

The 'Indo-Pacific' as a Region: A Contextual Understanding from 'QUAD' Member Countries

Bibhuti B. Biswas^{1*}, Dipankar Dey²

Department of International Relations, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, India.

Department of Political Science, Central University of Andhra Pradesh, Ananthapuramu, India.

Publication Info

Article History:

Received: 00-00-2022

Accepted: 00-00-2022

DOI: 10.35210/jhssi.1.1.1

Keywords:

Quad, Region, Indo-Pacific, Geo-strategic, Geo-economic

*Corresponding Author:

Bibhuti B. Biswas

M: +00 000000000

Email: bibhuti.bhusanb@gmail.com

Abstract

The concept of Indo-Pacific is not a new lexicon in the International Relations because, it has been observed that Indo-Pacific is incarnation of earlier concept of Asia-Pacific. The concept, origin and perspectives of Indo-Pacific are gradually changing and redefined by the various nation-states and scholars across the globe. In simple, Indo-Pacific has constructed largest region between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean in the single space. At this point, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) States has played an important role to established strategy, political, economic and socio-cultural cooperation in this region. From the strategic and the economic perspectives, China has expanded their geo-strategic and geo-economic policy across the maritime realms of Indo-Pacific which is the biggest challenges for Quad States. Whereas, Quad States have mutually intention to contain Chinese assertive policies and follows ruled-based order in this region. In this paper try to examine the emerging Indo-Pacific how to influence the world order in the 21st century. This paper also understands the how major actors that is Quad States articulates Indo-Pacific as a region while Geo-strategic and Geo-economic are the core interests of all the actors.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of forming new regional integration has always addressed the common issues and prosperous of the particular region. In facts, regional integration has one of the important aspects to strengthening the regional desire and expectation whether in terms of socio-cultural, economic, political, strategic and so on. After the formation of European Union, essence of regional integration has been gradually changing its structures and perspectives. It has observed that regionalism has emerging with new expectation that led to increase regional importance in the global level. In the domain of International Relations, regional prospects mostly united because of economic, political, and strategic interests. In fact, the definition of regionalism has also reflected the same phenomenon which is demarcated in this way "...the theory or practice of coordinating social, economic or political activities within a geographical region comprising a number of states" (Heywood, 2011). Whereas, the Karl Deutsch defined that "... how regional integration can modify the impact of international anarchy. 'Amalgamation', through the construction of a single decision-making centre, would nevertheless be less common than 'integration', which allows sovereign states to interact within a pluralist security community" (Heywood, 2011). In this sense, Indo-Pacific has similar arguments to defines as a region, but how is it possible to individual narratives can called as a region without any regional institution? Is it true that the Indo-Pacific does not have any collective motives or integration throughout the individual narratives to support the idea of Indo-Pacific as a region? But in recent development of Quad

It has also claimed by the scholars that the Indo-Pacific has spanning from Eastern part of Africa to Western coast of United

States of America via whole Indian ocean drawn a broader area to defined itself a particular region. There are remains suspects of uncertainty within the sphere of diverse articulates and narratives by the Quad member States on the Indo-Pacific as a region. In fact, the lexicon of Indo-Pacific is new for the Quad member States, but collectively all the narratives are specified and indicated the Indo-Pacific as an emerging region. In 1989, it was extended to create an institutional mechanism and established the collective governance which is known as Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) for strengthening the idea of regionalism between the two Oceans.

The core idea of Indo-Pacific region is an embryonic stage of geostrategic and geoeconomic advantage, which has influence in the area of defence and security entity. From the very beginning, the United States refer to Indo-Pacific as an Asia Pacific strategic matrix to prompted the rebalancing strategic policy. On the other hand, China has gradually increased its military capabilities and encircles the Indian Ocean region. In the face of Indo-Pacific has collectively received wider attention towards the strategic contours, military capabilities, economic assets, political presence and socio-cultural behaviours redefine the regional order. One of the scholars analysed that the Asia has play a critical role in global geopolitics and geoeconomic affairs because Indian Ocean and Pacific Oceans have become emerging backbone of trade hub (Saeed, 2017).

In the context of geopolitical dimensions, Indo-Pacific has played a major role to established the multipolar regional order. From the colonial period, Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean were always used as a gateway for economic transited from South Asia and South East Asia countries which was not only used in economic activities but also strategically Indo-Pacific played

an important role in this region. In recent, Indo-Pacific has getting more potentially to articulate as a region. The growing geopolitical attention being created the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean as competitive entity among the super.

