

India's Defence Diplomacy In Peace Time To Build Defence Capabilities (Study Case: Quad)

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Abstract

This study delves into the nuanced landscape of India's defense diplomacy, emphasizing its engagement in the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) as an interesting case study. QUAD serves as a platform for collaborative efforts aimed at fostering regional security and stability. Against the backdrop of geopolitical complexities and evolving global dynamics, India's peacetime defense diplomacy within QUAD unfolds as a multifaceted endeavor. This study aims to understand the diplomatic initiatives and policy frameworks used by India to strengthen its defense capabilities through strategic collaboration with QUAD partners that include joint military exercises, technology transfer, information sharing agreements and economic partnerships. This research uses qualitative research methods with a case study method to analyse India's defence diplomacy within the Quad framework. India's defense diplomacy within QUAD during peacetime has had a positive impact on its defense capabilities. Strategic alignment with broader national security objectives, technological advancements, strengthened regional security and economic resilience demonstrate the effectiveness of the QUAD framework. Nonetheless, challenges such as military asymmetry and geopolitical complexity remain, necessitating sustained efforts to enhance the effectiveness of defense diplomacy within QUAD. Sustained joint efforts and coordination of strategic objectives will be key for India to maximize its benefits and strengthen its position as a key player in the evolving Indo-Pacific security landscape.

Keywords: *India's Defence Diplomacy, Strategic Partnership, QUAD Collaboration, Defence Capability Building, Geopolitical Complexities.*

INTRODUCTION

Defence diplomacy, according to academics, is the use of the military as an instrument of foreign policy for achieving both national and international objectives overseas (Wenas Inkiriwang, 2021). "Defence cooperation is an important part of diplomacy to strengthen our bilateral cooperation with friendly foreign countries and to advance our foreign policy objectives," the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, wrote in its Annual Report for the year 2014–15. (Roby Thomas, 2021) Defence diplomacy pursues to build partnerships through the use of defence related actions. Further it has become a essential tool of a state's security and defence policy, as a result of growing confidence and recognition among states of a multilateral way to discuss defence issues at the regional and international stages. Defence diplomacy has become a crucial factor in determining a country's security architecture in an era characterised by dynamic geopolitical movements and developing security paradigms. With a particular focus on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) case study, this paper seeks to analyse the specifics of India's defence diplomacy during times of peace. This study's primary focus is on how India strategically uses defence diplomacy to enhance and expand its defensive capabilities.

India's approach to defence diplomacy serves as a prism through which we may comprehend its goals, difficulties, and interactions in an interconnected global scene. The country is rich in geopolitical concerns. The QUAD was specifically chosen as a case study because it has become an important forum for likeminded countries to get together and discuss regional security issues, including Australia, Japan, the United States, and India. (Roby Thomas,

2021) Analysing India's position within this paradigm sheds light on its diplomatic efforts, cooperative alliances, and wider ramifications for enhancing defence capabilities in times of peace. The phrase "peace time" frequently misrepresents the strategic difficulties that countries must overcome to protect their interests and get ready for future issues. During such periods, defence diplomacy assumes a proactive role, transcending traditional notions and becoming an instrument for fostering cooperation, trust, and capability building. Through this journal, we aim to unravel the nuances of India's diplomatic endeavours, separating the strategies employed within the QUAD, and understanding how these efforts contribute to fortifying the nation's defence capabilities. The Indo-Pacific region, with its intricate web of economic, political, and security interdependencies, provides the backdrop for this exploration. In the midst of a rapidly changing global order, India's stance within the QUAD becomes a focal point for analysis, shedding light on the multifaceted dimensions of defence diplomacy and its role in maintaining a delicate balance during peacetime.

