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Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting: India to Host Wong, Motegi, Rubio on May 26

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Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting: India to Host Wong, Motegi, Rubio on May 26

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WHY IN NEWS:

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on May 22, 2026 confirmed that External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar will host the Foreign Ministers of Australia (Penny Wong), Japan (Toshimitsu Motegi), and the United States (Marco Rubio) for the **Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on May 26, 2026** – the first such engagement since the previous Quad FM meet in Washington (July 2025) under the second Trump administration.

ABOUT THE QUAD (QUADRILATERAL SECURITY DIALOGUE)

The Quad is an informal strategic forum comprising **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**, focused on a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

Evolution and timeline

- **2004 — Indian Ocean Tsunami Core Group:** India, US, Japan and Australia coordinated humanitarian relief — the conceptual origin of the Quad.
- **2007 — Quad 1.0:** Formalised at the Manila ASEAN meeting; Japanese PM Shinzo Abe articulated the “Confluence of the Two Seas” doctrine (speech to the Indian Parliament, August 22, 2007).
- **2008 — Lapse:** Australia (under PM Kevin Rudd) withdrew under Chinese pressure; the forum went dormant.
- **November 2017 — Quad 2.0:** Revived on the sidelines of the ASEAN/East Asia Summit in Manila.
- **March 12, 2021:** First Quad Leaders’ Summit (virtual) — Biden, Modi, Suga, Morrison.
- **September 24, 2021:** First in-person Quad Leaders’ Summit, Washington DC.
- **May 24, 2022:** Tokyo Summit — launch of the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative.
- **May 2023:** Hiroshima Summit (G7 sidelines).
- **September 2024:** Wilmington (Delaware) Summit hosted by President Biden.

QUAD INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

TRACK	MECHANISM / INITIATIVE
Political	Annual Leaders' Summit; semi-annual Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Maritime	Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) — commercial-satellite tracking of “dark vessels”
Working Groups	Health Security; Climate; Critical & Emerging Technology (CET); Cyber; Infrastructure; Space; STEM Fellowship; Counter-Terrorism; Maritime Security
Health	Quad Vaccine Initiative (2021–2023)
Skills	Quad Fellowship — STEM Master's/PhD support in the US

FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC (FOIP)

- The **FOIP** concept originated with Japanese PM Shinzo Abe — first articulated in his “Confluence of the Two Seas” address to the Indian Parliament in **August 2007**, and expanded as a formal doctrine in 2016.
- The United States adopted the framework under the Trump administration in 2017, and it is now central to the strategic outlook of all four Quad partners.

CHINA'S POSITION

- Beijing routinely characterises the Quad as an emerging “**Asian NATO**” and a containment vehicle.
- China leverages the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** and the **BRICS** grouping as counterweights to Quad-led Indo-Pacific architecture.

INDIA'S DISTINCT POSITION WITHIN THE QUAD

- India insists the Quad is **not a military alliance**.
- New Delhi resists militarising the platform while deepening functional cooperation (technology, supply chains, maritime awareness).
- India simultaneously balances its long-standing partnership with Russia (which has been openly critical of the Quad).
- **India is the only Quad member that is not in a formal treaty alliance with the United States** — preserving strategic autonomy.

INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE (IPOI)

- India-led initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi at the **East Asia Summit, Bangkok, November 4, 2019**.
- Seven pillars:

#	PILLAR
1	Maritime Security
2	Maritime Ecology
3	Maritime Resources
4	Capacity Building and Resource Sharing
5	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
6	Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation
7	Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport

THE MAY 26, 2026 MEETING — CONTEXT AND EXPECTED AGENDA

- First **Quad FM meeting** under a full year of the second Trump administration.
- **Marco Rubio** (US Secretary of State since January 2025) — a noted China hawk.
- **Penny Wong** (Australian FM since 2022) — continuity of the Albanese-Wong line.
- **Toshimitsu Motegi** (Japanese FM) — representing the LDP-led coalition.
- Bilateral meetings on the sidelines and calls on **Prime Minister Modi** are expected.

Expected agenda

- Expansion of **IPMDA** coverage.
- **Critical minerals** supply-chain coordination.
- **Semiconductor** policy alignment.
- Infrastructure financing — alignment with the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**.
- Counter-terrorism cooperation.
- Indo-Pacific connectivity and resilient supply chains.

UPSC RELEVANCE

- **GS Paper 2 – International Relations:** India’s foreign policy; bilateral, regional and global groupings; effects of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests.
- Mains analytical themes: balancing strategic autonomy with plurilateral commitments; India’s Indo-Pacific strategy; significance of the Quad vis-à-vis China; institutional evolution of the Quad.
- Prelims angle: founding year, evolution timeline, IPMDA, IPOI pillars, FOIP origin.

FACTS CORNER

Quad members: India, USA, Japan, Australia.

Origin: Tsunami Core Group, 2004.

Quad 1.0: 2007, Manila — lapsed in 2008 after Australia’s withdrawal.

Quad 2.0 revived: November 2017.

First Quad Leaders’ Summit (virtual): March 12, 2021.

First in-person Quad Summit: September 24, 2021, Washington DC.

IPMDA launched: Tokyo Summit, May 24, 2022.

IPOI launched: East Asia Summit, Bangkok, November 4, 2019, by PM Modi.

FOIP concept: Articulated by Japanese PM Shinzo Abe in his “Confluence of the Two Seas” speech to the Indian Parliament on August 22, 2007.

2026 Quad FM Meet: New Delhi, May 26, 2026 — hosted by EAM S. Jaishankar.

Sources: [MEA](#), [PIB](#), [The Hindu](#)

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