Thought the Indo-Pacific is the new concept in the international politics but the importance of two oceans has always focal point for all the Nation-states to established their strategic and economic hubs throughout the region. The policy-maker and academicians have been reflected their understanding on Indo-Pacific is incarnation of earlier concept of Asia-Pacific which emerging with new opportunities in the 21st century.

However, the perspectives from individual Nation-states over the Indo-Pacific is concern strategy and economic advantage in 21st century. For instance, four countries (United States of America, Australia, India and Japan) had established strategic oriented dialogue forum in the 2007, which is known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or Quad to enhance and provide the region more stability and safe. Afterward, the first version of Quad has permanently showed their efforts to turn into downward because of democratic values were no longer active after the withdrawal of Australia during the tenure of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. The narratives have precisely meet again in 2017 with new addition and revival of Quad collective security in this region. In fact, these has been articulated that the Quad member States have different interest in the Indo-Pacific region and also conceptualized the idea of Indo-Pacific as a region are differ from each other's perspectives. For instance, United State of America has articulated the policy of 'Asia Pivot' to 'Rebalancing Strategic towards Asia Pacific' usually refer to importance of Indo-Pacific as a 21st century's regionality. Whereas, the officially of Indo-Pacific highlighted by the first time Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the Indian Parliament as refer to "Confluence of the Two Seas" (Abe, 2007) and later on, the idea of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" has been included by all the Quad member States. Furthermore, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has also address at the 2018 Shangri la Dialogue that the India's perspectives on the Indo-Pacific have inclusiveness and openness. As a question of particular 'region', Quad member States has been constructing varied perspectives on the Indo-Pacific as a region. Collectively this enormous conceptualization, how much enough to defines the narratives of Indo-Pacific as a region? Even-though, the scopes and objectives are varied from each other's narratives but amidst the all narratives are defined by their own national interest in the Indo-Pacific construct.

METHODOLOGY

This research paper has followed historical, analytical and explanatory research for attempt to understanding the Indo-Pacific as a region by the analyse of Quad member State's perspectives. This paper will also be taking the theoretical dimensions to examine the significance of Indo-Pacific in the 21st century. Further, the explanatory research method will help to analyse the systematic explanations of individual nation-States perspectives on the Indo-Pacific. The research material has been collected from various secondary and primary sources such as journal articles, books, Government reports, magazines, newspapers, speeches, statements and documentation.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific: Conceptual Understanding

Over the few decades, impacts of globalization and emerging regionalism have made a prominent space in the entire political

spectrum. The United States of America solely enjoy the supremacy of world order just after the collapse of Soviet Union, but the simultaneously regional powers have also challenged to the United States' supremacy and created the multipolar world order. In this regard, the essence of regionalism has attracted to all the States to revisit the world order structure. For instance, Southeast Asia and South Asia are committed to draw a regional identity to protect and cooperate each other's in the respective region. As a result, ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asia Nations) and SAARC (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation) were established in 1967 and 1985 respectively as an official institutions. The Aims of these institutions are sought to provide regional cooperations and collectively ensure the safety and security of the region.

Subsequently, earlier concept of Asia-Pacific has one of the such regional integration that span to wider dimensions of intra-states cooperation and coordination. The concept of Asia-Pacific got numerous attentions during the Obama Administration which was shifted from Middle East to Asia-Pacific by initiative of 'Rebalancing to Asia' policy to build the new global power center of geostrategic and geoeconomic. Even though, the America's 'Grand Strategic' policy has clearly reflected the importance of Asia-Pacific as a fasted growing region. During the visit of President Obama to Australia, he address the Australia Parliament in 2011 said "As president, I have therefore made a deliberate and strategic decision - as a Pacific nation, the United States will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future, by upholding core principles and in close partnership with allies and friends.... As we end today's wars, I have directed my national security team to make our presence and mission in Asia Pacific a top priority" (Muni, 2014, p. 4).

In the recent development, the region has getting more potential and emerging rapidly with new articulations, which is shifted from earlier concept of Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific. Moreover, Indo-Pacific has remained academic discussions and it redefined the concept that merged into two oceans in a single region, but Asia-Pacific had connected entire Asia's continent which was not enough to defined as a constructive region with wider mass. Whereas, the new concept of Indo-Pacific has getting India's active dominant role in the region rather than the Asia-Pacific. It is true that the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was used Indo-Pacific in the first time at the Indian Parliament in 2007. His speech identified the 'broader Asia' has spanning entire Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean to involve the United States and the Australia with the partnership of Japan and India to ensure that the open and transparent, allow the people, goods, capitals, and knowledge to flow freely in this region (Abe, 2007). It has been clearly indicated that the Japanese Prime Minister to calls all the four democratic countries came together for regional integration and ensure free and open strategic interest in this region. In this same year, United States of America, Australia, India and Japan have formally formed strategic dialogue group which is also known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) to ensure collective security and safety in this region. It has analysed that the formation of Quad and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe views was reflected the geostrategic significance of Indo-Pacific.

