Clear Signals on Indo-Pacific

What is the issue?

China's claim that the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy is aiming to create an Indo-Pacific version of NATO is in news.

What was the accusation of China?

- China accused the U.S. of "stoking geopolitical rivalry" by forming exclusive clubs.
- It alleged that the U.S. was leading a "five-four-three-two" formation in the region by
    - strengthening the Five Eyes intelligence alliance
    - peddling the Quad
    - piecing together AUKUS
    - tightening bilateral military alliances
- It said that the broader goal of the U.S. was to establish an Indo-Pacific version of NATO.
- Beijing has repeatedly blamed NATO for the crisis in Ukraine and has also moved to reaffirm ties with Russia.

What consequences might it have on Indo-China relations?

- By equating the Quad, which is not a military pact, with other security agreements, China now also appears to be clearly situating India as a part of the U.S. exclusive club.
- New Delhi will need to consider how this will impact its close relations with Russia.
- Some in New Delhi have come to view Beijing's aggressive moves along the LAC in 2020 as a warning sign to deter India-U.S. relations.
- India's response has been to continue deepening ties not only with the U.S. and the Quad but also other Indo-Pacific partners.
- Mr. Wang did acknowledge that recent "setbacks" in ties suited neither India nor China.
- The two sides will meet on March 11 for the next round of military talks to take forward LAC disengagement.
- As India and China continue to restore ties from the lowest point and ensure peace on the border, they will also need to have a broader conversation about global currents that are reshaping their bilateral relations.

Reference

1. https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-opinion/clear-signals/article65206074.ece



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