



# NEWS ANALYSIS

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BAJIRAO IAS ACADEMY

# Q)QUAD has a role in preserving free and open Indo-Pacific region, but it has its own challenges. Analyse

## Quad members vow to work vigorously towards a free, open, and stable Indo-Pacific

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

India and other Quad member-nations on Tuesday reaffirmed the grouping's steadfast commitment to work towards a free, open, and peaceful Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the region.

Foreign Ministers of the member nations of the grouping made the pledge in a joint statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Quad cooperation".

India, the U.S., Australia and Japan came together 20 years ago to extend assistance in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and that coalition subsequently took the form of the Quad.

In the last few years, the Quad has rolled out a number of initiatives address-



We reaffirm our unwavering support for ASEAN's centrality and unity as well as mainstreaming and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific

**QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS**  
in a statement

ing some of the most pressing needs and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, including in areas of maritime security, infrastructure and connectivity.

India is scheduled to host the next Quad Summit likely in the second half of 2025.

The Foreign Ministers of the four nations said the Quad would work together in responding to the future needs of the Indo-Pacific.

"As four partners, we share a vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, underpinned by effective regional institutions," the joint statement said.

The Quad Foreign Ministers also talked about the centrality of 10-nation grouping Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Indo-Pacific. "We reaffirm our unwavering support for ASEAN's centrality and unity as well as mainstreaming and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," the Ministers said.

"We respect Pacific-led regional architecture, foremost the Pacific Islands Forum. We are also steadfast in our support for the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the region's premier organisation," they said.



## Quadrilateral Security Dialogue

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as the Quad, is an evolving partnership among four major Indo-Pacific nations: The four participating countries are – Australia, India, Japan and the United States of America. They formed in the context of interests and in order to enhance the stability of the region of the Indian and Pacific oceans; the Quad has emerged as a highly fluid policy arrangement for drawing a future of the Indo-Pacific.

The four participating countries are:



India



USA



Australia



Japan



**The QUAD was initially established in 2007**, but has gained renewed traction recently due to concerns over **China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific**. Its primary aim is to ensure a **free and open Indo-Pacific, emphasizing international law, freedom of navigation, and peaceful dispute resolution**.

### **Role of the QUAD:**

1. The QUAD **enhances regional security** through joint military exercises and intelligence sharing. - The Malabar naval exercise improves coordination among member forces.
2. The QUAD fosters economic growth by promoting infrastructure and investment, **countering China's Belt and Road Initiative**. **The Blue Dot Network certifies** projects to ensure transparency and sustainability.
3. **Supply Chain Resilience:** In response to COVID-19, the QUAD focuses on diversifying and securing critical supply chains, launching the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in 2021**.


4. **Maritime Security Capacity Building:** The QUAD aids regional nations in maritime law enforcement, such as providing patrol vessels to Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

### **Implications for India:**

- Security and Defense: The QUAD enhances India's security through **cooperation on intelligence and maritime awareness, bolstering its deterrence** and protecting trade routes.
- Countering China's Influence: By aligning with the **QUAD, India can balance China's influence and safeguard regional stability**

### **The QUAD faces several challenges:**

1. Lack of Formal Structure It **lacks a permanent secretariat or decision-making body**, affecting its efficiency.

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2. China views the QUAD as a **containment strategy**, complicating constructive engagement and potentially increasing tensions.
  3. **Differences in financial resources, strategic awareness**, and military capabilities among members can hinder effective cooperation.
  4. Regional issues like **territorial disputes and non-traditional security threats** require sustained coordination, which may be challenging.




- ❑ India will host the **Quad leaders' summit and a possible India-EU summit**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** could travel to China for the **SCO summit**, and President **Vladimir Putin** is expected to visit India. A Modi-Trump meeting is likely sooner than later in the year.
- ❑ Trump has come back after a break, **more confident and possibly wiser** — and has announced nominees for all key appointments long before inauguration day on January 20.
- ❑ His declared **intentions of ending ongoing wars and imposing steep tariffs on trade rivals** of the US have piqued curiosity and anxiety in many countries.

