

ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

COP 29 & CLIMATE FINANCING

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 8.

News: "COP29, climate finance and its optical illusion."

"World was already 1.49°C warmer than pre-industrial levels by the end of 2023. Current policies, if continued globally, are expected to lead to a temperature rise of up to 3.1°C"—IPCC COP 29.

"Climate change has no geographical boundaries. Thus, it is imperative that the international community cooperates towards the global good, keeping climate justice at the core and respecting the principles of the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR and RC)."

New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG):

- Which refers to **developed countries (Annex I of UNFCCC) give money to developing countries to help them meet their goals of transitioning away from fossil fuels and reducing GHGs.**
- **Before COP 29:**
 - At Cancun, in 2010, developed countries had pledged to provide \$100 billion annually upto 2020.
 - At COP21 in Paris, the parties decided to establish an NCQG prior to 2025.
- **At COP 29:**
 - Developing countries had stated that **at least a trillion dollars per year from 2025-35** would be necessary to meet emission targets.
 - However, the developed world has in the NCQG agreed to provide an abysmal figure of just **\$300 billion annually till 2035.**
 - **The biggest disappointment** is \$300 billion per year doesn't solely come from public finance, but also from Multilateral Development Banks, carbon markets, and private finance.
 - NCQG is not legally binding.
- **A positive aspect of COP 29:**
 - Decision to **triple the flow of public resources** through various operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, **the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund** from the 2023 level by 2035.

Major Climate Change Goals:

- Commitments to limit global warming to **1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels.
- Phasing out **fossil fuels and reaching net zero emissions** faster.
- Achieving **Nationally Determined Contributions.**

Why are developing countries more vulnerable to climate change?

- **Economic Conditions:**
 - **Mostly agriculture based nations** (contributing more than 25% of GDP), Eg. rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns could **reduce India's crop yields by 10-30%** by 2050 endangering food security—**IPCC 6th Assessment Report 2022.**

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SPACE

PRE-CONTEXT

PRIVATE SECTOR IN SPACE

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "10 payloads of ISRO's POEM-4 module deployed successfully."

Space Organisations of India

New Space India Limited (NSIL) 2019:

- **Commercial arm of ISRO.** under **Dept. of Space.**
- **Under 2020 space sector reforms:**
 - **NSIL** is required to Build, Launch, Own, and Operate satellites in a "Demand-driven mode."

Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL) 1992:

- Commercial arm of ISRO, **wholly owned GOI.**
- It provides space products and services to **international customers.**

IN-SPACE:

- **Autonomous agency** under Dept. of Space (DoS).
- It **regulate's**, promote's, guide's, monitor's, space **activities of Non-Governmental Private Entities** (NGPEs) in India.

Indian Space Association (ISpA) 2020:

- ISpA is an **apex non-profit industry body**, setup for **development of the private space industry in India.**

Recent FDI amendments in space sectors:

- **100% FDI allowed** in all space and spaceflight segments.
- **74%** ceiling in satellite manufacturing.
- **49%** in launch infrastructure.

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ECONOMY

PRE-CONTEXT

CORE INDUSTRIES

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 15 .

News: "Core sectors grew at four-month high pace of 4.3% in Nov."

Core Industries

- **8 core Industries of Indian economy:** they collectively represent 40% of total items included in the Index of Industrial Production(IIP).
- **Cement, Electricity, Coal, Crude Oil, Refinery products, Natural gas, Fertilisers, Steel.**
- **Highest weight in IIP** assigned to Petroleum Refinery products followed by Electricity and Steel.
- **Index of Industrial Production** released by **NSO.**

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GS II

SYLLABUS: GLOBAL GROUPINGS INVOLVING INDIA.

QUAD

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 12.

News: "Quad members vow to work vigorously towards a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific."

About Quadrilateral Security Dialogue:

- An **informal strategic forum** consisting of **India, USA, Australia and Japan**.
- Primary objective to work for a free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- **India is the only bordering country to China** in QUAD.

Significance for India:

- **Shift from Non-Alignment legacy to Multi-Alignment:** India willing to take risks since it wants certain outcomes, in the multi-aligned policy era — **Foreign Minister 2024 statement**.
- **Economy and development:** Access to US (funding), Japan (skills).
- Access to **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)** which reduces dependency in Chinese supply chains.
- **Diplomacy:** Strengthening Act-East-Policy and Asia-Africa Corridor, Advancing East Asia's interests, Rising importance of Indo-Pacific, etc.
- **Peace keeping:**
 - Eg. Condemnation of China's recent tensions with Philippines over Sabina Shoal in South China Sea.
 - Call for peace over war in Ukraine: all four leaders visited Ukraine for peace negotiations.
- **Intelligence & Information sharing:** Eg. Trilateral information sharing mechanisms related to security, pirates etc.
- **Collaboration on emerging threats:** Eg. Cyber attacks, misinformation.
- Helps India in becoming **regional superpower**.