In (Nuswantoro, 2020) the alliance grew as a result of the emergence of a perception of common enemy or external threat outside. Partnerships or alliances during peacetime would be different with war time. As per the Cambridge dictionary, peacetime is a period of time when a country is not at war". US military document indicated that peacetime interaction is a strategic concept that guides the coordinated bid of, political, informational military and economic means to enhance stability and endorse democratic principles. The primary objective of building military alliances or partnerships during peacetime is to increase defence capability in the face of evolving security challenges. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, asymmetric threats, and the blurring of traditional boundaries between conflict and peace, no single nation can tackle these challenges alone. To cooperate with other countries or joining alliances/partnerships can provide a platform for countries to combine and enhance their resources, expertise, and technological advancements, thereby creating a more robust and comprehensive defence posture.

Among India's various defence partnerships, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or QUAD, has gained significant prominence. As a multilateral forum including the United States, Australia, Japan with India, the QUAD represents a unique and forward-thinking approach to defence cooperation in peacetime. By leveraging diplomatic channels and emphasizing collaborative initiatives, the QUAD aims to enhance defence capabilities, collectively address mutual security challenges, and promote stability in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

As we embark on this exploration, this paper delves into the theoretical foundations, methodological approach, and comprehensive analyses of India's defence diplomacy within the Quad. Through in-depth case studies and nuanced examinations, we seek to provide a holistic understanding of the strategic imperatives, challenges faced, and opportunities harnessed by India in building its defence capabilities through diplomatic endeavours in the Indo-Pacific. This journal stands as a testament to the importance of defence diplomacy as a proactive tool, even in times of peace, as nations navigate the complexities of a rapidly changing global security landscape.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study uses a qualitative approach, utilizing a case study method to analyse India's defence diplomacy within the Quad framework. Creswell describes qualitative research as complex analysis, a focus on words, detailed exploration of respondents' views, and research conducted in the context of natural situations (Nathan & Scobell, 2012). Data collection involves an in-depth examination of official documents, policy statements, and diplomatic engagements

to draw insights into the strategies employed by India in building defence capabilities during peace time.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Scholarly works by C. Raja Mohan and Shyam Saran provide insights into India's evolving defence strategy, highlighting the shift from non-alignment to a more proactive engagement in regional and global security architectures. Emphasizing the importance of partnerships, these works lay the groundwork for understanding why India actively participates in defence collaborations during times of peace.(Scott, 2012a). The emergence and significance of the QUAD as a strategic dialogue platform, these frameworks provide insights into the geopolitical dynamics of the Indo-Pacific and the role QUAD plays in shaping regional security. The literature underscores the collaborative nature of QUAD, making it an ideal case study for understanding how India leverages defence diplomacy to build capabilities during peace time (Scott, 2012b).

The literature reviewed suggests that defence diplomacy is a dynamic and multifaceted tool, especially during periods of peace. The works collectively highlight the theoretical foundations, challenges, and opportunities in defence diplomacy and emphasize the strategic importance of partnerships within QUAD in building India's defence capabilities. As this study progresses, a synthesis of these perspectives will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD framework.

India's defence diplomacy within the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue reflects a strategic approach aimed at enhancing its defence capabilities, fostering regional security, and addressing geopolitical challenges within Indo-Pacific. Further, QUAD comprising India, the United States, Australia and Japan serves as a platform for cooperative efforts to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region. India's contribution in QUAD highlights its assurance to a rules-based global order and a shared vision for regional stability.

India's Strategic Partnerships with QUAD members

Strategic engagement is a relatively new concept in IR but it is mainly focused from the defence diplomacy. The essence of the strategic engagement lies in collaboration among the states that share mutual objectives. However, security issues are central to strategic engagement, such partnerships can be quite comprehensive, as well as economy, trade, technology. The strategic partnership emerged as one of the most popular forms of state participation in modern international politics since it provides enormous opportunity for interaction in a variety of domains. India has established more than thirty strategic alliances with several nations, including the US, the UK, Japan, France, China, and the EU. The most crucial of these QUAD is the one that improves defence capability. When we look at how QUAD members engage in bilateral, Trilateral quadrilateral and multilaterally to achieve its objectives it can understand India's position enhancing defence capabilities. As per the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) report interpreted as follows (D'Ambrogio, 2021).



Figure 1. Ongoing cooperation among QUAD countries
 Source: (EPRS report 2021)

Considering above all details we can summarize cooperation India and within QUAD member by following simple matrix.