## India's neighbourhood

- ❑ Important countries in India's neighbourhood got new governments in 2024.
- ❑ **BANGLADESH:** Weeks of sustained street protests drove **Sheikh Hasina** from power and forced her to flee to India.
- ❑ The new establishment under **Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus** has asked New Delhi to send her back, even as his interim government itself faces heat on the **struggling economy, and for failing to protect religious minorities in Bangladesh.**

- ❑ **SRI LANKA:** The leftist politician **Anura Kumara Dissanayake**, who does not belong either to the traditional mainstream parties was propelled to the presidency by **mass disaffection that had brought down the government of Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022.**
- ❑ The way the new President deals with the political aspirations of the **Tamil minority will be important.**
- ❑ **MALDIVES:** Almost a year after **Mohamed Muizzu came to power on an anti-India plank**, New Delhi was able to secure a visit — and some positive signalling — from him in early October 2024.



**NEPAL:** **K P Sharma Oli**, whose pro-China stand has not been comforting to India, became Prime Minister for the fourth time in July.

His alliance with **Sher Bahadur Deuba's Nepali Congress**, however, has had a calming influence.

### **The war in Ukraine**

President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** has indicated that he is ready for talks with Russia, but as the war nears the end of three years, the possible terms of engagement with President Putin remain unclear.



## With China, reasons for hope

- ❑ After the **breakthrough in the disengagement process**, New Delhi and Beijing have signalled they are discussing both border issues and other **steps to normalise ties impacted by almost five years** of the standoff in Ladakh.
- ❑ India will be closely watching the next steps of **de-escalation and de-induction of troops** before it yields on the economic and visa restrictions that it has placed on Chinese businesses.
- ❑ **The trust deficit remains high**, and it will take a long time and a lot of effort to repair the damage.
- ❑ Prime Minister Modi's possible visit to China for the SCO summit will be key to the effort. Before that, Modi might meet with President **Xi Jinping at the BRICS summit in Brazil in July.**



**Territorial Disputes:** Border conflicts in the **South China Sea** and the **Himalayas** fuel ongoing tensions.



**Debt Trap Diplomacy:** Chinese loans to developing nations create economic dependencies, threatening their sovereignty.



**Cybersecurity Threats:** China poses significant cybersecurity challenges to India, necessitating strong defenses.



**Strategic Encirclement:** The "**String of Pearls**" boosts China's military presence in the Indian Ocean, impacting India's maritime security.

# India , Qatar relations

## Jaishankar in Doha for talks, to prepare for Qatari Emir's visit

The Emir will visit India in February; External Affairs Minister's third visit in six months raises hopes for return of former Naval officer, delayed by nearly a year; New Delhi is also looking to boost ties with several countries in the West Asian region

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is in Doha for a three-day visit over the New Year for a series of bilateral meetings, as well as to prepare for a visit by Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to India, expected next month, sources told *The Hindu*.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Qatar last February, he had met and invited Sheikh Al Thani to India. The Emir's visit is part of New Delhi's recent broader outreach to the Gulf region, as Israel's bombardment of Gaza continues, with the effects of the West Asian crisis now spreading to Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen.

Mr. Jaishankar was due to meet the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al



**Outreach efforts:** Jaishankar is likely to meet Qatar PM Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. FILE PHOTO

Thani in Doha, and to discuss "political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, and people-to-people" ties as well as "regional and international issues of mutual interest", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement before his departure.

Mr. Jaishankar's visit to Qatar, his third in six months, has raised hopes for the return of the eighth former Naval officer con-

victed of spying in 2023, who has been detained in Doha while others on death row along with him were pardoned. The decision to drop the death penalty against all eight men was taken at the end of December 2023, but while seven men were released and returned to India in February 2024, Commander Purnendu Tiwari (retired) has been held back under a travel ban.

The MEA has said that the former Naval officer, who was also decorated with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, is required to complete certain "formalities" in the Qatari legal system. According to officials, the pending requirements pertain to financial charges against the Dahra Global company where Mr. Tiwari was Managing Director and the other seven former naval personnel were employed.

