DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

DAILY pre PARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

23 September, 2024

Quad Summit 2024

Context: *Recently,the PM attended the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit, hosted by the U.S.*

Overview:

- the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit held in Wilmington, Delaware (USA)
- Leaders emphasize adherence to international law, especially UNCLOS, for Indo-Pacific peace, security, and prosperity.

What is Quad?

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a strategic grouping of four democracies: India, Australia, the U.S., and Japan. The Quad aims to ensure a **free, open, and rules-based international order** in the Indo-Pacific region.

Objectives of Quad

- **Maritime security**
- **Combatting the COVID-19 crisis**, particularly vaccine diplomacy
- **Addressing climate change risks**
- **Encouraging investment** and infrastructure development in the region
- **Boosting technological innovation**

Evolution of Quad

- Initially formed after the **Indian Ocean tsunami** to coordinate disaster relief efforts.
- Proposed formally by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in 2007, but stalled due to Chinese resistance and India's reluctance.
- Revived during the **2017 ASEAN Summits**, with the first ministerial-level meeting in **September 2019**.
- The first virtual **Quad leaders' summit** was held in **March 2021**, followed by the first in-person meeting in **September 2021**.

Naval Exercise

- The Quad members participated in the **Malabar exercise** in November 2020, marking the first joint military drill since 2007.

Key Outcomes of the Quad Summit 2024

The 2024 Quad Summit announced several key deliverables spanning health, infrastructure, maritime security, and technology:

- **Quad Cancer Moonshot**: India will provide $7.5 million in HPV sampling kits, detection tools, and cervical cancer vaccines for Indo-Pacific nations. The Serum Institute of India committed to supplying up to 40 million HPV vaccine doses.
- **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission (2025)**: Enhances maritime safety and interoperability among Quad Coast Guards in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network**: A pilot project to share airlift capacity and improve collective disaster response logistics.
- **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership**: Focused on developing sustainable and resilient port infrastructure, ensuring ports maintain services during disruptions.
- **Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network**: Strengthens Quad resilience and market diversity in semiconductor supply chains.
- **UN Security Council Reform**: Quad leaders advocated for a more representative and efficient UN Security Council, including expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Principles**: Ensures equitable access and improved public service delivery, fostering development, innovation, and competition.
- **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)**: To strengthen regional partners' maritime monitoring and law enforcement, with India hosting the first MAITRI workshop in 2025.

Other Announcements

- Boosting energy efficiency and manufacturing affordable cooling systems.
- India established a space-based web portal for Mauritius for climate monitoring.
- A new **Quad STEM Fellowship** for students from the Indo-Pacific region.
- The **2025 Quad Leaders' Summit** will be hosted by India.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

Context: *Recently,India signed agreements under the IPEF, promoting a clean and fair economy.*

Overview:

- The pacts were signed during the Prime Minister's three-day visit to the US for the Quad Summit.
- The overarching agreement is an administrative agreement towards establishing an oversight ministerial-level mechanism.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework

- **Launch Date:** 23rd May 2022
- **Location:** Tokyo, Japan
- **Members:** 14 countries, including India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam.

- **Economic Impact:** Represents 40% of global GDP and 28% of global goods and services trade.

➢ **Main Pillars**

- **Trade (Pillar I):**
  - Aims to promote economic growth, peace, and prosperity in the region.
- **Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II):**
  - Focuses on making supply chains more resilient and integrated.
  - Enhances logistics, connectivity, and investments in critical sectors.
  - Emphasises upskilling and reskilling of the workforce.
- **Clean Economy (Pillar III):**
  - Advances cooperation on clean energy and climate-friendly technologies.
  - Encourages research, development, and investment in climate-related projects.
- **Fair Economy (Pillar IV):**
  - Implements anti-corruption and tax measures.
  - Supports India's initiatives to combat corruption and improve legislative frameworks.

➢ **India's Participation**

- India actively participates in Pillars II, III, and IV while holding an observer status in Pillar I.

Important Agreements:

Clean Economy Agreement

➢ **Objectives:**

- Accelerate energy security, climate resilience, and reduction of GHG emissions.
- Facilitate investments and project financing, especially for small businesses.
- Promote integration of Indian companies in global value chains in the Indo-Pacific.

➢ **Key Features:**

- Encourage technical cooperation, workforce development, and research collaborations.
- Support development and deployment of clean energy and climate-friendly technologies.

➢ **Fair Economy Agreement**

- **Goals:**
  - Establish a transparent and predictable business environment.
  - Promote fair competition and enhance anti-corruption efforts.
- **Initiatives:**
  - India will conduct a training program in Digital Forensics & System-Driven Risk Analysis for IPEF partners.

