



The Quad: Reflections on the first in-person summit

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The leaders of the Quad countries (Australia, India, Japan and the United States) held their first in-person meeting in Washington DC on September 24. Around six months after they met virtually, the Quad leaders' in-person summit meeting was high on both optics and deliverables. There was forward movement on the Quad Vaccine Initiative. New programmes such as a Quad Infrastructure Partnership, Quad Fellowship and the Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use were launched. Overall, these will further enhance Quad cooperation in controlling the pandemic, the climate crisis, and on critical and emerging technologies. This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) reflects on the Quad summit, covering diverse opinions from various experts.

| News/Op-ed | Key Takeaway |
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| Modi's visit to the U.S. has helped expand economic cooperation <i>By Chandrajit Banerjee</i> Livemint October 04, 2021 | <p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last month included three notable events: His first in-person meeting at the Quad leaders' summit, his first bilateral engagement with U.S. President Joe Biden in person, and his speech at the 76th United Nations General Assembly. Within the overall framework of strategic engagement on these platforms, economic ties were a critical part of the discussions as well.</p> |
| Quad erat faciendum: Summit signals hope <i>By Oopalee Operajita</i> The New Indian Express October 01, 2021 | <p>There was no explicit articulation of defence collaboration, but partnerships in defence are visible, potent and long extant - witness, for example, the MALABAR exercises, coupled with several meetings between ranking defence chiefs. Top-level meetings will continue until the next summit, contributing to a greater formalisation of the Quad.</p> |
| The Quad Enters the Ring With China <i>By Sadanand Dhume</i> The Wall Street Journal September 30, 2021 | <p>It's too soon to say whether the Quad will achieve its unstated goal: stopping an authoritarian (Paywall) China from becoming Asia's undisputed hegemon. But the four nations have signed on to an ambitious strategy, spanning cooperation on vaccines, infrastructure and technology, designed to blunt Beijing's challenge. Taken together with the new AUKUS military pact among the U.S., the U.K., and Australia and a thickening web of bilateral agreements across the region, these initiatives signal clear intent to combat Beijing.</p> |

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| What's Next for the Quad? <i>By Sheila A. Smith</i> Council on Foreign Relations September 30, 2021 | <p>The most recent Quad summit proved that the grouping is here to stay, but it faces a number of immediate challenges in accomplishing its ambitious agenda. This year's summit has demonstrated the leaders' ambitions. Regular leaders' summits will be needed to maintain the pace and focus. Fulfilling the Quad's agenda will take effort, and institutionalizing these forums will take time.</p> |
| Why the Quad summit was a strategic success <i>By Ash Jain</i> Atlantic Council September 30, 2021 | <p>Following the summit, U.S. President Joe Biden and Prime Ministers Yoshihide Suga of Japan, Narendra Modi of India, and Scott Morrison of Australia issued a joint statement affirming their shared values and commitment to defending an open, rules-based order. While it's specific outcomes - agreements to cooperate on Covid-19 vaccines and bolster semiconductor supply chains, as well as to establish a student scholarship program - were relatively modest, the summit successfully laid the foundation to advance three strategic goals: countering China, aligning India, and revitalising alliances.</p> |
| Scott Morrison says Quad necessary grouping to balance China in Indo-Pacific region <i>By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury</i> The Economic Times September 30, 2021 | <p>Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a necessary grouping to balance China in the Indo-Pacific region. This is the first such comment from any of the four Quad leaders since the September 24 summit held in Washington. The Australian PM said the objective of working together is to ensure and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific. During the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit, a range of issues were discussed, including Afghanistan, cooperation in infrastructure, Covid-19 vaccines and the Indo-Pacific.</p> |
| 'Quad' Summit gives impetus to research collaboration <i>By Suvendrini Kakuchi</i> University World News September 30, 2021 | <p>A new 'Quad' Summit agreement between Japan, the United States, India and Australia to counter geopolitical challenges posed by China is extending cooperation between the countries of the group by bringing in new areas of research collaboration, while in Japan it is providing an impetus to increase and protect research activities in universities.</p> |
| The Quad's planetary goals <i>By Chaitanya Giri</i> Gateway House September 30, 2021 | <p>Contrary to the popular notion that the Quad is a military grouping, the leaders of India, Japan, Australia, and the U. S., in a joint-statement, have agreed to share satellite data to monitor: climate change; sustainable uses of marine resources; and disaster response and preparedness. These three slogans are often repeated across summits, conferences, and seminars. However, when used by the Quad, these terms will be a reality. The Quad is a highly space-capable grouping, where co-operation was imminent.</p> |
| Japan faces a rapidly changing Indo-Pacific strategic environment <i>By Kuni Miyake</i> The Japan Times September 29, 2021 | <p>Since the "Quad" summit was successfully held at the White House, however, such criticisms have subsided. In retrospect, Tokyo has witnessed several significant political, economic and military developments over the past month following the full withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. The strategic environment surrounding the Indo-Pacific region seems to have dramatically changed once again.</p> |

