

Quad

Quad brings together four countries - India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, with a commitment to work as a force for global good and to support a free and open Indo-Pacific that is prosperous and resilient.

2. **Genesis:** Quad came together during the 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean region to coordinate response and assistance to countries in the region. The first meeting of Quad officials took place on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum summit in the Philippines in May 2007. After a gap of 10 years, Quad officials met in Manila in November 2017 on the margins of the East Asia Summit for consultations on connectivity issues; maritime security and counter-terrorism; shared principles for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific; and proliferation threats in Asia. Quad Foreign Ministers met for the first time in September 2019, on the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York. In 2021, the Quad was elevated to a leader-level format.

3. Quad has adopted a positive and practical agenda focusing on contemporary issues and challenges such as health security, climate change, critical and emerging technologies, infrastructure and debt sustainability, cyber security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and strengthening the maritime domain awareness of regional countries. Quad partners engage regularly through Leaders, Foreign Ministers, Quad Sherpas, senior officials, and experts.

4. **Leaders' Summits:** Quad saw a natural evolution and elevation in 2021 to the level of the Leaders, with the first Quad Leaders' Summit taking place in virtual format on 12 March 2021. PM participated along with his counterparts from Australia, Japan, and the USA to discuss regional and global issues, especially the Indo-Pacific. Three Working Groups were announced by the Leaders - Vaccine Partnership, Climate Change, and Critical & Emerging Technology. The Quad adopted an action-oriented approach to enable practical cooperation.

5. The second Quad Leaders' Summit (first in-person) was held on 24 September 2021 in Washington DC. The Leaders announced three new Working Groups on Infrastructure, Space, and Cyber issues. 100 STEM fellowships (25 from each Quad country) to US universities for graduate and doctoral students from Quad countries were announced.

6. The third Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually on 3 March 2022 to discuss the situation in Ukraine and its impact on the Indo-Pacific. They also launched a Quad Partnership on HADR.

7. The fourth Quad Leaders' Summit (second in-person) was hosted by Japan on 24 May 2022. Leaders launched the Quad Satellite Data Portal to provide regional countries with space-based data for climate and disaster forecasting and sustainable use of marine resources; Q-CHAMP for practical cooperation on climate action, climate finance, and technology transfer to help countries meet their climate commitments; Quad Debt Management Resource Portal to address challenges of unsustainable debt financing; Quad Partnership on HADR (an India-led initiative) to provide timely and effective assistance in the Indo-Pacific region in the event of future incidents.

8. The fifth Quad Leaders' Summit (third in-person) was held in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023. In addition to the Joint Statement, the "Quad Leaders' Vision Statement – Enduring Partners for the Indo-Pacific" was also released, outlining the Leaders' vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, and upholding the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

9. Most recently, the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit (fourth in-person) was held in Wilmington, Delaware (USA) on 21 September 2024. Quad Leaders discussed geopolitical issues, took stock of the progress made by the Quad over the last one year and also set forth an ambitious agenda for the year ahead that would culminate with the Quad Summit hosted by India in 2025. At the Summit, the Leaders adopted four documents – 'The Wilmington Declaration', the Quad Joint Statement Factsheet; the Quad Cancer Moonshot Factsheet; and the Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure. Some of the new initiatives announced during the Summit include: Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project and Quad Ports of the Future Partnership.

10. The next Quad Leaders' Summit will be hosted by India in 2025.

11. **Quad Foreign Ministers' Meetings (QFMM):**

- QFMM, 26 September 2019, margins of UNGA, New York (USA)
- QFMM, 6 October 2020, Tokyo (Japan)
- Virtual QFMM, 18 February 2021
- QFMM, 11 February 2022, Melbourne (Australia)
- QFMM, 23 September 2022, margins of UNGA, New York (USA)
- QFMM, 3 March 2023, New Delhi (India)
- QFMM, 22 September 2023, margins of UNGA, New York (USA)
- QFMM, 29 July 2024, Tokyo (Japan)
- QFMM, 21 January 2025, Washington D.C. (USA)

12. Following their recent meeting in Washington D.C., the Foreign Ministers issued a Joint Statement reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening a Free and Open Indo-Pacific where the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty, and territorial integrity are upheld and defended. They also reiterated their commitment to strengthening regional maritime, economic, and technology security in the face of increasing threats, as well as promoting reliable and resilient supply chains.

