



25.09.2021 Saturday



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Current Affairs of the Day

Quad not a military tie-up: U.S. official

1. The official also repeatedly stressed that the Quad is an informal gathering and not a military or security partnership. The official said U.S. understands that the major challenges of this century will play out in the Indo-Pacific and the Quad engagement is part of the U.S. "doubling down" on diplomacy.
2. The USA underscored that the Quad is an unofficial gathering. It is also the case that it is not a regional security organisation.
3. In terms of deliverables, there will be detailed updates on the Quad Vaccine Initiative. The Quad will supply at least a billion India manufactured COVID-19 vaccine doses across Asia by the end of 2022 under this initiative.
4. Quad leaders will also announce a supply chain initiative on semiconductors.

THE HINDU Quad not a military tie-up: U.S. official

WASHINGTON — Following the first trilateral ministerial level meeting between Quad leaders in New Delhi, a senior U.S. administration official, who spoke on background, highlighted the expected deliverables from the summit across a range of issues from vaccine to digital trading.

The official also repeatedly stressed that the Quad is an informal gathering and not a military or security partnership.

The official said U.S. understands that the major challenges of this century will play out in the Indo-Pacific and the Quad engagement is part of the U.S. "doubling down" on diplomacy. Mr. Rubin is also keen for future discussions to not be restricted and wants an opportunity to have in-depth conversations, the official said.

"I do want to make sure that the Quad is an informal gathering, although we have a number of working groups and we are discussing cooperation on a very daily basis. It is also the case that it is not a regional security organisation," the official said, adding that at Friday's meeting, Quad leaders wanted to focus on specific issues facing the Indo-Pacific at the moment.

In terms of deliverables, there will be detailed updates on the Quad Vaccine Initiative, announced in March. The Quad will supply at least a billion India manufactured COVID-19 vaccine doses across Asia by the end of 2022 under this initiative.

Quad leaders will also announce a supply chain initiative.

U.S. House approves \$1 bn to resupply Iron Dome

1. U.S. lawmakers green-lit \$1 billion to resupply Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system after funding was controversially stripped from a separate Bill following a revolt from the Democrats' left flank.
2. The passage of this bill reflects the great unity in Congress for Israel's security. Assistance to Israel is vital because Israel's security is imperative for America's security.
3. Iron Dome has destroyed thousands of short-range rockets and shells launched by Hamas militants. The system has been backed by the United States since it was launched a decade ago to the tune of \$1.6 billion.

U.S. House approves \$1 bn to resupply Iron Dome

The Bill was passed on a 420-9 vote

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. lawmakers green-lit \$1 billion on Thursday to resupply Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system after funding was controversially stripped from a separate Bill following a revolt from the Democrats' left flank.

The money had originally been included in legislation addressing a looming government shutdown and a potential October debt crisis.

But a group of progressives in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives said they would tank that unless Iron Dome funding was yanked from the wording.

The cash transfer ultimately

advanced from the House on a comfortable 420-9 vote.