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| <p>Quad vs AUKUS: Anglos & Alliances – India, Japan don't enjoy the cultural affinity shared by English-speaking Western countries</p> <p><i>By Sanjaya Baru</i> The Times of India September 29, 2021</p> | <p>The debate on whether the creation of AUKUS, a defence partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, strengthens or weakens Quad, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the US, will rage on. Proof of the pudding, as the English are wont to remind, will lie in the eating. There is an aspect to the distinction between AUKUS and Quad that has not received adequate attention. It centres around the concept of an Anglosphere, a grouping of English-speaking countries (Paywall).</p> |
| <p>Honey rather than vinegar: How the Quad is trying to win over the Indo-Pacific</p> <p><i>By Hayley Channer</i> The Sydney Morning Herald September 28, 2021</p> | <p>This year, the Quad has made a lot of ground very quickly. But to truly wrestle influence from China, it will need to physically deliver on these commitments. This is going to require more than just getting the leaders of the four countries in the same room – frankly, it will require large financial commitments over decades and for each bureaucracy and successive leaders to prioritise Quad initiatives.</p> |
| <p>The Quad countries pledge to promote an Indo-Pacific region that is ‘undaunted by coercion’</p> <p><i>By Saheli Roy Choudhury</i> CNBC September 27, 2021</p> | <p>Without mentioning China, leaders of four large democracies - the United States, India, Japan and Australia - have reiterated their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region that is “undaunted by coercion.” “Together, we recommit to promoting the free, open, rules-based order, rooted in international law and undaunted by coercion, to bolster security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond,” Biden, along with India’s Narendra Modi, Japan’s Yoshihide Suga and Australia’s Scott Morrison, said in a joint statement.</p> |
| <p>Beijing raps Quad leaders for exaggerating supposed China threat</p> <p>The Mainichi September 27, 2021</p> | <p>Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that the United States has blatantly interfered in internal affairs of other nations, which would hurt peace, development and cooperation in the international community. China's development is the growth of the power for world peace and the gospel of regional prosperity. Biden administration should "stop engaging in closed and exclusive small circles" for the sake of stability in the region.</p> |
| <p>Four plus two minus: Quad summit shows India matters in an emerging world order. But the Af-Pak challenge remains</p> <p><i>By Indrani Bagchi</i> The Times of India September 26, 2021</p> | <p>The first in-person Quad summit in Washington DC marked the start of 21st-century foreign policy. India, the U.S., Japan and Australia took the high road to “recognise that our shared futures will be written in the Indo-Pacific.” Buried in the Quad joint statement, this acknowledgement effectively pivots the Quad towards the oceans, China, and a whole new set of challenges that will test these powers as never before. Because what's at stake is a new world order, with new standards and ways of cooperation. It's not the United Nations, but interlocking groups of converging and connecting countries.</p> |

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| <p>The road Quad must now take to avoid the reputation of empty talk <i>By Harsh V Pant and Shashank Mattoo</i> The Economic Times September 26, 2021</p> | <p>Expectations were high as the Quad Summit between India, Japan, Australia and the U.S. kicked off (Paywall) in Washington on September 24. This first in-person meet, following on the heels of a virtual one in March, drove home the speed of geopolitical shifts currently underway. From maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific to combating climate change, the four partner countries have turned to the Quad as the forum of choice to address mutual concerns.</p> |
| <p>More than hype: Summit shows that the Quad is already coming of age <i>By Tanvi Madan</i> The Times of India September 25, 2021</p> | <p>To understand how far the Quad has come in a short period, consider its ministerial just a year ago. No joint statement emerged, and Indian documents would not even use the term “Quad.” But, on September 24, the leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S. held their second summit in six months, this time in person. And their joint statement reflected concrete progress since March. The Quad is never going to meet everyone’s expectations - it is a vessel into which many hopes are placed, and it cannot and should not be a one-stop shop.</p> |
| <p>Quad to act as a force for global good: PM Modi The Hindu September 25, 2021</p> | <p>In a short and crisp opening address, Prime Minister Modi said that he was confident that I am confident that our cooperation will establish peace and prosperity in the world and Indo-Pacific. I firmly believe our Quad would act as a force for global good. Today, as the world is fighting Covid-19, we as part of Quad have come together again for humanity.</p> |
| <p>Bipartisan Group of U.S. Lawmakers Welcome 1st In-person Quad Summit News18 September 25, 2021</p> | <p>The U.S. lawmakers, in a joint statement, said that the Quad is taking critical steps to expand technological cooperation and military interoperability from the virtual heads of state summit, vaccine partnership, and supply chain resilience initiative earlier this spring to the successful exercise MALABAR last month. The Quad is ideally positioned to build a blueprint for collective resilience against this type of aggression and assist others facing similar challenges.</p> |
| <p>Quad group's role under scrutiny after Aukus submarine deal <i>By Kathrin Hille, Kana Inagaki, Amy Kazmin and Katrina Manson</i> Financial Times September 24, 2021</p> | <p>The Quad was revived in 2017 after a nine-year hiatus as China’s increasingly aggressive foreign policy heightened security concerns in Japan, India and Australia. The Trump administration saw the grouping as a vehicle to counter Beijing militarily, said analysts. But the AUKUS deal signed last week between the U.S., U.K. and Australia to build nuclear submarines for Canberra has raised questions about the Quad's purpose (Paywall).</p> |

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