➢ **Recent Updates**

- **Cooperative Work Programme (CWP):**
  - Launched by India to focus on recovering valuable resources from electronic waste (e-waste).
- **IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund:**
  - Supports clean economy infrastructure projects in emerging and upper-middle-income economies.
  - Initial funding of USD 33 million from Australia, Japan, Korea, and the US aimed at catalysing USD 3.3 billion in private investment.

➢ **IPEF Upskilling Initiative**

- **Focus:**
  - Provides digital skills training, primarily targeting women and girls in IPEF partner countries.
- **Impact:**
  - Over the last two years, the initiative has created 10.9 million upskilling opportunities, with 4 million opportunities in India.

Edible Oils in India

Context: *Recently,India raised Basic Customs Duty on imported crude edible oils.*

➢ **Overview:**

- India has taken important steps to protect its oilseed farmers by increasing the **Basic Customs Duty (BCD)** on imported crude palm, soybean, and sunflower oils from **zero to 20%**, and on refined oils from **12.5% to 32.5%**.

➢ **What are edible oils?**

- Edible oils are mainly vegetable oils refined through processes like neutralisation, bleaching, and deodorisation.

- **Health Benefits**: Considered healthier than animal fats due to higher unsaturated fatty acid content.

➢ **Edible oil situation of India:**

- India is the **fourth largest producer** of edible oil in the world, behind the **United States, China**, and **Brazil**.
- India's share of global oilseed production is about 10%, and it accounts for 6–7% of the world's vegetable oil production.
- In 2022-23, India produced an estimated 41.35 million tons of nine cultivated oilseeds.
- India is the world's **second-largest consumer** of edible oil, consuming more than 10% of the world's total in 2021.
- India is the **world's largest importer** of edible oil, importing about 55-60% of its total edible oil needs. India's main imports include palm oil, soybean oil, and sunflower oil.

INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL IMPORTS IN (lakh tonnes)

Oil Year (Nov-Oct)	Palm*	Soyabean	Sunflower	Total**
2017-18	87.01	30.47	25.25	145.17
2018-19	94.09	30.94	23.51	149.13
2019-20	72.17	33.84	25.19	131.75
2020-21	83.21	28.66	18.94	131.32
2021-22	79.15	41.71	19.44	140.3
2022-23	97.89	36.76	30.01	164.66
2022-23 (Nov-Aug)	82.46	31.82	25.46	139.75
2023-24 (Nov-Aug)	76.43	27.15	31.14	134.71

*Includes Crude and Refined oil; **Includes Rapeseed Oil.
Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India.

GLOBAL VEGETABLE OIL PRICES (Average $/tonne, CIF Indian ports)

➢ **Report on 'Pathways and Strategies for Accelerating Growth in Edible Oils Towards Atma Nirbharta'**

- **Released by:** NITI Aayog
- **Purpose:** To explore the current state and future potential of India's edible oil sector comprehensively.

➢ **Key Highlights**

- **Per Capita Consumption:** Increased to 19.7 kg/year.
- **Demand vs. Production:**
  - Domestic production meets only 40-45% of requirements.
  - In 2022-23, India imported 16.5 million tons (MT) of edible oils.
- **Challenge:** Heavy reliance on imports undermines self-sufficiency goals.

➢ **Edible Oil Imports:**

- India's edible oil imports reached a record **16.5 million tonnes** in 2022-23, with **palm oil** leading, followed by **soybean** and **sunflower oil**.
- **Sunflower oil imports** surged due to price fluctuations following the **Ukraine war**, making sunflower oil cheaper than palm and soybean oils in 2023.

➢ **Roadmap for Addressing Challenges**

- **Focus:** Bridging the demand-supply gap to achieve self-sufficiency.
- **Projections:**
  - Under a Business-As-Usual (BAU) scenario, supply is expected to rise to 16 MT by 2030 and 26.7 MT by 2047.

➢ **Strategic Interventions**

- **Crop Retention and Diversification:**
  - Encourage cultivation of a variety of oilseeds.
- **Horizontal Expansion:**
  - Increase the area under cultivation for specific oilseeds.
- **Vertical Expansion:**
  - Enhance yields through:
  - Improved farming practices.
  - Better-quality seeds.
  - Advanced production technologies.
- **Dynamic Trade Policy:**
  - Develop a balanced trade policy for sustainable growth.
- **Broaden National Mission:**
  - Expand the scope of the National Mission on Edible Oils to support these strategies.

➢ **Increased Import Duties**:

- **Crude oils**: Effective import duty raised from **5.5% to 27.5%**, the highest since 2021.
- **Refined oils**: Duty increased from **13.75% to 35.75%**.