Historically, the German Geopolitician Karl Haushofer was identified the importance of the Ocean and he called 'Indopazifischen Raum', which means 'Indo-Pacific Region/Space' (Khurana, 2019, p. 59) – this work has rediscover by the academicians and policy-makers in the 21st century with new prosperity. Moreover, this term has revived by the Indian

Naval Officer, Gurpreet S. Khurana in his academic work titled *'Security of Sea Lines: Prospects for India-Japan Cooperation'* in 2007 (Khurana G. S., 2007). Afterward, the term has increasingly developed all around the globe, particularly in the high-level academic discussions and strategic frameworks has been created at the governmental level across the region. In 2013, the notion of Indo-Pacific has come into the authentic framework by the Australian's Defence White Paper, which is reflected in the first-ever official document of the concept of Indo-Pacific (Department of Defence, 2013). Subsequently, the term has rapidly risen in the context of Geo-strategic and Geo-political interest. Moreover, all the Quad member States included the importance of Indo-Pacific to their foreign policy mechanism. Similarly, Indian Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi attended to 13th East Asia Summit in Singapore on November 2018. During his visit, he points out that India's vision on peaceful, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. Further, he tweeted that:

"At the East Asia Summit in Singapore, I shared my thoughts on enhancing multilateral cooperation, economic and cultural ties among member nations. Also reiterated India's commitment to a peaceful and prosperous Pacific region," (PTI, 2018).

American Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific

According to United States of America, Indo-Pacific has spanning to the range of Eastern part of Africa's coast, across the Indian Ocean, to the Western part of Pacific Ocean which is connected major strategic and economic power in the South Asia and Southeast Asia Nation. Unless, the articulation of strategic and economic framework of Indo-Pacific has consisting of Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) connected the both Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, United States believed that ASEAN centrality has played a tremendous role in the Indo-Pacific region. Because of that United States has top most investment destination is ASEAN where invest nearly \$271 in 2018 which has been more than United States' Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in China and Japan combined (Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 2019).

From the Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific, America has constantly strengthened their policy in this region. Under the leadership of George W. Bush, United States foreign policy has witness major changes towards Asia and published first two reports on East Asia Strategy Initiative (EASI) for Congress. This report highlighted that Bush Administration has focused on the China as a major strategic competitor in the Asia continent. As a result, US policy has reshuffled to strategic goals and efforts to control terrorism which was taken after 9/11 incident. Similarly, US military has increased their operational capacity and the US Pacific Command was committed to secure Pacific Ocean. The third and fourth regional report were published under the Clinton Administration, which has been continued earlier report and increase the strategic commitment in changes and transition of the region. The fifth regional report published during the Trump Administration which design broader geographical region of Indo-Pacific. This report highlighted the three main themes of preparedness, partnerships, and promoting a networked security (Cronin, 2019).

In 2007, the four democratic countries, including United States was established the 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue' to address and strengthen Asia-Pacific security. Overall, during the Bush Administration US Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific has driven from 2007 as maritime strategic, which articulated as 'A Cooperatives Strategic for 21st Century Sea Power' (Vijayalakshmi, 2019, p. 13).

The perspectives of United States strategic on the Indo-Pacific have focused on the basis of developing various economic platforms, infrastructures, military engagements and to seek the counter the Chinese assertive economic policy and geo-strategic influence in this region. It has been a general discussion on the investment of private entrepreneur and development of the strategic pivot to counter the Chinese economic initiative by the Barack Obama Administrations. The United States is only pursuing the limited space to conduct a framework to the continuing trade war with the China. It has shown that accumulated the foreign attention towards the region.

The strategic pivot was an initiative by the Obama Administration for countering Chinese presence in the Indo-Pacific region whereas, Trump Administration has reshaped it outlined the strategic frameworks to visualize Indo-Pacific region to address the 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' strategic. These idea of 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' strategic has broadly conceived the South Asia and Southeast Asian brought together for geopolitical position in the 21st century. This has been whole concepts of freedom and openness economic strategic cut out the Chinese assertive policy attracted to across the South Asia and Southeast Asian member states, which is another challenge for super power hegemony in this region. For instance, China has been gradually set-up strategic naval positions throughout the South Asia region with their 'String of Pearls' strategic policy that will continuity to trouble United States hegemony in the 21st century.

