



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.

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- **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.

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- **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%**.

### Face to Face Centres





## 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

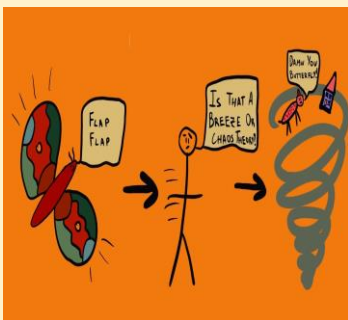


Recently, Assam's Chief Minister announced an 86% drop in one-horned rhino poaching in Kaziranga and other protected habitats since 2016, during World Rhino Day celebrations.

#### 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.

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## 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"? – **Vergheese Kurien**
- What is the PM MITRA Park scheme aimed at? – **Textile**

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