Table 1. Level of Engagement by India with Other QUAD Members
 Source: (Created by Author utilizing available data, 2023)

ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIA	Bilateral	Trilateral	Quadrilateral	Multilateral
USA	✓	✓	✓	✓
JAPAN	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUSTRALIA	✓	✓	✓	✓

United States - India

The United States and India have a strong bilateral defence relationship. India was named a Major defence partner by the US in 2016. Hence, India was granted Strategic Trade Authorization tier 1 position in 2018, which grants it license free access to a various military and dual use technology administered by the Department of Commerce. They engage in various defence cooperation activities, including joint military exercises, defence technology transfers, information sharing, and defence trade. The Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) between the India and USA aims to promote collaboration in defence research, development, and production. India was the first non-treaty partner to be granted a Missile Technology Control

Regime Category-1. Unmanned Aerial System the Sea Guardian UAS manufactured by General Atomics. Political Military Affairs (PM) Bureau remains to support advocacy for the Lockheed Martin F-21 and Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornet and F-15EX Eagle as part of India's forthcoming fighter aircraft purchases. A probable choice of any of these platforms would increase India's military capabilities, enhance U.S.-India military interoperability and defend shared security benefits in the Indo-Pacific region. QUAD enhance total defence trade with India from near zero in 2008 to over \$20 billion in 2020 (www.state.gov, 2021). The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA), another crucial intelligence sharing framework, was also signed in 2020. This would also enable interoperability amongst the QUAD states by strengthening India's capacity to gather, process, and produce Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) data (Stenek, 2022).

India - Japan

India and Japan have been strengthening their bilateral defence cooperation in recent years. They conduct joint military exercises, exchange visits by defence officials, and cooperate in maritime security. The Japan-India Defence Consultative Framework (2+2) promotes strategic dialogue and cooperation in defence and security matters.(Buchan & Rimland, 2020) QUAD open up for number of historic agreements have been signed, including the 2021 Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), the 2022 Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Cybersecurity, and the 2015 arrangements Concerning the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information. Further, 2015 "Japan and India Vision 2025" outlined the commitment of the India and Japan capitals to "a peaceable, open, reasonable, steady, and rule based" Indo-Pacific. As well as their aim to support high-quality infrastructure to improve connectivity in the area (Kurita, 2023).

India- Australia

The bilateral relationship between two nations was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020 from a "Strategic Partnership" in 2009. High-level visits, prime ministerial meetings, the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, the Defence and Foreign Ministers' 2+2 Dialogue, talks between defence policy and staff, Joint Working Groups (JWGs) all included. In October 2015, a Technical Agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange was signed. September 2015 saw the conduct of the bilateral maritime exercise AUSINDEX in the Bay of Bengal and Visakhapatnam. The 2020 Memorandum of Understanding includes provisions for Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA) and collaboration in Defence Science and Technology (High Commission of India Canberra, n.d.).

United States - India - Japan

The United States, Japan, and India engage in trilateral defence cooperation through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD) mechanism. It serves as a platform for high-level consultations and discussions on regional security, defence cooperation, and strategic issues (Japan Institute of International Affairs, 2013). General Security of Military Information Agreements (GSOMIA) can be considered as intelligence sharing mechanism upgraded in 2015 (Stenek, 2022).

United States - India - Australia

The United States, India, and Australia have also established trilateral cooperation known as the India-Australia-United States Trilateral Dialogue. This forum focuses on enhancing maritime security, regional stability, and defence collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region (John Schaus, n.d.).

Japan - India - Australia

Japan, Australia, and India have initiated trilateral dialogues and consultations, such as the Trilateral Security Dialogue and Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting. These platforms aim to promote strategic coordination, maritime security, and defence cooperation in the Indo-

Pacific. These trilateral arrangements within the QUAD framework contribute to strengthening defence cooperation, coordination, and shared objectives among the participating countries.