13. The practical work of the Quad is taken forward through the following **Working Groups:**

i. **Climate:** Quad partners are working together to address climate change and support regional partners, in particular the countries in the Indo-Pacific. They are collaborating on sustainable consumption and production, clean hydrogen, disaster risk management, exchanging climate information, green shipping and ports, and capacity building. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Clean Energy Supply Chains Initiative was announced to facilitate research and development and support energy transition in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad Principles of Clean Energy Supply Chains were released to guide engagement with the region on clean energy supply chain development. The Climate Information Services Taskforce, as part of the Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP), is working to increase access to early warning systems and climate data through infrastructure and capacity building in the Indo-Pacific region.

Quad is working with the CDRI to support the sustainable development and resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to address climate and disaster risks. Quad partners intend to facilitate green shipping corridors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the shipping value chain. During the 2024 Quad Summit, an initiative to boost energy efficiency to enable climate-vulnerable communities to adapt to rising temperatures was announced. India is executing projects in collaboration with the ISA to fund off-grid solar projects in four Indo-Pacific countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles and Fiji) at an estimated cost of US\$ 2 million.

ii. **Critical and Emerging Technologies:** Quad is working to strengthen supply chain resilience and improve the region's digital connectivity through access to critical and emerging technologies and advanced telecommunications technology, including 5G networks. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Leaders announced Quad support for an Open RAN pilot in Palau to support the diversification and security of telecom networks, the first in the Pacific. They also launched the Quad Investors' Network (QUIN) as a private sector-led platform to facilitate investments in strategic technologies. The Quad also published a Statement of Principles on Critical and Emerging Technology Standards, outlining its common vision for international technology standards, underpinned by values such as transparency, openness, security, and interoperability. Through the Advancing Innovation to Empower NextGen Agriculture (AI-ENGAGE), Quad science agencies are identifying joint funding for collaborative research to increase crop yield and resilience.

iii. **Cybersecurity:** Quad is working towards a more secure cyberspace and strengthening cyber resilience and critical infrastructure protection in the Indo-Pacific. Quad Cyber Challenges are being held to promote cyber awareness and capacity building. The Quad Foreign Ministers released a Statement on Ransomware in September 2022. At the 2023 Quad Summit, the Quad Joint Principles for Secure Software and the Quad Joint Principles for Cyber Security of Critical Infrastructure were released, to strengthen defences against cyber threats to the software supply chain and critical infrastructure and services.

iv. **Health Security:** Under the Quad Vaccine Partnership, Quad countries delivered more than 400 million safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to Indo-Pacific countries and almost 800 million doses globally. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, the Leaders decided to evolve the former Quad Vaccine Partnership into a more comprehensive Health Security Partnership to promote coordination and collaboration between Quad countries and partners in the Indo-Pacific to strengthen regional and global health security. At the 2024 Quad Leaders' Summit, the Quad Cancer Moonshot initiative was announced, which will leverage public and private resources to combat cancer in the Indo-Pacific region, with an initial focus on cervical cancer.

