



Quad and G-4 Meet

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The **foreign ministers of the Quad countries - India, US, Australia and Japan** - met on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting on 27th September 2019.

- The group is seen as a **regional counterweight to China** and has **only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017**. The latest meeting is seen as an upgrade by at least three levels.
- The Ministers met to discuss cooperation on counter-terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airtime security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts etc.
- The Quad countries were “resolute” in their view of the **centrality of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in South East Asia.

The notion of ASEAN centrality broadly refers to the group of countries being at the centre of security and strategic frameworks for the Asia-Pacific region.

Quad

- The Quadrilateral security dialogue or Quad was **first mooted by the Japanese Prime Minister in 2007**.
- However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.

- In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave **shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition** to develop a new strategy to keep the **critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China)**.
 - **Australia** is worried about China's growing interest in its land, infrastructure and politics and influence on its universities.
 - In the last decade, **Japan** believes that China has tried to bully it on several territorial issues.
 - China has border disputes with **India**. China is also blocking India's path into the **Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
 - A weakened **US** sees the coalition as an opportunity to regain its influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **India has been hesitant about the Quad**, in part because it does not want to isolate China and because it has had a history of staying clear of security alliances.
- **Members of the Quad, barring Australia**, are currently engaged in the annual **Malabar exercises** – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.
India has not permitted Australia to participate in these exercises, concerned about what message it would send to China, which is wary of the exercise.

G-4 Meeting

- The foreign ministers of **G-4** grouping also held a meeting on the sidelines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- **G-4** is a group of four countries i.e. **Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** which support each other's bids for **permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**
- The G-4 countries have decided to prepare for a **fresh push for reforms at the UNGA in 2020** when the **UN celebrates its 75th anniversary**.
- It was highlighted that there is a clear need for an enhanced role of developing countries and of major contributors to the United Nations to make the UNSC more legitimate, effective and representative.
 - This means that **India and Brazil** — the two developing countries in G-4 grouping — should get a place along with **China**, which is the **only developing country in the UNSC**.
 - The countries also put a focus on the **role of the African continent** in the Council.
- G-4 said that the **reforms-related decisions should be by a two-third majority** in the UN General Assembly, which was enshrined in the 1998 resolution of the UNGA. This is **contrary to the position taken by China**, which has always said that the decisions should be taken through "**comprehensive consensus**".

Source: IE