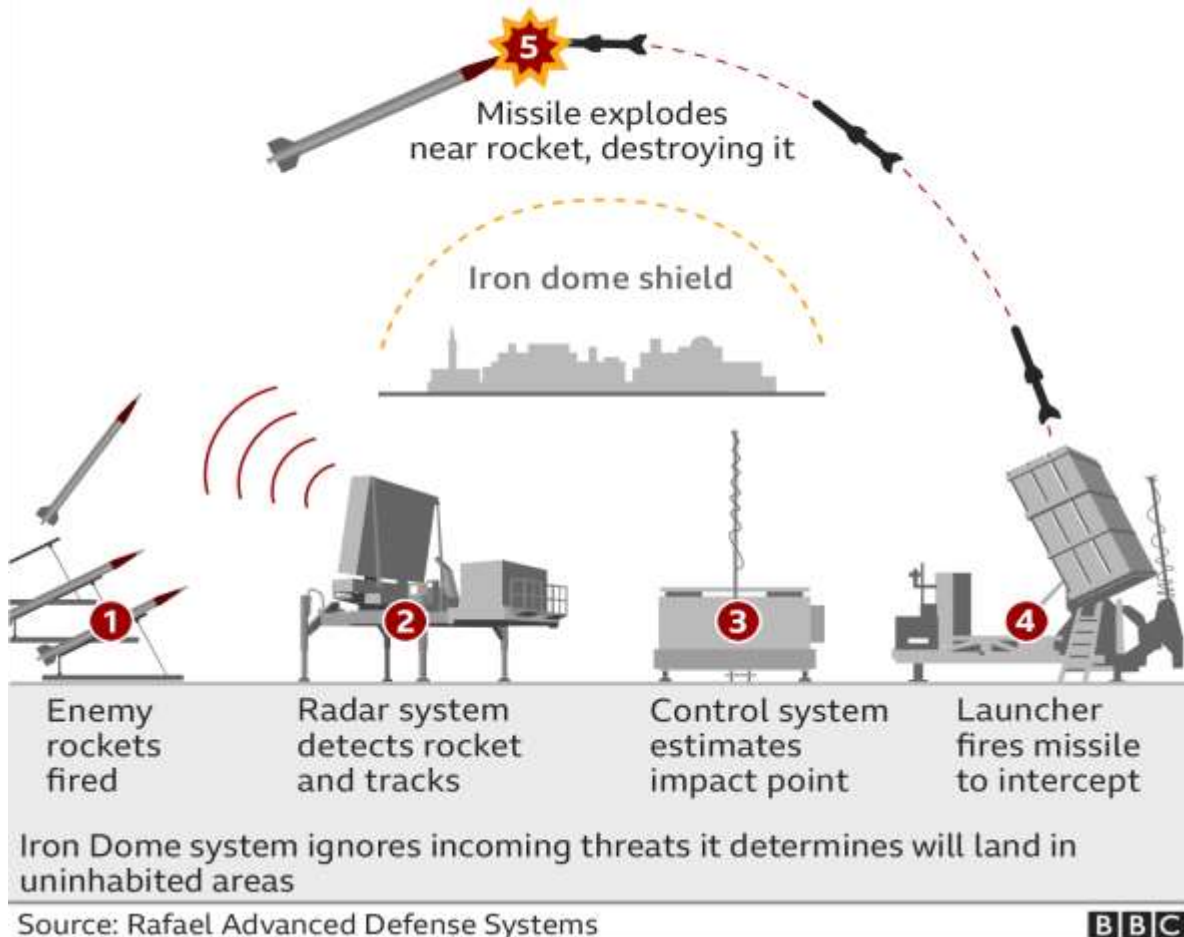
"Passage of this Bill reflects the great unity in Congress... for Israel's security," Nancy Pelosi, the leader of the House Democrats, said in a speech on the chamber floor.

"Vital to U.S. security" "Assistance to Israel is vital, because Israel's security is an imperative for America's security," Ms. Pelosi said.

Iron Dome has destroyed thousands of short-range rockets and shells launched by Hamas militants. The system has been backed by the United States since it was launched a decade ago to the tune of \$1.6 billion.



How Israel's Iron Dome defence system works



Anti-dumping duty likely on pharma API from China

1. The Commerce Ministry has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty on a pharma raw material — Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile — from China to guard local players from cheap imports.
2. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the duty after concluding in its probe that the API (active pharma ingredient) from China has been exported at dumped prices into India, impacting the domestic industry.
3. Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile is an API used in the formulation for treating diseases such as lower respiratory tract infection, skin and surgical prophylaxis.



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4. The imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organization regime. It is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for local producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.

Anti-dumping duty likely on pharma API from China

Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile exported at dumped prices*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry has recommended the imposition of anti-dumping duty on a pharma raw material - Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile - from China to guard local players from cheap imports. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended the duty after concluding in its probe that the API (active pharma ingredient) from China has been exported at dumped prices into India, impacting the domestic industry.

*The authority recommends the imposition of the

The Finance Ministry will take the final decision on imposing the duty

anti-dumping duty on the imports of subject goods," the Directorate has said in a notification.

Ceftriaxone Sodium Sterile is an API used in formulation for treating diseases such as lower respiratory tract infection, skin and surgical prophylaxis.

DGTR had conducted the probe following a complaint from Nectar Life Sciences and Sterile India about the dumping of the chemical.

The recommended duty is \$ 12.91 per kg. The Finance Ministry takes the final decision to impose duty.

In a separate notification, DGTR said it has started a sunset review probe to review the need for continued imposition of anti-dumping duties on aluminium foil from China.

The imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organisation regime. It is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for local producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.



PresenterMedia

What are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)

Any drug formulation is composed of two components or aspects. The first is the actual **API or Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients**, which is the central ingredient. The second is known as an **excipient** which is the inactive ingredient. Excipient serves as a medium for conveying the active ingredient.

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient: Any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used in the manufacture of a drug (medicinal) product and that, when used in the production of a drug, becomes an active ingredient of the drug product. Such substances are intended to furnish pharmacological activity or other direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or to affect the structure or function of the body.

**MAINS
DAWP**

Q. While inward FDI does generate jobs both directly and indirectly through an increase in production activities, the magnitude of employment generated and the sustainability of increased employment needs closer scrutiny. Discuss.



Practice MCQ

Q1. Recently during the COVID-19 crisis, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) were in the news. Consider the following statements with regard to API

1. Active ingredients are the substances in drugs that are responsible for the beneficial health effects experienced by consumers
2. Paracetamol is an API for pain-reducing drugs
3. India imports more than 50% of its APIs from the USA

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3