

4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Melbourne

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External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar is participating in the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Melbourne.

Jaishankar is on an official visit to Australia from February 10-13 at the invitation of his Australian counterpart Marise Payne, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a release.

Key Highlights

- Australia is hosting India, Japan and the United States for the fourth Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting and the top diplomats are seeking to bolster cooperation in areas including economy, security, coronavirus pandemic and free and open Indo-Pacific.
- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a partnership of four nations, each of whom shares a commitment to openness, transparency and challenges coming out of the current global order.
- This is the first time Quad Foreign Ministers are meeting since the two Quad Summits last year. Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne will be joining Indian Minister of External Affairs Dr S Jaishankar, Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Hayashi Yoshimasa, and United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss the positive and ambitious agenda of the Quad.
- They will be discussing ongoing Quad cooperation in their bilateral phone calls and meetings. Since there is a robust bilateral cooperation between the four countries, they are building on their institutional linkages to further Quad cooperation in areas such as

healthcare, infrastructure, space, education etc.

SOURCE: *Hindustan Times, Livemint*