



The Fourth Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Melbourne

11 January – 15 February 2022

The recent in-person meeting of the Quad foreign ministers marked the latest in a series of continuing high-level engagements between the four countries – Australia, India, Japan and the US. Last year, the Quad initiated new programmes, such as a Quad Infrastructure Partnership, Quad Vaccine Partnership, Quad Fellowship and the Quad Principles on Technology Design, Development, Governance, and Use. There is a clear commitment to expanding cooperation under the Quad framework. The recent foreign ministers' meeting at Melbourne focused on regional challenges, including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR), maritime security, strengthening people-to-people ties, counter-terrorism, resilient clean-energy supply chains, countering disinformation, and cyber security. This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) reflects on the Quad foreign ministers' meet, covering news reports and diverse opinions from various experts.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India-led Quad can rescue Sri Lanka from its 'Made in China' Crisis, But timing is the key <i>By Tara Kartha</i> The Print January 11, 2022</p>	<p>In the Maldives, India has been more aggressive with the massive Greater Male Connectivity Project and grants of more than US\$100mn. Japan has followed with aid, as has Australia at a smaller level, and the US. Male has options being presented to it. Japan is a strong partner, and all three could do more, together with India, provided Colombo makes up its mind that overdependence on Beijing is bad for its health. But timing is everything. If the 'Quad' has to mean anything, all four need to step up smartly to rescue Colombo from its 'Made in China' crisis and rescue Sri Lankan sovereignty for itself.</p>
<p>Australia to host Quad Meeting of Foreign Ministers <i>By Nonika Marwaha</i> NDTV January 31, 2022</p>	<p>Australia is to host the first 2022 Quad Meeting. The two-day meeting of the Quad foreign ministers comes amid concerns about China and tensions with Russia over Ukraine ratchet up in Europe.</p>
<p>Changing India-US ties very defining development this century ANI February 11, 2022</p>	<p>The changing India-US relationship has been a defining development in this century, said External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar during bilateral talks with US State Secretary Antony Blinken at Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting.</p>

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<p>Joint statement by the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan and the Secretary of State of the United States following the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting Ministry of External Affairs, GoI February 11, 2022</p>	<p>The Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan and the Secretary of State of the US met in Melbourne, Australia on February 11, 2022, for the fourth Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. In the meeting, Quad reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Indo-Pacific countries' efforts to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific.</p>
<p>Quad meet focuses on Indo-Pacific Cooperation <i>By Suhasini Haider</i> The Hindu February 12, 2022</p>	<p>Calling for justice for the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai (2008) and the Pathankot airbase attack (2016) for the first time since the group was formed, Foreign Ministers of the Australia-India-Japan said that the Quad is already cooperating on sharing intelligence on threats in the Indo-Pacific region.</p>
<p>Support India's continued rise, regional leadership': US Indo-Pacific strategy ANI February 12, 2022</p>	<p>Biden administration has announced the new Indo-Pacific Strategy, which supports "India's continued rise and regional leadership" in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. It has also recognised India as the driving force of the Quad and other regional fora.</p>
<p>America sees India's role in Quad as 'very high priority: US official Business Standard February 12, 2022</p>	<p>Highlighting the importance of ties between the US and India, a senior American official said that Washington sees India's role in Quad as of "very high priority" as it has a "very significant element including the much-enhanced ability to speak frankly about issues in the region."</p>
<p>US-India strategic partnership in defence of democracy The Economic Times February 13, 2022</p>	<p>India and the US have steadily evolved a strategy of working together against China's expansionist designs. India is building its capabilities for taking on China's PLA and Pakistan's terror camps on the borders, on the one hand, and joining Quad, as an active participant on the other. The objective is to ensure a 'rules-based order' for the Indo-Pacific that provides built-in protection against Chinese designs in the Indian Ocean too.</p>
<p>Business-as-usual shows that the Quad has moved from the heady days of hype <i>By Harsh V. Pant and S. Mattoo</i> The Economic Times February 13, 2022</p>	<p>When the Moscow-Beijing entente has been intimidating neighbours and rewriting the rulebook regarding accepted Great Power behaviour, the Quad's repeated support (Paywall) for established principles of international law and transparency restores some stability to the international system. It also has good reason to cheer. The Quad Vaccine Partnership, which had pledged to donate 1.3 billion COVID vaccine doses by end-2022, appears to have made significant headway.</p>
<p>Australia-India partnering up within the Quad <i>By Lisa Singh</i> Australia India Institute February 13, 2022</p>	<p>Australia and India are increasingly aligned within Quad grouping and their bilateral agreements were a key feature on the sidelines of the Melbourne meeting.</p>

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<p>Jaishankar dismisses China's opposition to Quad; says it will do 'positive things', contribute to the prosperity and stability of Indo-Pacific The Economic Times February 14, 2022</p>	<p>External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar dismissed China's vehement opposition to the Quad. He said that the grouping will do "positive things" and contribute to the strategic Indo-Pacific region's prosperity and stability and criticising it will not make the four-nation grouping less credible.</p>
<p>S. Jaishankar aims China's trade coercion against Australia <i>By Ben Westcott</i> Business Standard February 14, 2022</p>	<p>India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar criticised China's economic coercion of Australia. He said that progress and prosperity over the past 80 years resulted from a trading system "governed by rules and not politically influenced." Jaishankar said the Quad had all agreed that "politics should not be conducted by coercion at any time."</p>
<p>Friendly pitch The India Express February 14, 2022</p>	<p>The gift of a cricket bat, signed by former Indian captain Virat Kohli, from the External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar to his Australian counterpart Marise Payne, as the Quad foreign ministers gathered in Melbourne. India and Australia are standing up to the Chinese pressures. The Beijing spokesperson attacked the group "as a tool to contain China" and called on its members to shed their "Cold War mentality".</p>
<p>India a driving force of Quad, engine for regional growth <i>By Harshit Sabarwal</i> Hindustan Times February 15, 2022</p>	<p>The US has said that India is a driving force of the Quad and an engine for regional growth, days after the fourth meeting of the strategic security bloc was held in Australia's Melbourne. The Quad summit discussed India-China relations, which have taken a sour turn ever since the border skirmishes in 2020.</p>

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