However, Mr. Tiwari's family has rejected any charges of wrongdoing, pleading to the Prime Minister to "intervene" and facilitate his return.

### Wooing West Asia

Among a number of bilateral visits meant to shore up India's ties with the troubled region, Mr. Modi has travelled to Kuwait while Mr. Jaishankar visited Bahrain, and twice travelled to Qatar in Decem-

ber. After the proposed visit of the Qatari Emir to India, expected in the first or second week of February, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to travel to Oman. The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud also visited Delhi in the last few months.

In addition, New Delhi will receive Iranian Vice Minister for External Affairs Takht Ravanchi on January 2 as its first high-level diplomatic visitor in 2025. The visit from the new Iranian government is significant, given its growing tensions with Israel, as well as the imminent inauguration of incoming U.S. President Donald Trump later in January. Mr. Trump is expected to take a tougher line on Iran, and to step up sanctions, which will affect India as well.




## Context

- ❖ External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** is in **Doha** for a three-day visit over the New Year for a series of bilateral meetings, as well as to prepare for a visit by **Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** to India.

- ❖ The Emir's visit is part of **New Delhi's recent broader outreach to the Gulf region**, as Israel's bombardment of Gaza continues, with the effects of the **West Asian crisis now spreading to Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen**.
- ❖ Mr. Jaishankar was due to discuss **“political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, and people-to-people”** ties as well as **“regional and international issues of mutual interest”**.

## **India Qatar relations**

- ❖ The last few years witnessed a **decline in the trade volume between the two countries** due to the decline in the rates of gas and oil in the international market.
- ❖ India is considered to be the **fourth largest export destination for the State of Qatar**.
- ❖ India imports around **70% of its needs for the natural gas from Qatar**.

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- ❖ Qatar's key exports to India include **LNG, LPG, chemicals and petrochemicals, plastics, and aluminium articles.**
  - ❖ **India's key exports to Qatar include** cereals, copper articles, iron and steel articles, vegetables, plastic products, construction material, textiles & garments, etc.

## **Cultural exchange:**

- ❖ There is a regular flow of Indian artists performing in Qatar at events organised by community organizations affiliated to the **Indian Cultural Centre (ICC).**

## **Yoga:**

- ❖ India appreciated Qatar's support, as a co-sponsor, to its Resolution at the **United Nations General Assembly**, adopted unanimously with a record 177 co-sponsors, declaring 21 June as the **International Day of Yoga (IDY)**.

## Education:

- ❖ There are 14 Indian schools in Qatar, offering CBSE curricula to over 30,000 students, most of whom are the children of Indian nationals working in Qatar.

## Indian Community:

- ❖ Indian community is the largest expatriate group in Qatar .
- ❖ The remittances which the Indian expatriate community in Qatar send to India are **estimated to be around 750 million dollar per annum.**
- ❖ **Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea)** is the naval exercise between Indian and Qatar Navy.

# PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL

## Private Members' Bills get short shrift in both Houses of Parliament

**Sobhana K. Nair**

NEW DELHI

During the five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha that ended in 2024, only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours on them during the period, shows an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, an independent research body.

The Lower House spent 16.43 hours and the Upper House 20.78 hours on Private Members' Resolution.

In the two sessions of the 18th Lok Sabha, 0.15 hours was spent on such Bills, while the Rajya Sabha spent 0.62 hours. The Lower House spent 1.98 hours



Since 1970, Parliament has not passed any Private Members' Bill. PTI

on resolutions and the Upper House 2.09 hours.

The resolutions are declarations on which the House votes, while the Bills refer to proposed legislation. These are the only instruments available for

MPs' individual expression without being bound by their party's diktat.

They serve as an important medium for political messaging. For example in 1966, after the sudden death of then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Congress chose Indira Gandhi to replace him. H.V. Kamath, then an MP from the Praja Socialist Party, moved a Private Members' Bill to amend the Constitution to allow only Lok Sabha members to be eligible for the post of Prime Minister. Indira Gandhi was a member of the Rajya Sabha at the time.