Output of India's Strategic Imperatives

- a. **Maritime Security and Freedom of Navigation:** QUAD nations, including India, are aligned in their obligation to safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific. India's contribution in joint naval exercises, such as the Malabar exercises, underscores its dedication to maintaining open sea lanes and responding to common security challenges.
- b. **Information Sharing and Cybersecurity:** QUAD facilitates information sharing mechanisms among member nations. India actively engages in intelligence-sharing initiatives, enhancing its situational awareness and cybersecurity capabilities. This collaboration is essential for countering emerging threats in the cyber domain.
- c. **Technology and Defence Industry Collaboration:** India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD extends to technology collaboration and defence industry partnerships. Bilateral and multilateral dialogues within the QUAD framework provide avenues for joint research and development, technology transfers, and the co-production of defence equipment, contributing to India's defence industrial base.
- d. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response:** QUAD nations, including India, recognize the importance of joint efforts in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. India's active participation in such initiatives within the QUAD framework showcases its commitment to regional stability and its capability to respond effectively to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.
- e. **Alignment on Regional Security Issues:** QUAD nations share concerns about regional security issues, including the rise of non-state actors, terrorism, and geopolitical challenges. India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD involves diplomatic dialogues and strategic coordination to address these challenges and maintain a stable and secure Indo-Pacific region.

Assessment of Challenges and Opportunities in India's Defence Diplomacy within QUAD

a. Challenges:

1) Geopolitical Complexities:

Challenge: Geopolitical complexities arise due to the diverse strategic interests and historical relationships among QUAD member nations. Divergent perspectives on regional issues, such as the South China Sea dispute, can impede cohesive decision-making.

Impact: These complexities may hinder the formulation of unified defence policies and limit the QUAD's effectiveness in responding to emerging security challenges.

2) Divergent National Interests

Challenge: Each QUAD member has unique national interests, economic ties, and security concerns. Aligning these diverse interests to create a collective defence strategy poses a significant challenge.

Impact: Divergent national interests may lead to hesitations in committing resources, sharing critical information, or engaging in joint military operations.

3) Risk of Antagonizing China:

Challenge: The QUAD's cooperative efforts are perceived by China as a containment strategy, possibly straining diplomatic relations. Balancing assertive security measures with diplomatic outreach poses challenges.

Impact: A strained relationship with China may escalate tensions and impact QUAD members' individual diplomatic relations, potentially limiting the effectiveness of the collaborative framework.

4) Military Asymmetry:

Challenge: Military capabilities among QUAD nations are asymmetric, with the United States possessing significant military superiority. This raises concerns about power dynamics within the QUAD and the potential for unequal contributions.

Impact: Asymmetry may lead to questions about burden sharing and the equitable distribution of responsibilities, potentially affecting the sustainability of defence collaborations.

b. Opportunities

1) Convergence of Democratic Values:

Opportunity: Shared democratic values among QUAD members form a strong basis for collaboration. This convergence can foster mutual trust and a mutual commitment to maintenance international norms and rules.

Impact: A united front based on democratic principles enhances the QUAD's credibility and provides a foundation for sustained defence diplomacy.

2) Economic Cooperation:

Opportunity: QUAD nations are significant economic players. Leveraging economic ties can strengthen defence collaboration by facilitating technology transfers, joint ventures, and investments in defence industries.

Impact: Economic cooperation provides a pragmatic incentive for sustained collaboration, fostering resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges.

3) Multilateral Approaches to Regional Issues:

Opportunity: The QUAD can adopt a multilateral approach to address regional challenges, such as counterterrorism, piracy, and disaster response. Collaborative efforts on non-traditional security issues can build trust and synergy.

Impact: By showcasing the QUAD's ability to contribute positively to regional stability, multilateral approaches can counter the perception of the QUAD as a solely security-focused alliance.

4) Capacity-building and Technology Transfer:

Opportunity: QUAD nations can invest in capacity-building programs and facilitate technology transfers. This approach not only enhances the defence capabilities of individual members but also fosters a sense of collective security.

Impact: Building capabilities and sharing technological advancements contribute to a more balanced and sustainable defence collaboration, reducing concerns about military asymmetry.