v. **Infrastructure:** The Quad shares assessments of regional infrastructure needs and coordinates respective approaches to deliver transparent, demand-driven, quality, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Quad is also coordinating technical assistance and capacity-building efforts to ensure efforts are mutually reinforcing and complementary in meeting the significant infrastructure demand in the Indo-Pacific. At the 2023 Leaders' Summit, 'Quad Infrastructure Fellowships', aimed to empower more than 1,800 of the region's infrastructure practitioners to design, build, and manage quality infrastructure in their home countries, was announced. 'Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience', aimed to strengthen cable systems in the Indo-Pacific,

drawing on Quad countries' world-class expertise in manufacturing, delivering, and maintaining cable infrastructure, was also announced. Quad partners are also enhancing cooperation among their export credit agencies. The transformative power of technology, including digital public infrastructure, to support sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific and deliver economic and social benefits has also been recognized by Quad Leaders. Quad Principles for Development and Deployment of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) were adopted in the 2024 Quad Leaders' Joint Statement. The Quad Ports of the Future Partnership was also announced, to coordinate, exchange information & best practices, and mobilize government & private sector investments in quality port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific region.

vi. **Space:** Quad is working to exchange Earth observation satellite data and analysis to help Indo-Pacific countries better adapt to climate change, prepare for natural disasters, and better manage oceans and marine resources. Quad partners are committed to strengthening commercial space cooperation. They are also consulting each other on the peaceful, safe, and sustainable use of outer space. India is developing a cloud-enabled web-based platform (based on archival satellite data) for interactive computing & visualization, and capacity development related to extreme weather events for Mauritius.

vii. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR):** Quad Foreign Ministers signed the Guidelines for Quad Partnership on HADR in the Indo-Pacific, in September 2022 to enable Quad countries to rapidly coordinate in the face of natural disasters. Thereafter, SOPs have been put in place for more effective coordination among the four countries so as to provide timely assistance in future events in the region.

viii. **Counter-terrorism:** Quad Working Group on Counter-Terrorism was announced by the Foreign Ministers in March 2023 in New Delhi. Quad has condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all forms and manifestations, denounced the use of terrorist proxies, and emphasized the importance of denying any logistical, financial, or military support to terrorist groups that could be used to launch or plan terror attacks, including cross-border attacks. Quad Leaders have condemned the terrorist attacks in India during 26/11 in Mumbai and the Pathankot attacks. They have reiterated the importance of upholding international standards on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism by all countries, consistent with FATF recommendations. Five counterterrorism tabletop exercises (TTX) have been held so far in the Quad format.

ix. **Maritime Security:** The Group aims to strengthen capacity and capability of the Indo-Pacific partners to respond to contemporary maritime security challenges and enhance information-sharing among Quad partners. Through Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), announced at the 2022 Leaders' Summit, Quad is providing near-real-time, integrated, and cost-effective maritime domain data to maritime agencies in the region, supports regional partners' capacity in combatting a wide range of illicit maritime activities, including illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and responding to climate-related and humanitarian events. During the 2024 Summit, an India-led initiative, namely regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), was announced to enable partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region to monitor and secure their waters, enforce their laws, and deter unlawful behavior. The following initiatives were also announced during the same Summit: Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission to improve Coast Guard interoperability and to advance

maritime safety; Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project, to pursue shared airlift capacity among the four nations to support civilian response to natural disasters; and Quad Maritime Legal Dialogue to support efforts to uphold the rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific.

x. **Policy Planners' Dialogue:** The Dialogue fosters cooperation among Quad policy planners and strategic thinkers. The inaugural editions of the Raisina Young Leaders' Fellowship – Quad Edition and Quad Think Tank Network were organized in February 2024 in India. The 3rd Quad Policy Planners' Dialogue was held in New Delhi in June 2024.

14. **STEM Education:** Announced in the 2023 Quad Summit, the Quad STEM Fellowships are scholarship programmes designed to build ties among the next generation of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) leaders. The first batch of 100 students, 25 from each Quad country, commenced its academic courses in US Universities in Fall 2023. The second cohort which commenced its courses in 2024, comprises 50 fellows, representing 12 countries, including South East Asian countries. Applications for the third cohort were opened in January 2025. During the 2024 Summit, India announced a new initiative to award fifty Quad scholarships, worth \$500,000, to students from the Indo-Pacific to pursue a 4-year undergraduate engineering program at a Government of India-funded technical institution.

February 2025