transforms"* (Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi 2021; Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Further, the Indian Prime Minister has stipulated that global governance bodies and United Nations have succeeded in dealing with the issues, i.e. COVID -19, global proxy war, global climate crisis, terrorism, political developments, and regime change in Afghanistan. In this connection, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has given a famous quotation from Chanakya's foreign policy work, i.e. *Arthashastra* that *"When the right action is not taken at the right time, then the time ensures the failure of the action"* (Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi 2021; Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021). Further, Modi Ji has stated that the United Nations must improve its performance, reliability and effectiveness to remain relevant in the contemporary global world. Prime Minister Modi Ji has strongly advocated for multilateral reforms in the Security Council of the United Nations (Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi 2021; Suhasini Haidar, The Hindu, September 25, 2021).

Conclusion

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) has to shift its focus from a novel form of dialogue to joint functional action to address the issues and challenges of the Indo–Pacific region. Quad will be



playing a predominant role in the Indo – Pacific region. It is receiving global attention due to its strategy and agenda. India and Australia have to deal with China very seriously to showcase their strength in the Indo - Pacific region. Thus, Quad plays a significant role in dealing with various transnational, economic and environmental challenges in the Indo–Pacific region. Quad countries have to strengthen the regional security architecture. Quad countries must ensure development, security, peace and sustainable development in the Indo – Pacific region (Evan A. Feigenbaum, James Schwemlein, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 11, 2021).

Since China is developing its military, commercial network, and maritime base in the Indian Ocean in the form of "String of Pearls", Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) will play a pivotal role in the contemporary global world (Raja Mohan 2014, Indian Express, June 11, 2014). China's Sea lines of communication have been extended from the Chinese mainland to the Port Sudan in the Horn of Africa. The sea line runs through major maritime routes, i.e. Strait of Mandeb, Hormuz, Lombok Strait, and Malacca. Further, *String of Pearls* covers the strategic maritime centres in Bangladesh, Somalia, Maldives and Pakistan. Military bases play a vital role in the contemporary maritime era to showcase military power, control the choke points, and establish sea lines of communication to expedite trade and commerce. The emergence of global markets and modern capitalism has immensely contributed to the development of naval bases in order to mobilize the resources, production centres and also to supply the manufactured goods to other world countries" (Raja Mohan 2014, Indian Express, June 11, 2014). During the colonial era, naval bases also played a significant role in the Indian Ocean to establish European empires in the Eastern region. Due to various strategic factors, Russia and the United States would like to establish their military presence in the Indo–Pacific region. The United States also has established its military bases at Diego Garcia, central command in the Gulf region and new military command in Africa. France also established its military base in the Gulf region. China has been trying to establish its solid military base in the Indo – Pacific region. In this context, India has to establish its military presence in the Indo–Pacific region to contain China's belligerent behaviour in the Indo–Pacific region. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has taken innovative and dynamic steps to strengthen India's military and naval presence in the Indian Ocean. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has dealt very firmly with the Doklam Standoff, Galwan Standoff, border disputes and military standoff at Line of Actual Control (LAC) to protect India's national interest and strategic autonomy. Thus, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue has played a significant role in the Indo-Pacific region to contain China's assertive and aggressive behaviour.

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