Outcome of Indian Defence Capacity Building through QUAD

Enhancing interoperability, surveillance, intelligence and reconnaissance abilities, using common logistics for power projection, and capability expansion are some of output of the India's effort. It will strengthen India's joint capabilities and undermine China's two ocean strategy. Defence capacity building contributes to enhancing interoperability and coordination between Indian defence forces in QUAD member states in several ways.

- a. **Standardization of Procedures:** Defence capacity building initiatives involve the development and adoption of standardized procedures and protocols among India and member states. This allows for smoother coordination and communication during joint operations, exercises, and missions. By aligning their procedures, India and member states can enhance interoperability and streamline their military activities.
- b. **Training and Exercises:** Defence capacity building includes joint training programs and military exercises that bring together defence forces of India and QUAD member states. These actions offer opportunities for personnel to work together, understand each other's operational methods, and develop common practices. Through training and exercises, defence forces can improve their ability to coordinate actions and effectively operate together. The Malabar naval exercise is a series of joint naval exercises conducted by the QUAD members (United States, India, Japan, and Australia). This exercise aims to enhance maritime cooperation, interoperability, and coordination among the navies of participating countries. It involves a wide range of activities, including maritime interdiction operations, anti-submarine warfare exercises, and joint manoeuvres. The Malabar exercise serves as a successful defence capacity building within the QUAD, as it showcases the improved coordination and interoperability achieved through regular joint exercises.
- c. **Information Sharing and Intelligence Cooperation:** Defence capacity building fosters information sharing and intelligence cooperation among QUAD member states. Enhancing MDA across the Indo-Pacific is additional means by which Quadrilateral cooperation possibly will be a force multiplier for all, particularly in regard to anti-submarine warfare. This includes sharing intelligence on common security threats, exchanging situational awareness, and coordinating responses to potential risks. By sharing timely and accurate information, defence forces can enhance their understanding of the operating environment and make informed decisions.
- d. **Technology Compatibility:** Defence capacity building initiatives aim to enhance the compatibility of defence technologies and systems among member states. This involves promoting the use of compatible equipment, communication systems, and interoperable platforms. By ensuring compatibility, defence forces can effectively integrate their capabilities, share resources, and jointly respond to security challenges. This can be consider in the method of access to military surveillance technology. example, Australia and India both now operate US P-8 surveillance aircraft. This classification, together with COMCASA, creates more opportunities for coordinated platform purchases to fill in capability gaps and avoid resource duplication. Additionally, it opens the door for enhance defence R & D partnership between India and other US partners.
- e. **Joint Capability Development:** Defence capacity building can involve joint capability development projects and programs. This includes collaborative research and development efforts, technology transfers, and the joint acquisition of defence equipment. By mutually developing capabilities, member states can leverage their resources, pool their expertise, and enhance their collective defence posture. Construction of jointly utilized military infrastructure around the Indo-Pacific including the US facility at Diego Garcia, HMAS Stirling, and bases in India's Andaman & Nicobar Islands as well as Australia's Cocos Islands. In order to facilitate mutual use of military facilities for force projection, India and United States similarly signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA) in 2016, while India and Australia did the Mutual Logistic Support (MLSA) in 2020.(Sodha, n.d.)



Figure 2. Expansion of Indian Maritime Surveillance Capability
 Source: (<https://www.gatewayhouse.in/logistics-agreement-canberra/>)

Mutual refueling capabilities in the Persian Gulf and Western Indian Ocean, as well as for Indian assets at Australian military sites, are provided by the MLSA with Australia. Now that Australia is developing the Cocos Keeling Islands and the port of Darwin are close to the choke points, the Indian Navy will be interested in conducting P8I operations from these locations.

f. Command and Control Integration: Defence capacity building efforts also focus on improving command and control structures and processes. This involves enhancing the integration of defence command structures, establishing common operational procedures, and developing effective communication channels. By improving command and control integration, defence forces can better coordinate their actions and optimize their collective operational effectiveness. Between India and US Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), which was signed in 2018, will open up New Delhi access to secure and encoded defence communications equipment from Washington as well as real time data sharing with American and allies like Japan and Australia on communications networks that were previously restricted. This will improve the combined maritime domain awareness Indian Navy as well as interoperability.

