International Relations · GS - II

Evaluate the strategic significance of the Quad in the Indo-Pacific. How can it promote regional stability while managing tensions with China?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Indo-Pacific security; maritime cooperation; strategic autonomy; critical technologies; economic resilience; engagement with China

Model Answer

Introduction

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, comprising India, the United States, Japan and Australia, is a strategic partnership aimed at promoting a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Strategic Significance

1. Maritime Security

Cooperation in maritime awareness, information-sharing and capacity-building can help protect sea lanes and strengthen regional security.

2. Economic and Technological Resilience

Collaboration on critical minerals, semiconductors, trusted artificial intelligence and infrastructure can reduce supply-chain vulnerabilities and improve technological capacity.

3. Regional Cooperation

Climate action, disaster relief and infrastructure development broaden the Quad's agenda beyond traditional security concerns.

Managing China-Related Tensions

Although some observers view the Quad through the lens of strategic competition with China, its stated agenda is broader. Members can promote transparency, respect for international law and peaceful dispute resolution while maintaining diplomatic engagement with Beijing.

Challenges

Differences in national priorities, varying threat perceptions and economic interdependence with China can constrain coordination. India also seeks to preserve its strategic autonomy.

Way Forward

The Quad should prioritise practical cooperation, inclusive regional partnerships, resilient supply chains and open communication with other Indo-Pacific countries.

Conclusion

The Quad's long-term relevance depends on delivering regional public goods and strengthening stability without turning cooperation into unnecessary confrontation.

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