



4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting

For Prelims: QUAD, NATO, Indo-Pacific, Quad Vaccine initiative, 5G, COVOVAX, CORBEVAX

For Mains: Groupings & Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests, Bilateral Groupings & Agreements, QUAD and its Significance.

Why in News?

Recently, the fourth meeting of the foreign ministers of the **QUAD** grouping (India, the US, Australia and Japan) was held in Melbourne, Australia.

- The meeting was held amid escalating **tension between Russia and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries** over **Ukraine**, the **Afghan crisis** and increasing concerns over **China's "coercion" in the Indo-Pacific region**.

What is QUAD?

- It is the **grouping of four democracies** -India, Australia, the US, and Japan.
- All four nations **find a common ground of being democratic nations** and also support the common interest of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- The Quad is billed as four democracies with a **shared objective to ensure and support a "free, open and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region**.
- The idea of Quad was **first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007**. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- Finally **in 2017, India, Australia, the US and Japan, came together and formed this "quadrilateral" coalition**.



What were the Discussions on Security and Intelligence?

- Called 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.
- **QUAD is already cooperating on sharing intelligence** on threats in the Indo-Pacific region. Called on all countries to **ensure that territory under their control is not used to launch terror attacks and to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of such attacks.**
- They made a **veiled reference to China's actions in the [South and East China seas](#)**, reaffirming a commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, "in which states strive to protect the interests of their people, free from coercion."

What was their Stand on the Vaccine Initiative?

- Renewed commitment to the "flagship" **[Quad Vaccine initiative](#)** to deliver at least one billion vaccines produced in India by the end of 2022 to Indo-Pacific countries, and to a pledge to donate **1.3 billion vaccine doses globally.**
 - The **Quad vaccine partnership** was announced in March 2021.

What is QUAD's Stand on Myanmar Crisis?

- It remains gravely **concerned about the crisis in Myanmar and calls for an end to violence**, the release of all those arbitrarily detained, including foreigners, and unhindered humanitarian access.
- It reaffirmed its support for the **[Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)** efforts to seek a solution in Myanmar and **called on the military regime to urgently implement [ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus](#)** and swiftly return Myanmar to the path of democracy.
- It **encouraged the international community to work together** to support an end to the violence.

What did the Leaders Say on Emerging Technologies?

- **Recorded progress** on the other fields for cooperation identified during the QUAD summit in 2021, including **[climate change](#), critical and emerging technologies, counter-terrorism, infrastructure, Humanitarian-Assistance and Disaster-Relief (HADR) and maritime domain awareness.**
- The QUAD is **pursuing work on [5G technology](#)** and vendor diversification to maintain a diverse, open and interoperable telecommunication ecosystem through **collaboration with like-minded partners.**

What was India's Stand in the Meeting?

- India is **open to supplying safe and affordable Made in India vaccines**, such as **[COVOVAX and CORBEVAX](#)**, under the QUAD vaccine partnership.
- QUAD is building an agenda which seeks to further India's shared vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
 - India and Australia have **pledged to work together for building more trusted and resilient supply chains** and ensuring broad and inclusive growth in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.
 - Earlier in 2021, the Trade Ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the **[Supply Chain Resilience Initiative \(SCRI\)](#).**
 - As liberal democracies, **India and Australia would continue to work towards a rule-based international order, freedom of navigation in international waters**, promoting connectivity, growth and security for all while respecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.
- It is **keen to work together to further peace and stability and economic prosperity in the**

Indo-Pacific.

- On Myanmar, India pointed to the challenge of insurgency along the Indo-Myanmar border. It also stressed that **it is against “national sanctions”**. **The US has imposed sanctions on a number of leaders of the Myanmar Military.**
- It **maintained complete diplomatic silence on the Russian threat to invade Ukraine.**

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