By enhancing interoperability and coordination between defence forces, defence capacity building among India and QUAD member states improves their ability to work together, respond to security challenges, and conduct joint operations. It strengthens India's defence capabilities and reinforces the overall security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region. Above all we can summarized in to following table.

Table 2. Agreements, Defence Cooperation's, Ex's India and QUAD Members

Type of agreement/ Cooperation	QUAD members involved
Defence Framework Agreement	U.S.-India
Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation	U.S.-India
Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)	U.S.-India
Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)	U.S.-India
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding (LEMOA)	U.S.-India
Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geospatial Cooperation (BECA)	U.S.-India
Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)	India and Japan

Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Cybersecurity and Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information agreement	India - Japan
Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2020	India - Australia
Technical Agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange	India - Australia
Memorandum of Understanding includes provisions for Mutual Logistics Support (MLSA)	India - Australia
Trilateral Dialogue	India-Australia-United States
Military Exercises	India, Japan, United States, Australia
Malabar Naval Exercise	India, United States
Yudh Abhyas	India and Australia
Bilateral Maritime Exercise, AUSINDEX	Multinational
PITCHBLACK	

Source: (Created by Author utilizing available data, 2023)

India's Defence Capacity building South East Regional countries

India regularly conduct joint military exercises, such as naval, air and land exercises. This enables the exchange of experiences, increased interoperability and better understanding between their armed forces. Through these exercises, India among QUAD countries and regional partners can develop joint strategies, improve coordination and enhance their effectiveness in dealing with common threats. Following table can be consider as India's engagement in the region.

Table 3. India and Southeast Asian Countries Joint Military Exercises Conducted

Country	Military Exercise
QUAD (US, Australia, India, Japan)-Singapore-Thailand-Vietnam	Malabar Exercise, this exercise aims to enhance maritime security cooperation and operational capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region.
India-Singapore	a. India-Singapore Joint Exercise (Bold Kurukshetra): Bold Kurukshetra is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Singapore Army. Exercise Bold Kurukshetra has been conducted. b. India-Singapore Air Exercise (Exercise Sindex): It involves personnel exchanges, flight exercises and air combat simulations. The last exercise was conducted in 2018.
India-Myanmar	a. Joint Military Exercise IMBAX (India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise): is a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Myanmar Army. b. IMCOR (India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol) Joint Military Exercise: is a joint patrol exercise between the Indian Navy and the Myanmar Navy. IMCOR exercises were conducted in 2013 and 2016.

Source: (Created by Author using available data, 2023)

By enhancing defence cooperation with Southeast Asian countries, India hopes to collectively strengthen their military capacity and provide stronger deterrence against threats from China in the Indo-Pacific region. Available data can be summarized in to following table.

Table 4. India and Southeast Asian Countries Defence Industry Collaborations

Southeast Asian Country	Areas of Defence Industry Cooperation with India
Vietnam	Defence equipment sales and transfers Agreement. (Su-30MKI fighter aircraft, BrahMos cruise missiles and Akash air-to-air missile). June 2022 defence cooperation enhanced with new "Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030
Malaysia	Defence technology cooperation and exchanges Joint production and co-development of defence equipment Ex: Defence sales deals on Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter aircraft and BrahMos cruise missiles from India to Malaysia.
Singapore	Defence technology collaboration and transfers, research and development cooperation (India's Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Singapore's Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA) collaborate on defence research and development projects.
Indonesia	Defence equipment sales and transfers (Nov 2016, Tata Motors signed an MoU with PT Pindad with joint design, production and marketing of military vehicles, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) India, collaborated with Indonesia's PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) to develop and produce the N-219 aircraft, a small twin engine turboprop aircraft, BrahMos cruise missiles)
Philippines	Defence technology cooperation and exchanges In 2020 showed attention on obtaining BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, jointly developed by India and Russia.
Thailand	Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation. Enhance cooperation in maritime surveillance and countering maritime threats in the Gulf of Thailand region.
Myanmar	Kilo-class submarines from India to Myanmar in 2019.