The time spent on such Bills for the entire tenure of

the Lok Sabha is a minuscule fraction of the total hours both Houses sit in a single session. Till date, only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed and received assent. None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.

Jairam Ramesh, Chief Whip of the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, said an all-round indifference is responsible for the decline of this parliamentary tool. "Nobody takes it seriously. Very often I have found even the members whose Bills have been listed in the schedule do not show up," he said.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 10

### Context

- ❖ During the **five-year term of the 17th Lok Sabha** that ended in 2024, **only 9.08 hours were spent on Private Members' Bills**, while the **Rajya Sabha spent 27.01 hours** on them during the period, shows an analysis by PRS Legislative Research, an independent research body.

- ❖ Till date, **only 14 Private Members' Bills have been passed and received assent.** None have been passed in both Houses since 1970.
- ❖ The members of parliament has demanded for **consideration of private members' Bills on Wednesdays instead of Fridays.**
- ❖ They have also demanded that time allotted for **private member's bill consideration should not be cut short** unless there is an issue of national significance to be discussed in the House.
- ❖ It has been observed that most of the members of the parliament as well as Prime Minister are found absent on Fridays **which reduces significance and impact of presentation of private member's bill** in the house.

<b>PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL</b>		
<p>➤ The first such bill to be passed was the Muslim Wakf Bill in 1954 and the last was the Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill in 1969</p>	<p><b>Till now, only 14 private members' bills have been passed by Parliament</b></p>	<p>➤ In the last session of Parliament, Rajya Sabha passed the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill. Moved by DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, it sought equal rights with dignity for transgenders</p>
<b>13th Lok Sabha (1999-2004)</b>	<b>14th Lok Sabha (2004-2009)</b>	<b>15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014)</b>
343 private members' bills were introduced, of which 17 were discussed	328 such bills were introduced, of which 14 were discussed	372 such bills were introduced and 11 were discussed

## Private Member's Bill

- ❖ Any Member of Parliament (MP) **who is not a minister is referred to as a private member.**
- ❖ The purpose of private member's bill is to **draw the government's attention** to what individual MPs see as issues and gaps in the existing legal framework, which require legislative intervention.
- ❖ It reflects the stand of the **opposition party on public matters.**
- ❖ Its drafting is the responsibility of the member concerned.
- ❖ Its introduction in the House requires **one month's notice.**
- ❖ The government bills can be **introduced and discussed on any day, private member's bills can be introduced and discussed only on Fridays.**
- ❖ The last time a private member's bill was passed by both Houses was in 1970.
- ❖ It was the **Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968.**



- ❖ **14 private member's bills** – five of which were introduced in Rajya Sabha – have become law so far. Some other private member bills that have become laws include-
- ❖ **Proceedings of Legislature (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956**, in the Lok Sabha;
- ❖ **The Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964**, introduced by in the Lok Sabha and
- ❖ **The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1967** introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT			
Title	MP's Name	House	Date of Assent
1 The Muslim Wakfs Bill, 1952	Syed Mohammed Ahmed Kasmi	Lok Sabha	21.05.1954
2 The Indian Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1955	S C Samanta	Lok Sabha	06.04.1956
3 The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956	Feroze Gandhi	Lok Sabha	26.05.1956
4 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1953	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	01.09.1956
5 The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Bill, 1954	Kamledu Mati Shah	Lok Sabha	30.12.1956
6 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1957	Subhadra Joshi	Lok Sabha	26.12.1960
7 The Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	29.09.1964
8 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chand Sharma	Lok Sabha	20.12.1964
9 The Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968	Anand Narian Mullah	Lok Sabha	09.08.1970
10 The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill, 1954	Dr Raghubir Singh	Rajya Sabha	15.12.1956
11 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956	Dr Seeta Parmanand	Rajya Sabha	20.12.1956
12 The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Bill, 1960	Kailash Bihari Lall	Rajya Sabha	09.04.1960
13 The Marine Insurance Bill, 1959	MP Bhargava	Rajya Sabha	18.04.1963
14 The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chaman Lall	Rajya Sabha	07.09.1969



# Thank you

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