However, Trump administration has addressed exclusive America first policy; it means that American policy makers and President Donald Trump has took the seriously emphasised on the American nationalism and commitment of unilateralism. The advocated of America first policy has ensured the prosperities and integrating the nationalism feeling, later on, these US foreign policy was came into the parts of the exclusiveness. As a result, the American perspective of Indo-Pacific has imperatively dependence on the national interest and opportunity oriented and contradicted with Open and Free Indo-Pacific articulation. Whether, it was only the intention of countering the Chinese assertive policy and consolidate the US Foreign Policy interest.

According to Saroj Bishoyi on his article argued that American rebalancing strategic policy has mainly considered as three basic fundamental principles: (Bishoyi, 2016) which are follows:

- The emerging of China and his progressive foreign policy has to create the instability between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean regions, which are the main challenges for American Geo-strategic and Geo-economic foreign policy in this region.
- The American economic and political interest has focused to the world fastest growing region for re-established their revenues and opportunities.
- The rebalancing policy of United States has sought to the projection of international order by its military power securing the regional power allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the context of obtaining regional power allies, it has been shown that the rivalry between the two countries; Chinese assertive policy and American re-balancing strategic policy redefine the regional order by their own perspectives, but how much the United States can accumulate their interests from the Indo-Pacific strategic arena. One of the senior scholars observed that the United States and the China economic and security relations are dynamic in nature in the Indo-Pacific

region with the sophisticated and contradictions for the both policies (Manning, 2018). In spite of making allies power, it has also been examined by the military magnitudes and their defence capacities to establish the Strategic positions and attitudes. The rising China is only country who challenge the United States hegemony power whether, its terms of economic initiatives or strategic attitudes.

In spite of Chinese and American maritime rivalry, the Indo-Pacific has simultaneously got attention towards the international system. During the APEC summit at Vietnam in 2017, Trump administration has consciously recognised to the Southeast Asian nations will take the central part of Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategic. Even though the US Foreign policy has not clear so far because – the ‘America First’ policy and other side advocate of ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’ Contradictory itself. Recently, there is a report has analysed that unclear US Strategic policy toward Indo-Pacific need to connect Southeast Asia with the US Indo-Pacific strategic policy. Similarly, the scholars have suggested that United States’ policy makers should follow the five Cs principles: these are Clarity, Comity, Comprehensiveness, Calibration and Consistency can articulate a clear vision for US Indo-Pacific strategic relations (Parameswaran, 2018).

In fact, the US defence forces has earlier focused only on the Pacific Ocean by the US Pacific command but now it has expanded to the US strategic interest for response as the addition of new area for the security and maintenance the stability in the Indo-Pacific region, commonly known as ‘United States Indo-Pacific Command’ which is located in Hawaii. The USINDOPACOM has primarily focused on the America strategic interest in preserving security, safety, prosperity, and integrity in the whole Indo-Pacific region. During the Trump Administration formulated a new comprehensive strategic policy for the Indo-Pacific region and abandoned the ‘Rebalancing to Asia’ strategic, but advocated the significant of the region as ‘Indo-Pacific’ top most priority for the US policy Framework. Subsequently, the Concept of ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’ strategic has introduced by the President Trump, during his visit to Asia in 2017.

Indian Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific

The concept of Indo-Pacific has emerged from the various thought of school, even-though the perspectives from Indian sun-continent, it has first time used by the Indian Naval officer, Gurpreet S. Singh in his article titled “*Security of Sea Lines: Prospects for India-Japan Cooperation*” published in 2007. Afterward the concept frequently used by the various academician, policy-makers and diplomats across the global. Similarly, India’s participation to the ‘Quadrilateral Security Dialogue’ has another step to strengthen and maintain peace and stability in the region. Regards to India’s foreign policy has deliberately focused on the multi-sectorial dimension strategic policy in the global politics. India’s political system has unique models to shape the country’s foreign policy in particular directions. In practice of the political system in India is largely based on the socialist democratic system which has represented the world largest democratic form of government in the world political system. However, after the end of the Second World War, the new world order has emerged in the name of bipolar world order where the world was divided into the two main blocs of ideologies such as capitalist and communist. During the cold war era, the United States of America and the Soviet Union does not appear any kind of face-to-face rivalry, but the spirit of conflict has spread across the European continent which were impacted many of the country’s foreign policy. In particular, India’s foreign policy was affected due to the rivalry of cold war

era. For examples, the founder father of India’s foreign policy-makers was decided to that the India will not join any kind of the power blocs, most of the newly independent countries want to protect their sovereign territory far away from the colonial and empirical conquer countries. As a result, in 1961 India was adopted the Non-Alignment Policy to protect the nations sovereignty, integrity and security.