Sources: (Authors creation using relevant report on Bilateral cooperation, 2023)

The Indo-Pacific region is a major trade route and rich in natural resources. Maritime security is critical in maintaining stability and steadiness in the region. India as a QUAD member has committed to strengthening cooperation in maritime surveillance, protection against non-traditional threats such as piracy, drug smuggling and human trafficking, and increased military presence to keep maritime routes safe. As a QUAD member India also plays a role in assisting disaster management in the Indo-Pacific region. QUAD countries share experiences, resources and technologies in providing humanitarian assistance and post-disaster recovery. This not only helps improve the capacity of countries in the region to deal with disasters, but also strengthens regional cooperation and builds trust between member countries. In the regional global context, India's role in QUAD is to strengthen collective defence can have positive implications for security stability in the Indo-Pacific region. As well as with this cooperation, India can enhance own defence industry prioritizing "make in India" policy.

Synthesis and Implications for India's Defence Capability from QUAD Defence Diplomacy during Peace Time:

a. Enhanced Technological Capabilities:

Implication: India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD has facilitated access to advanced military technologies through collaborative projects and technology transfers.

Effectiveness: The strategy has been effective in enhancing India's technological capabilities, aligning with the nation's ambition for self-reliance in defence production.

b. Improved Interoperability and Joint Capabilities:

Implication: Joint naval exercises and collaborative research within the QUAD have contributed to improved interoperability among defence forces.

Effectiveness: The strategy has effectively enhanced India's joint capabilities, fostering seamless coordination in response to regional security challenges.

c. Strengthened Maritime Security and Regional Stability:

Implication: QUAD initiatives, such as joint patrols and information sharing agreements, aim to bolster maritime security and maintain regional stability.

Effectiveness: The strategy has been effective in fostering a collaborative security environment, aligning with India's broader objective of ensuring a secure and stable Indo Pacific region.

d. Diplomatic Alignment and Multilateral Engagement:

Implication: Diplomatic engagements within the QUAD have allowed India to align its defence priorities with likeminded nations and adopt a multilateral approach to address regional challenges.

Effectiveness: The strategy has been effective in establishing diplomatic alignment, contributing to India's enhanced influence on the global stage and strengthening its national security posture.

e. Counterterrorism and Non-traditional Security Cooperation:

Implication: QUAD discussions on counterterrorism and non-traditional security challenges reflect a commitment to addressing diverse threats in the region.

Effectiveness: The strategy has been effective in aligning with India's broader national security objectives, showcasing a comprehensive approach to security beyond conventional military concerns.

f. Economic Resilience and Defence Industry Collaboration:

Implication: Economic cooperation within the QUAD, coupled with defence industry collaboration, has the potential to enhance India's economic resilience and defence production capabilities.

Effectiveness: The strategy has shown promise in fostering economic partnerships, contributing to India's broader objective of achieving defence self-sufficiency.

g. Mitigation of Military Asymmetry:

Implication: Collaborative projects and capacity building initiatives aim to mitigate military asymmetry within the QUAD.

Effectiveness: While progress has been made, addressing military asymmetry remains a challenge, requiring sustained efforts to ensure equitable burden-sharing and contributions from all members.

CONCLUSION

Defence diplomacy plays a crucial role in peacetime by promoting national security, stability, and cooperation among nations. Building alliances and partnerships allows countries to enhance their defence capabilities, share resources and expertise, and address emerging security challenges. India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD reflects a nuanced and collaborative approach to addressing shared security concerns. India's defence diplomacy within the QUAD during peace time has yielded positive implications for its defence capability. The alignment of strategies with broader national security objectives, technological advancements, strengthened regional security, and economic resilience demonstrate the effectiveness of the QUAD

framework. However, challenges such as military asymmetry and geopolitical complexities persist, necessitating ongoing efforts to optimize the effectiveness of defence diplomacy within the QUAD. The continued pursuit of collaborative initiatives and the strategic alignment of objectives will be crucial for India to maximize the benefits and solidify its position as a key player in the evolving Indo Pacific security landscape.

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