

Expanding the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Dialogue

Why in news?

\n\n

Japan intends to associate the European powers with Indo-Pacific quadrilateral dialogue.

\n\n

What is Indo-Pacific quadrilateral dialogue?

\n\n

\n

- It is a closed group consisting of India, Australia, Japan & USA.

\n

- Japan pioneered the initiative about a decade ago.

\n

- It perceives this forum as a coalition of maritime democracies.

\n

- Securing a rules-based global order, liberal trading system and freedom of navigation are believed to be the guiding principles.

\n

\n\n

What is the need for additional members?

\n\n

\n

- The growing power imbalance in Asia due to the rapid rise of China needs a robust alliance to counter balance.

\n

- Getting the European allies on board is part of that vision.

\n

- Exploratory talks among the group members are likely on the margins of the upcoming 'East Asia Summit' in The Philippines.

\n

- Japan is already said to be in loop with France and Britain regarding the same.

\n

\n\n

What are the implications?

\n\n

- \n
- **Legacy** - Colonial pasts have helped Britain & France retain networks of political and military influence in the region.
- \n
- The British-led Commonwealth too has many small island states scattered all across the Indo-Pacific.
- \n
- France also has many military facilities in the Indo-Pacific that include the Reunion, Djibouti and the UAE.
- \n
- These networks would immensely benefit the alliance.
- \n
- **Personal Interests** - More than 70% of EU trade passes through the Indo-Pacific.
- \n
- Considering its trade volumes, Germany too has a special interest in the Indo-Pacific navigation channels.
- \n
- Also, there is considerable European interests in the present rush among Asian Navies to modernise their fleets & build submarines.
- \n

\n\n

What are the advantages for India?

\n\n

- \n
- This a signal from India that Chinese aggression and animosity serves to push India closer to a rival camp, thus incurring a cost for Beijing.
- \n
- It will deepen New Delhi's ties with US, Australia and Japan with attendant benefits in diplomatic leverage and burden sharing in defence.
- \n
- Working with America and US allies in the Asia-Pacific will provide New Delhi significant leverage in shaping US policies in Afghanistan-Pakistan to the benefit of India.
- \n

\n\n

What is India's Position?

\n\n

\n

- India already has a strong bilateral security engagement with most European Powers and maritime security has held high priority.

\n

\n\n

\n

- Recently, France and India decided to expand information sharing and explore operational cooperation between their navies.

\n

- Newer agreements for maritime intelligence sharing, augmenting naval infrastructure and logistical support are being pushed.

\n

- China's rapid naval advances in the Indian Ocean only highlight the importance of evolving a comprehensive strategic framework.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Indian Express

\n