Initiatives by Quad Summit 2024:

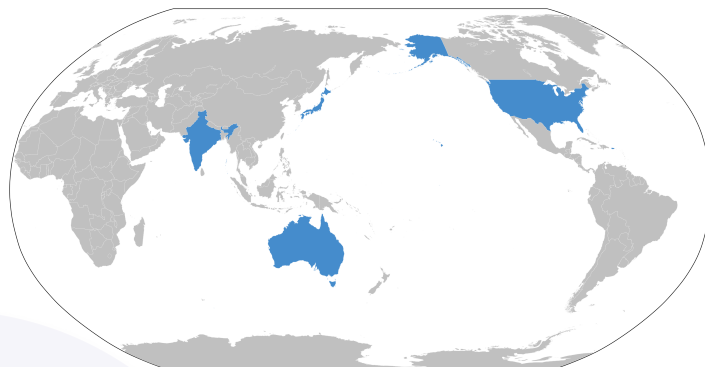
- **QUAD Cancer Moonshot:** This project aims to combat cervical cancer, with **India pledging \$10 million** for screenings.
- **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission 2025:** aims to enhance maritime interoperability and safety.
- **Logistics Network Pilot Project:** This involves sharing airlift capacity among Quad countries to support disaster response efforts.
- **Maritime Legal Dialogue:** Established to support the enforcement of the rules-based maritime order.
- **MAITRI Workshop (hosted by India in 2025):** Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific aims to train Quad partners in maritime security and law enforcement.

Challenges for India:

- **India shares a long border with China**, maintaining stable relationship is crucial.
- **Balancing multiple partnerships:** Eg. India maintains strong relations with Russia and US. A deeper engagement with QUAD could strain Russia.
- **Divergent interests within QUAD:** USA sees it as strategy to counter China globally, however India is more focused on regional issues particularly Indian Ocean.
- **Economic capabilities:** India is developing nation, QUAD could place additional burden on defence expenditure.
- **Conflicting decisions of US:** announcement of AUKUS (Australia, UK, US) security partnership.
- **China's influence:** Eg. China has strong economic ties with QUAD members, especially Australia.

Note: **I2U2 (Israel, India, UAE, USA)** generally considered a West Asian QUAD.

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EXAMPLES FROM TODAY'S NEWS PAPER

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 11.

News: "How corruption spurred growth in China."

Corruption can be Good.

Types of Corruption:

- **Access Money:**
 - This refers to **bribes or payments made to government officials or influential individuals to gain access to resources, permits, licenses, or favorable treatment** necessary for conducting business.
 - Essentially, it's about paying to "get ahead" or to ensure that business operations run smoothly.
- **Petty Theft:**
 - This involves smaller-scale corruption, **such as minor bribes or theft by lower-level officials or individuals**. It usually affects everyday transactions and has lower financial stakes.
- **Grand Theft:**
 - This pertains to **large-scale corruption, including significant embezzlement, large bribes, or high-level officials stealing substantial amounts of money**. Such corruption can have **severe implications for national finances and institutional integrity**.

How Corruption can be good?

- **Singapore economist Ms. Ang argues:** Corruption can be good or bad for economic growth depending on the reason why bribes are paid.
- **Good Corruption:**
 - Ms. Ang argues that **China managed to witness rapid economic growth despite vast corruption because most corruption in the country was in the form of 'access money' rather than petty or grand theft**.
 - In China **bribes are paid to gain access to rights or resources** that are under the control of the elite or non-elites, this led to faster economic growth at least in the short run.
 - While **this form of corruption can "grease the wheels" of the economy**, such growth is likely to be far from ideal.
- **Bad Corruption:**
 - **Petty and Grand theft** are bad forms of corruption.
 - Bribes paid as extortion, **where the payer gains nothing, can hinder economic growth**.

Case of West Bengal: based on recent paper.

- Authors state that **West Bengal's growth rate slowed after 2011**, falling below the national average.
- Most of the growth slowdown, they argue, has been due to the **underperformance of the large non-farm sector** (manufacturing and construction), which accounts for about 80% of the state's GDP and has been **plagued by petty theft by the ruling party's 'syndicate raj'**.
- The **farm sector has fared better due to short-term corruption involving access money**, which boosts economic growth.

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EXAMPLES FROM TODAY'S NEWS PAPER

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 10.

News: "The nature of dissent in the Indian judiciary."

Dissent is an important facet of a true democracy.

Importance of Dissent in Democracy:

- **ADM Jabalpur case (1976):**
 - **4:1 majority** held that the enforcement of fundamental rights, including **Art.21, remained suspended during the national emergency under Article 359**.
 - **Justice H.R. Khanna dissented despite the political pressure of the time**, arguing that suspending Art.21 would prevent recourse to deprivation of life and liberty, even in emergencies.
 - **His resolve to preserve India's 'rights'** amidst turbulence strengthened his voice on the Bench and **later became law through a constitutional amendment to Article 359**.
- **P.V. Narasimha Rao case (1998):**
 - Where **accepting bribes for voting in Parliament was questioned** under parliamentary privilege and immunity from prosecution.
 - The **7:2 majority ruled yes**, reflecting the political atmosphere and favoring the ruling party.
 - However, the **dissent of then two judges prevailed in Sita Soren case (2023)**, where the **SC overruled such expanded view of immunity**.

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Thank you!