At the same time, the on-going debates has emerged that how India would be looking towards its maritime security and strategic policy without any help of major powers. As a response to this idea of dilemma centric strategic policy, a new set of confidences has occurred during the time of Non-Alignment Movements such as cooperations between the Asia and Africa continents and feeling of regional identities has come back to the region. The commitment of protection and promotion of the regional sovereignty has increasingly spread across the Asian and African continents. Most recently, some of the scholars argued that the power has to be shifted from west to east parts of the world and rises of awareness regional integration in this region later on, these regionality redefined the sense of world order.

Likewise, the emergence of Indo-Pacific has one of the important strategic concepts that connected the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean once again with the new prosperity in the international system. In particular, India has sought to take the ‘Big Brother’ role to connecting all neighbour countries in the Indian Ocean region and strengthen the prosperity of maritime security and safety. India is strategically located at the centre of the maritime competition with shared the largest coastline in the Indian Ocean region enfold with 200 nautical miles, over the 22.6 percent total coastal area are covers by India’s islands territory. The potential of a huge marine resources has one of the vital opportunities for India’s projection in the international level. There are also several opportunities to take forwards the India’s maritime strength and naval power in a greater extends in the 21st century world order. Whether it has been the context of Geo-strategic locations or huge marine resources under the India’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) can lead as a super power in this region as well international level. There were several scholars have been highlighted that the India has more potential maritime power in the Indian Ocean region; are given hereunder:

- India has the longest coastline with consists of total 7516.6 kilometres, including the islands has along 1197 kilometre, from the Eastern coastline (Arabian Sea) to Western Ghat (Bay of Bengal) exclusively control by Indian Coastguard.
- The potential of geo-strategic location in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and backyard power can lead the India’s interest to the greater extends of maritime power.
- Indian Ocean has rich marine resources and hubs of fisheries centric can turn in favour of India’s blue economic interest in this region.
- India has a favourable location for providing economic exchange between the Asia, Africa and Pacific region.
- India can utilize the huge energy resources, which are existence in Indian Ocean region such as tidal energy and ocean thermal energy etc.

The perspectives on the Indo-Pacific have enough conscious and clear to define as a potential region in the 21st century with spanning the African coast, across whole Indian Ocean to Western part of American coast. This is not a new concept for Indian subcontinent to address its significances

where the Indian traders and diplomats are used the importance of Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean occasionally- whether it was the Chola Dynasty or the Hindu Mythology were marked as historical references. Recently, at the Galle Dialogue in 2104, the Indian Security Advisor, Ajit Doval emphasised that the “need to keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace in order to maintain stability in the region” at the Sri Lanka (Cronin & Baruah, 2014). With the emergence of maritime competition in the both two ocean regions, the Chinese assertive policy remains encircled whole Indian sub-continent by the ‘String of Pearls’ strategic policy. Now, it has been top-most priority for Indian diplomats and defence personnel to address the importance of maritime power in this region.

Notwithstanding, India has huge potential assert for growing its maritime strategic interest and build up as a ‘LeadingPower’ in the regional politics as well as international sphere. The Indian Ocean has contributed the largest trade location for 2 billion people and geopolitical hotbed whereas, the Indian government has launched a proactive policy in the Indian ocean region with the name of ‘SAGAR’ project that to be ensure the regional peace and security. However, the Indian Ocean has the more significant region, because of the two reasons firstly: its location and secondly, Sea lines of communications (SLOC) which influence to the trades, investments, naval activities, infrastructure developments in this region (Gupta, 2018). At the same time, India has also tackled a number of hurdles from the tradition and non-traditional threats in the Indian ocean region. This has very serious challenges for India’s maritime interest to make its leading position in this region; these are considering:

Traditional Threats

- The Chinese military presence in the Indian Ocean has create a competitive zone and form the strategic contention by Chinese military assertive policy has reflected the India’s major threats in this region.
- At the beginning of India got independence, the challenges of terrorism particularly in land-based terror activities has increase, but most accountable after the 26/11 Mumbai attack India faced numerous terror threat from maritime zone.
- Piracy has one of the challenges for India’s policy-makers to keep the Indian Ocean free and secure zone.
- Illegal migrations and smuggling have created major challenges for Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean region.

