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Without a military component, the Quad will neither be able to maintain peace in the Indo-Pacific region nor will it be able to counter China

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reaffirmation of the central role of the Indo-Pacific in determining the world order. At present, due to the Russo-Ukraine War, the attention of the international community is focused on Eastern Europe. In such a situation, the meeting of the heads of states of the four countries of the Quad, India, America, Japan and Australia in Japan and strategizing on the future outline of Asia, indicates that the balance of power in Asia is ultimately the cause of global geopolitics and geo-politics. Will prove decisive in economics. After World War II, America's national security policy was to not allow any rival to dominate the three major regions of the world. These major regions were Europe, West Asia and East Asia. Behind this, America's thinking was that if the balance of power in any of these went against America, then it would not be possible for it to remain a global superpower. The same is reiterated in the 'National Security Strategic Guidance' issued in 2021 by the Biden administration. It is clear from this that it is essential for American security to prevent the domination of opponents over key regions of the world.



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Countries like Iran and Russia have been troubling America, but they do not have the economic and military force to beat America. Only China, located in East Asia, appears capable of challenging the US and is also gearing up for it. America is also well aware of this. That is why US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said that the Indo-Pacific region will define the future of the 21st century and that US President Biden remains committed to US leadership and involvement in this matter. It is noteworthy that with the Quad, the US is taking another ambitious initiative. It has been named the 'Indo-Pacific Economic Framework'. This includes America, India, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are included. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at the inauguration of the framework shows that India understands its strategic advantage. The main objectives of this collaboration are to make supply chain resilient, secure and reliable development of 5G technology, high quality infrastructure and generation of clean energy etc. Sullivan said on the sting that the threat would be heard as far as Beijing. It has every potential to compete with China's Belt and Road project. This is not its formal expansion in the form of Quad Plus, but it is definitely China's ability to cut into this structure which is taking shape in an informal way. High quality infrastructure and generation of clean energy are being stated as the main objectives of this alliance. Sullivan said on the sting that the threat would be heard as far as Beijing. It has every potential to compete with China's Belt and Road project. This is not its formal expansion in the form of Quad Plus, but it is definitely China's ability to cut into this structure which is taking shape in an informal way. High quality infrastructure and generation of clean energy are being stated as the main objectives of this alliance. Sullivan said on the sting that the threat would be heard as far as Beijing. It has every potential to compete with China's Belt and Road project. This is not its formal expansion in the form of Quad Plus, but it is definitely China's ability to cut into this structure which is taking shape in an

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The only four core members of the Quad have multi-faceted capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. In such a situation, they will naturally have to take the common leadership of this economic framework. These four countries have already signed agreements in the areas of infrastructure, vaccines, supply chain, strategic partnership and semiconductor etc. and work has already started on some of them. In such a situation, it would be wise to expand this circle of partnership and add new partners to it. It is generally believed that in international economic structures where there are more stakeholders, it is not possible to perform the required work quickly by coordinating, agreeing. Therefore, considering the various aspects in this framework, measures have to be taken to improve its work culture. The Biden administration has been saying that its goal is to prove that 'Democratic countries can live up to promises and expectations and show better performance than dictatorial countries. Quad members will be able to realize this only if they together can handle selected countries of crisis in Asia. The Quad has little to do with the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Prime Minister Modi has also said on a few

occasions in the past that we should 'focus on our core objectives in the Indo-Pacific

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स्थितियां विस्फोटक हो चली हैं। श्रीलंका इसका प्रत्यक्ष उदाहरण है। पाकिस्तान, कजाखस्तान से लेकर म्यांमार और नेपाल तक की हालत नाजुक बनी हुई है। हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के कुछ देशों में भी इसी प्रकार का जोखिम कायम है। ऐसे में यदि क्वाड देश मिलकर कुछ देशों का भला करें और उन्हें चीनी चंगुल से मुक्ति दिला सकें तो यह एक मिसाल कायम करने वाली जीत होगी। याद रहे कि चीन का दुष्प्रभाव केवल आर्थिक ही नहीं, बल्कि सामरिक भी है।

The field is the core of the quad. In such a situation, the increase in military activity of the four members is natural. Even before the Tokyo summit, China has accused the US and Japan of interfering in Taiwan's affairs. Not only this, he has termed the Quad as an Asian extension of NATO in a way. At the same time, Biden has also made his intentions clear by saying that if China attacks Taiwan, America will give military protection to Taiwan. Still, the big question remains, will the Quad be able to create an effective shield to protect Taiwan and smaller South Asian countries? It is not enough to condemn China's military expansionism in summit meetings. Nor will any economic initiative be enough to protect the Indo-Pacific from the Chinese threat. Without a military component, the Quad would be unable to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. The financial generosity and military aid that America is giving in the name of protecting Ukraine, He will have to invest many times more to defend the Indo-Pacific by uniting with the Quad. Otherwise China will beat everyone and we will all be left rubbing our hands.

(The author is Professor and Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs)

Edited By: **Sanjay Pokhriyal**

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