



CENTRE FOR
JOINT WARFARE
STUDIES

GL/15/25

**MODI 3.0 AND TRUMP 2.0 AND WHAT IT MEANS
FOR THE QUAD
BY
PROF (DR) SRIPARNA PATHAK**

**ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
01 MAY 2025**

© BCCL 2025

MODI 3.0 AND TRUMP 2.0 AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE QUAD

BY PROF. (DR.) SRIPARNA PATHAK

ORGANISED BY CENJOWS ON 01 MAY 2025

The QUAD has been a topic of multiple speculations. To start with, given that it is not a military grouping, guessing around what the grouping wants to achieve and could aim for in the future is a constant. Formed of four countries with varying interest in the Indo-Pacific, with varied levels of economic development and varying interpretations of security, the group was first called as ocean front by China, and it was assumed that it would dissipate with time. However, in the current epoch of history, it has also been called “Asian NATO” by China. It is pertinent in this context to understand the changes that have been taking place within the QUAD, which has led to a complete perception overhaul of it, in China.

The QUAD summit is to take place in India this year, which makes it essential to understand key challenges that face the grouping so that a more coherent approach can be envisaged. However, the world is also undergoing several changes, as the U.S. under Trump 2.0 renegotiates its role as the stabilizer of the international system. While there are several policy changes emanating from the U.S., in India, there is policy continuity, as India’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was elected to power for his third term. Given that the summit is to be held in India, while the U.S. is undergoing several policy changes itself, it becomes pertinent to understand the importance of the QUAD for India and the U.S. respectively, and to seek complementarities between the four countries.

The QUAD foreign ministers’ meeting was held in January this year, in Washington D.C., immediately after Donald Trump’s assumed presidency as the 47th U.S. President. The timing signals the deliberate prioritization of the QUAD, and continuity in the group’s strategic focus on tackling and countering China’s influence in the Indo-Pacific. Unlike concerns that Trump’s ‘America First’ policy might de-emphasise alliances, the meeting reassured QUAD countries that the U.S. is still committed to its Indo-Pacific engagement.

The presence of China hawks like Rubio, combined with Trump’s discussions with China’s Xi Jinping on trade, and fentanyl suggest a dual track approach- confrontation on security issues and selective engagement in economic ones. This is similar to the approach being undertaken by India, which while trying to shift its economic reliance away from China, also has been acting in line with the fact that a complete de-coupling is going to take time, necessitating issue based economic cooperation. In the realm of security, India steadfastly guards its sovereignty.

India's emphasis on the QUAD not being against anyone, but supports a rules based international order which reflects this smart juggling, and Modi 3.0's commitment to strategic autonomy. Some arenas of complementarity between Modi 3.0 and Trump 2.0 which have implications for the QUAD's future include shared concerns on China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific, need for upgrading maritime and economic security, technology and critical minerals, enhancing defence engagements and ensuring supply chain resilience. Another arena which the four can look at is in the realm of AI usage and concerns, and sharing inputs on countering terrorism. While the terrorism challenge emanates from separate quarters for India and the U.S. respectively, fact also is that greater sharing of inputs on how each side has tackled the challenges can lead to better ways to deal with such challenges.