Non-traditional threats

- The climate change has one of the major threats for Indian coastline and islands in the coming future.
- Illegal Exploitation of marine resources has created another challenge for India’s future interest in the Indian Ocean region.

In general, India has always been advocated the idea of ‘world is our family’ from the beginning of its inception and followed defensive policy. Furthermore, Indian Minister Narendra Modi also shown his interest towards the concept of Indo-Pacific. In 2018, at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore Prime Minister Modi had reflected the vision of Indo-Pacific as a “free, open, inclusive, stable, secure and prosperous” (Singh & Sahgal, 2018). The concept of Indo-Pacific remains significant to forward another level of analysis in which the idea of inclusiveness could strengthen the articulation of Indo-Pacific. Regarding Indian foreign policy attitude has taken by the three different parts of persuading in the regional integration, firstly; the Indian Ocean

region, secondly; the Southeast Asian region, and thirdly; the Indo-Pacific region, India constitutes a different attitude by the bilateral levels, trilateral levels and the multilateral levels in the respective regions (Gill & Mitra, 2018).

Australia Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific

In the Post-World War II, the Asia-Pacific, with North East Asia and Southeast Asia at its vital zone for the theoretical establishment of Australian foreign policy interest in these regions. The Asia Pacific views has a vital framework to getting the Australian military power and extending stretch between the exchange of trades and investments in this region. Australian policy-makers believed that the economic integration as given the Asia Pacific brought coherence and provided a framework to thinking about the control of major power relationships between the United States and China. It became a significant impact on the Australian Economic Policy in order to transits of trade pressure and maximize the enlargement of the Chinese economic activity in the broader region.

Later on, the discourse of Indo-Pacific concept has emerged as a Geopolitical dimension to redefining the regional power in the world affairs. These emerging narratives has reflected to the Geo-strategic and Geo-economic importance in the region and subsequently Australian policy-makers has been reshape their maritime policy in the particular region. the concept of Indo-Pacific has first time officially documented by Australian Defence department in the titled “Australia Defence White Paper” in 2013 and incorporated its defence policy (Khurana G. S., 2019, p. 63). However, the Indo-Pacific region has unique flourished region by its potential recourses of economic, marine biodiversity, strategic importance and tourism sector, which could be lead Australia’s power capacity in the global level. likewise sought after a closer strategic partnership with Vietnam, a nation which keeps on inclination the immediate effect of China’s aggressive maritime force in the area as a conflicting debate in the South China Sea.

Recently, the debate has been going-on, among the Australian policy-makers and experts that the Indo-Pacific narrations has embraces its foreign interest to describe the structure of maritime zone which has taking place in Asia. while they believed that emerging India and China has taken more benefit in the Indian ocean region. On the other side, Pacific Ocean has back to United States ‘rebalancing pivot strategic interest. These has been issues consciously reflected the Australia’s foreign policy making by its policies, nature of maritime activities and strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. with this outstanding strategic dilemma, Australia was participated in the ‘Quadrilateral security Dialogue’ forum for integrated four largest democratic countries in the single boundary to address the common issue in the Indo-Pacific region.

In spite of military and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific region, the challenges for the Australian Defence Force had to be organised the Ministerial-to-Ministerial program and will rebalance the uncertainty order in this region. In order to reply this regard, the Chief of ADF, General David Hurley said that they looking forward to the re-establishing past engagement and given certain collective training program to the others countries in bilateral basis, trilateral basis and multilateral basis (Hurley, 2013). Most recently, Department of Defence has published an serious of outstanding report, commonly known as Defence white paper 2017 mentions that the Australian government will be performed actively in the Indo-Pacific region, the highlighted some of the initiatives given below (Affair, 2017, p. 38):

- They will be engaging in a cooperative way to resolve the disputes peacefully with the help of international law and without the use of any kind of coercion;
- They will facilitate the open market system for the exchange of goods and capital etc. and the policy of economic should be applied in inclusive manners;
- They committed to the freedom of navigation and protection of the small state in this region;
- They have to engage with the United States for securing economic and security and build the institutions and norms.

