



## Legion of Merit: USA

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **USA has awarded** the ‘**Legion of Merit**’ to the Prime Ministers of **India, Japan and Australia**.

All these four countries were **key to reviving the Quadrilateral grouping** since **2017**, which is part of the **Indo-Pacific strategy** and is aimed at countering the growing dominance of China in the region.

### Key Points

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- **About the Award:**

- **One of the USA’s highest military decorations**, the award was instituted in **1942** by former President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**.
- It is **awarded to members of the USA armed forces** and also **members of foreign** (i.e. non-USA) **armed forces** and sometimes **heads of state or government**.
- The award is presented to foreign recipients in **four categories**: Chief Commander, Commander, Officer and Legionnaire.
- There have been **two Indian recipients** of the honour in the past: **Field Marshal K M Cariappa** in 1950, and **Gen S M Srinagesh** in 1955.

- **Current Receivers:**

- **Indian PM** has been given this award for his role in “**advancing the India-USA relationship**”.  
The award **recognises the efforts of the people** of India and the USA to **improve bilateral ties**, reflected in the bipartisan consensus in both countries about the **Indo-USA Strategic Partnership**.
- **Australian PM** was presented the award for “**addressing global challenges and promoting collective security**”.
- **Japanese PM** for his “**leadership and vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific**”.

**Source: TH**