

## INDIAN OCEAN REGION

**QUOTE** "Indian ocean is the region where India asserts, china eyes and the us intervenes"

**NEWS** Aukus ; Quad summit



MAP 1: IOR

### SIGNIFICANCE OF IOR

- 1) Security
- 2) EEZ & Ocean resources
- 3) energy security
- 4) SLOCs
- 5) bilateral relations with IOR

### INDIA'S APPROACH

- 1) India's sphere of influence
- 2) inclusiveness ; openness ; unity
- 3) Net security provider
- 4) Zone of peace
- 5) SAGAR

### CHALLENGES

- 1) Chinese expansionism
  - Wolf warrior diplomacy
  - string of pearls & BRI
  - overseas military base
  - weaponisation of supply chain
  - South china sea disputes - implications
- 2) The USA's presence
  - Pivot to indopacific
  - Diego garcia - us military base
  - Proxy wars
- 3) Maritime security
  - choke points in IOR
  - Non traditional threats

### OTHER ISSUES

- India's strategic confusion
- Climate crisis & disaster management

### INITIATIVES

- 1) Quad
- 2) multilateral forums
- 3) Project Mausam
- 4) military exercises
- 5) 'Necklace of diamonds' e.g. malabar

### INDO-PACIFIC

- Emerging geopolitical theatre

## AUKUS

**AUKUS:** 'trilateral security partnership' in the Indo-Pacific region between Australia - UK and the USA  
 Under this US and UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear powered submarines to Australia

**SSN** can operate at sea for longer spend more time submerged and sail at higher speeds than conventionally powered subs

## REASONS

- 1) US - Pivot to Indo-Pacific; post Afghan exit
- 2) Counter Chinese expansionism
- 3) Anglo Saxon solidarity and protection of US led order
- 4) Complement other mini laterals - Quad, Anzus, 5 eyes

## IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA (+ve)

- 1) China distracted & Counter China
- 2) Strategic balancing - maritime security
- 3) Strong network in Indo Pacific now
- 4) Boost to India's SSN dreams & provide time to build naval capabilities
- 5) AUKUS de-securitized Quad

## CHALLENGES

- 1) Existing tensions in the west and new tensions in the east for India
- 2) Provoking China - new cold war
- 3) Arms race - nuclear proliferation
- 4) Challenges to India's sphere of influence and role of net security provider
- 5) Australia's cancellation of submarine deal with France
- 6) Credibility crisis the US post Afghan withdrawal

## QUAD

**NEWS** First ever in-person summit of the Quad @ Washington DC, USA

**QUAD:** Quadrilateral grouping of India, USA, Japan, Australia.

- OBJECTIVE**
- 1) Free and open Indo-Pacific
  - 2) Prosperity for all

## SIGNIFICANCE

- 1) Indo-Pacific centrality
- 2) Counter China
- 3) Ensure freedom of navigation
- 4) Expansion of Quad framework

## 2021 SUMMIT - TAKE AWAYS

- 1) Covid & global health
  - Quad vaccine partnership
  - Build Back Better Health Security
- 2) Cooperation on infrastructure
  - Quad infra coordination group
- 3) Combating climate crisis
  - Clean energy partnership
  - Green shipping network
- 4) Cultivating next gen - talents
  - Education
  - Quad fellowship
- 5) Collaboration in critical and emerging technologies - AI, Space etc

## CHALLENGES

- 1) Emergence of AUKUS → "Quad; shape up or become irrelevant" - Rappaport Jacob
- 2) Reduced role of Quad in areas like counter terrorism (imp. for India)
- 3) Lack of institutionalisation of Quad
- 4) China views it as 'Asian NATO'
- 5) Chinese counter actions (boundary dispute with India)

## WAY FORWARD

- 1) Quad plus - more inclusive
- 2) Enhance economic cooperation
- 3) Focus on transnational security issues
- 4) Ensure India's strategic autonomy