Japanese Perspectives on the Indo-Pacific

The idea of connecting two oceans with the constitute more than 70 countries has share their participation in this region. With this potential, traditionally Asia-Pacific was established by the largest economic zone in the world that reflected the only economic policy. As a result, the Asia Pacific Economic cooperation has created for largest market in this region. But in the 21st century, Indo-Pacific is not only articulated for economic interest but also strategic and political interest are incorporated. In 2007, Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe address at the Indian parliament with the titled "Confluence of the Two Seas" which he said the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean has bring a 'dynamic coupling as seas of freedom and of prosperity' (Abe, 2007). This has been first articulation by Japanese prime minister on the idea of Indo-Pacific as emerging strategic region.

Japanese maritime policy has played a significant role to build the regional peace and prosperity by their ideas of reluctant realism. It would be advocated the principles of balance of power policy has locating at the realistic views deliberately focused on the sphere of power politics and strategic orientation. Historically, Japan has a long legacy of maritime powers in the both Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean region. For example, during the World War II Japan has emerged as axis power from the eastern part of the world to counter the allied power, thus during these periods, Japan has already captured and conquer the huge controlled of Asia's continent maritime powers such as to control Burma and Indonesia etc. so, it is clear that Japan always has maintained the hegemonic foreign policy in the context of maritime power in the Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, there were claims that Japan has more interested and experience to maintenance free and stable maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region in order to freedom of navigation and settlements of disputes.

Japanese proactive diplomacy under the Prime Minister of Shinzo Abe was announced in 2016 that 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' strategic between the two continents. The key ideas of free and open strategic has emphasises on expand of connectivity and stability between the two oceans and Japan will invest in the sector of infrastructure developments, capacity builds and human resource developments to the entire Middle East and Africa region. In order to Japan ASEAN diplomatic relations, when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe first time visited to the Southeast Asia in 2013, he said:

- Safeguard and promote to the human right, democratic values and freedom of navigation in the global level.
- Ensure the free and open maritime accessibility by the help of rules and law, not by the coercion.
- It will promote the flow of trades, investments and services with the support of various economic partnerships.
- Encourage this region with their cultural heritage and traditions.

Further, the Japan has developed several strategic partnerships in the bilateral, the trilateral and the multilateral basis, such as Japan - US strategic partnership and Japan - India partnership etc. it leads the proactive strategic interest towards the Geo-strategic and geo-economic implementation in the Indo-Pacific region. The Japan-China-India will need to develop the Geo-strategic and geo-economic participations for infrastructure, connectivity, trade etc. in the regional order (Ishida, 2018, p. 185).

Concluding Remarks

In general idea of Indo-Pacific has to be consider in the field of geographical connotation in order to spanning two oceans in a single space, on the discourses of International Affairs. However, the notions of emerging Indo-Pacific dimension could articulate in the Geo-strategic, Geo-politics and Geo-economic interest accompany by the global powers. It would be identified that the rising 'Indo-Pacific' has a new incarnation of earlier concept of Asia-Pacific in the 21st century. Alongside the new terminology used it in diverse perspectives in the global level. Similarly, Quad Member states (United States, Australia, Japan and India) has begun distinctly used to formulate the Indo-Pacific concept through various research papers and official statements but all the diverse ideas have formulated to the Indo-Pacific as a region. So, in the case of Chinese perspectives is not ready to accept the Indo-Pacific as a region rather its concept has completely construction for the strategic and security purposes and containing or balancing China's rise through both Geo-strategic and Geo-economic.

Although the concept of Indo-Pacific has been emerging rapidly in the international affairs. However, the summit of "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" in 2017 at Manila, all the four member states came together to revive the security policy and strategic, whereas the China has remained focal point in the discussion. In fact, the Quad member countries have increased their potential and commitment to cooperate each other in this region but the articulation of Indo-Pacific as a region not yet to be set a permanent construction rather than occur complexity about the region. However, it is true that the initial collective efforts could be turn into the institutional regional integration on the tag of Indo-Pacific region in the 21st century. As a result, the notion of Indo-Pacific constitutes a "Free, Open, Inclusive, Stable and Secure" region by the commitment of Quad member states.