DHYEYA IAS
most trusted since 2003

DAILY pre PARE
Current affairs summary for prelims

23 September, 2024

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Chakma Community

Recently, in Bangladesh, ethnic clashes between indigenous Chakma and Bengali residents have intensified tensions in the Chittagong Hill Tract districts.

About Chakma Community:

- The Chakmas, an ethnic group native to Bangladesh's **Chittagong Hill Tracts,** originally **migrated from Myanmar's Arakan Hill.**
- In India, they live in **Mizoram**, **Tripura** and **Arunachal Pradesh**, with about **80,000 in Mizoram**
- They have their **own language**, **scripts** and **culture**.
- They practice **Theravada Buddhism,** but also incorporate aspects of Hinduism and animism.
- They have Buddhist temples in every village, and their monks are called **Bhikhus.**
- They worship Hindu deities like **Lakshmi**, for example, is worshipped as the **Goddess of the Harvest.**
- The Chakmas practice **shifting cultivation called JUM**, growing crops like paddy, maize, cotton, and sesame.
- The Citizenship Act of **1955** states that Chakmas born before July 1, 1987, or descendants of those born before that date, are citizens by birth.

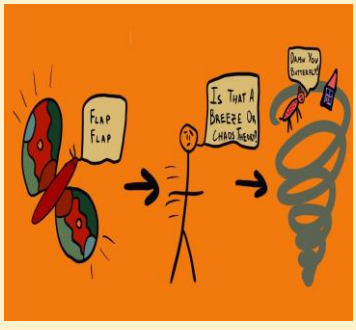
World Rhino Day

Recently, Assam's Chief Minister announced an 86% drop in one-horned rhino poaching in Kaziranga and other protected habitats since 2016, during World Rhino Day celebrations.

About the World Rhino Day:

- World Rhino Day is an annual event celebrated on **September 22** that highlights the need to protect rhinos and their habitats.
- It is a day to raise awareness about the **threats rhinos face**, such as poaching and habitat loss, and to emphasize the importance of their conservation.
- The **World Wildlife Fund South Africa first announced** World Rhino Day in **2010**.
- The five rhino species are the **white** (Near Threatened) and **black** (Critically Endangered) in Africa, and the **greater one-horned** (Vulnerable), **Javan** (Critically Endangered) and **Sumatran** (Critically Endangered) in Asia.
- Climate change is also a threat to rhinos, causing drought in Africa and increased precipitation and monsoon periods in Asia.
- **Project Rhino** is an initiative in India to combat poaching and conserve the rhino population.
- The species is listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List**, included in CITES **Appendix I**, and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, **1972**.

Butterfly Effect



About the Butterfly Effect:

- The butterfly effect is a concept that describes how a **small change in a system** can have a large impact on the outcome.
- It is **based on chaos theory** and is often associated with weather.
- A butterfly flapping its wings could theoretically **cause a tornado** elsewhere due to sensitive dependence on initial conditions.
- The concept was popularized **by Edward Lorenz**, an American mathematician who developed it while working on weather prediction models.
- Lorenz was inspired by earlier mathematicians Henri Poincaré and Norbert Wiener, who studied the **instability of the earth's atmosphere**.
- Lorenz utilized computers to create models that illustrate **deterministic chaos**, showing that even minor changes in input can drastically alter predictions.
- In one of his experiments in **1961**, Lorenz found that changing an input value from **0.506127 to 0.506** resulted in significantly different weather predictions.
- The butterfly effect has been observed in various fields, including **meteorology**, **economics** and **biology**, emphasizing the unpredictability inherent in complex systems.
- The **bombing of Nagasaki is an example of the butterfly effect**, where cloud cover over the intended target led to a different city being bombed.

Madeira River

Recently, sandbanks on Brazil's Madeira River have surfaced as over a thousand localities remain on alert amid the country's worst drought and ongoing fires.

About the Madeira River:

- The Madeira River is a major **tributary of the Amazon River in South America**.
- It **flows between Bolivia and Brazil**, and is formed by the confluence of the **Mamoré** and **Beni rivers in Bolivia**.
- The river's **original name was the Cuyari River,** but the **Portuguese renamed it Madeira**, which means "**Wood River**".
- This river is **part of the Madeira Basin**, which covers about 19% of the Amazon Basin which spans **Bolivia**, **Brazil** and **Peru**.
- **Hydroelectric dams** on the Madeira River contribute to drought scenarios by altering the river's natural flow.

POINTS TO PONDER

- Where was the Summit for the Future held in 2024? **– New York**
- What is the primary cause of typhoid fever in humans? **– Salmonella Typhi bacteria**
- What is Venus's quasi-satellite named? **– Zoozve.**
- Who is known as the "Father of the White Revolution"? **– Verghese Kurien**
- What is the PM MITRA Park scheme aimed at? **– Textile**