International Relations · GS - II

The Quad has emerged as an important platform for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Examine its strategic significance for India and the challenges associated with its functioning.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Indo-Pacific, maritime security, rules-based order, freedom of navigation, strategic autonomy, China factor, supply-chain resilience, technology cooperation, ASEAN centrality, non-military partnership.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, is an informal strategic partnership aimed at promoting a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Strategic Significance for India

- **Maritime security:** Enhances maritime domain awareness and cooperation in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- **Strategic balance:** Strengthens India's ability to address regional security challenges.
- **Economic resilience:** Promotes diversified supply chains and secure connectivity.
- **Technology:** Encourages cooperation in critical technologies, semiconductors and emerging sectors.
- **Disaster response:** Facilitates humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Key Challenges

Divergent strategic priorities, differing approaches towards China, regional geopolitical tensions and concerns about ASEAN centrality can constrain cooperation. India's commitment to strategic autonomy also requires a balanced approach.

Way Forward

India should strengthen practical cooperation while maintaining ASEAN engagement, inclusive regional diplomacy and issue-based partnerships.

Conclusion

The Quad offers India an important platform to advance regional stability and strategic interests. Its effectiveness will depend on practical outcomes, mutual trust and an inclusive Indo-Pacific vision.

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