REFERENCES

- Abe, M. S. (2007, August 22). Minister of Foreign Affair of Japan. "Confluence of the Two Seas" Speech by H.E.Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan at the Parliament of the Republic of India. Retrieved April 02, 2020, from www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/pmv0708/speech-2.html
- Department of Foreign Affair (2017). Foreign Policy White Paper: opportunity, security, strength. Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affair. Ministry of Foreign Affair.
- Bishoyi, S. (2016, January-March). Geostrategic Imperative of the Indo-Pacific Region: Emerging Trends and Regional Responses. *Journal of Defence Studies*, 10, 89-102.
- Cronin, P. M., & Baruah, D. M. (2014, December 02). The Modi Doctrine for the Indo-Pacific Maritime Region. Retrieved April 22, 2020, from [www.thediplomat.com/2014/12/the-modi-doctrine-for-the-indo-pacific-maritime-region/?allpages=yes&print=yes](http://thediplomat.com/2014/12/the-modi-doctrine-for-the-indo-pacific-maritime-region/?allpages=yes&print=yes)
- Department of Defence. (2013, May). Defending Australia and its National Interests', Defence White Paper 2013. Retrieved April 17, 2020, from www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/2013/docs/wp_2013_web.pdf

- Gill, J. S., & Mitra, R. (2018, June 5). India's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Understanding India's Spheres of Influence. *Sigma Iota Rho Journal of International Relation*, 1-2.
- Gupta, A. (2018, August 18). India's Island Diplomacy: Building an Indian Ocean Security Architecture. Retrieved April 14, 2019, from www.thediplomat.com: <https://thediplomat.com/2018/08/indias-island-diplomacy-building-an-indian-ocean-security-architecture/>
- Heywood, A. (2011). *Global Politics*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hurley, G. D. (2013, March 13). Australian Military expands in Indo-Pacific. (T. Diplomat, Ed.) Retrieved April 13, 2019, from www.thediplomat.com: <https://thediplomat.com/2013/03/australian-military-expands-indo-pacific-profile/>
- Ishida, Y. (2018). China's OBOR Initiative and Japan's Response: The Abe Doctrine, Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy and Japan-India Strategic Partnership. In J. P. Panda, & T. Basu, *China-India-Japan in the Indo Pacific Ideas, Interests and Infrastructure* (p. 185). New Delhi: Pentagon Press.
- Khurana, G. S. (2007). Security of Sea Lines: Prospects for India-Japan Cooperation. *Strategic Analysis*, 31(1).
- Khurana, G. S. (2019, October-December). The 'Indo-Pacific' Idea: Origins, Conceptualizations and the Way Ahead. *Journal of Indian Ocean Rim Studies*, 59.
- Manning, R. A. (2018, December). U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy Be Careful What You Wish For. *Russia In Global Affairs*, 16(4).
- Muni, S. D. (2014). Introduction. In S. D. Muni, & V. Chadha, *ASIAN STRATEGIC REVIEW 2014 US Pivots and Asian Security* (p. 4). New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- Parameswaran, P. (2018). ASEAN's Role in a U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy. Wilson Centre for Asia Program.
- PTI. (2018, November 15). The Economic Times. Retrieved April 07, 2019, from economictimes.indiatimes.com: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-committed-to-peaceful-and-prosperous-indo-pacific-region-pm-modi/articleshow/66634835.cms>
- Saeed, M. (2017). From the Asia-Pacific to the Indo-Pacific Expanding Sino-U.S. Strategic competition. *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, 5.
- Singh, H. K., & Sahgal, A. (2018, July 12). The Indo-Pacific: A Realist Indian Perspective. Delhi Policy Group.
- Vijayalakshmi, K. P. (2019). American Perspective on the Indo-Pacific. In C. Mahapatra, *Rise of the Indo-Pacific: Perspectives, Dimensions and Challenges* (p. 13). New Delhi: Pentagon Press.
- Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs. (2019, November 03). A Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Advancing a Shared Vision. United States Department of State. Retrieved March 15, 2021, from <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Free-and-Open-Indo-Pacific-4Nov2019.pdf>
- Cronin, P. M. (2019, December). America's Indo-Pacific Strategy. In S. Nagao, *Strategies for the Indo-Pacific: Perceptions of the U.S. and Like-Minded Countries* (Ed.). Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C.

Query Report

Q1 Kindly provide corresponding mobile number.

Q2 Kindly provide Short title of the article.

Q3 Cross-check and verify for accuracy/data/format, correct, and provide all references in consistent APA format. Sample reference formatted to act as an example and to maintain consistency of format (APA) required

Chandra, S., Sikdar, P. K., & Kumar, V. (1995). Dynamic PCU estimation of capacity on urban roads. *Journal of Indian Roads Congress*, 23, 17–28.

Chandra, S. (2004). Capacity estimation procedure for two-lane roads under mixed traffic conditions. *Journal of Indian Roads Congress*, 165(1), 139–170.”