

## QUAD Leaders' Summit 2023

### Why in news?

Prime Minister of India participated in the third in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima, Japan held in May 2023.

### What is QUAD?

- The [Quadrilateral Group](#) consisting of *India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.* was formed in *2017*.
- It aims to strengthen the defence and security cooperation amongst the four countries.
- It was proposed by the former Japan's Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe in 2007 to check China's growing influence and assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- It has a shared objective to ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.



### What happened in QUAD 2023 Summit?

- The Leaders of the QUAD countries participated in person in the Summit held at Tokyo, Japan.
- The Summit demonstrated the QUAD'S solidarity and commitment to the common vision of Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific (FOIP) and an international order based on the rule of law.
- A [joint statement](#) on all important issues discussed at the Summit was issued.
- Announced [six initiatives](#) to strengthen the resilience and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

### What are the outcomes of Tokyo QUAD Summit?

- The initiatives announced in the Summit complements the development priorities of the Indo-pacific region.

1. **Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative** to facilitate research and development and support the Indo-Pacific's energy transition.
  - The *Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains* were approved to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development.
2. **'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships Programme'** to support policy makers and practitioners in the region to design, build and manage sustainable and viable infrastructure in their countries.
3. **'Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience'** to leverage QUAD's collective expertise in undersea cables to secure and diversify these critical networks.
4. QUAD support for a **small-scale ORAN** deployment in Palau, the first in the Pacific region.
  - They also released the ORAN Security Report to support industry investment in open, interoperable and secure telecom platforms.
5. **QUAD Investors' Network (QUIN)** has been launched as a private sector led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies.
6. The **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness**, announced at 2022 Summit had notable progress.
  - Data sharing with partners in South East and the Pacific under this programme is underway and would soon include partners in the Indian Ocean Region.

### **What are the concerns expressed in 2023 summit?**

- **Russia-Ukraine war** - In a joint statement the QUAD countries express their deep concern over the Ukraine war.
- However, in the joint statement, they did not condemn or criticise Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.
- **Stand of Countries** - India has so far refrained from condemning or criticising Russia for its invasion while other 3 countries have regularly condemned Russia.
- With strong ties with Russia in defence and energy, India had earlier resisted any strong language in Quad joint statements.
- **Consistency** - All the 4 countries stood for adherence to international law, respect for territorial integrity and UN principles.
- The quad particularly emphasised the *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS), and the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight, especially in the East and South China Seas.
- **Implicit reference to China** - The statement did not mention China by name but gave implicit reference to China for its dominance in Indo-Pacific.
- The 4 countries strongly opposed destabilising or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Indo-Pacific** - The Quad asserted and called for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific where no country dominates and no country is dominated.
- **Anti-terrorism** - The Quad strongly condemned the acts of terrorism including the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai and Pathankot.

## What are the future ideas and actions of QUAD?

- **Shared Values** - Quad was moving forward with a constructive agenda based on shared democratic values.
- Through shared efforts, the QUAD countries are giving a practical dimension to their vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- **Designation of terrorists** - The countries stressed their commitment to pursuing designations of terrorists, as appropriated by the [UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee](#).
- **Continuation** - Ensuring that the Quad will continue to support access to quality, sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure investments in the region as indicated at the [2022 Quad Leaders' Summit](#).

## References

1. [PIB - Prime Minister's participation in the Quad Leaders' Summit](#)
2. [TOI - The Quad Summit 2023 in Japan](#)
3. [The Wire - Quad Expresses 'Deep Concern' Over Ukraine](#)

