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Global Strategic Shifts: Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting and NATO Summit 2025

On 1st July 2025, the Quad Foreign Ministers from India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. convened in Washington, D.C., reaffirming their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific. The meeting launched the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to counter China's dominance, alongside maritime security and technology advancements. Condemning the Pahalgam terror attack, the Quad urged global action against terrorism. However, Trump's unpredictable trade policies, looming tariffs, and engagement with China and Pakistan challenge the group's cohesion. Plans for a leaders' summit in India highlight the Quad's delicate balancing act. On the other hand, the 2025 NATO Summit in The Hague, held on 24–25th June, marked a transformative shift as member states committed to a 5% of GDP defence spending target by 2035, driven by U.S. President Donald Trump's assertive diplomacy. This ambitious goal, allocating 3.5% to military capabilities and 1.5% to infrastructure and resilience, signals a return to Cold War-era investment levels, spurred by Russia's ongoing aggression in Ukraine and China's rising influence. Germany's pledge to reach 3.5% by 2029 highlights Europe's growing resolve to fortify its security framework, with Berlin positioning itself as a cornerstone of continental defence.

Op-Eds	Key Takeaways
2025 QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING	
Quad walks the tightrope as Trump looks East (to China) The Economic Times July 03, 2025	The Quad treads a delicate path as Trump's eastward focus complicates its mission to counter China. At their Washington meeting, Quad ministers condemned unilateral actions, implicitly targeting China, and launched a critical minerals initiative to reduce reliance on Chinese supply chains. However, Trump's deal-making with China, prioritising US jobs after tariff threats, risks undermining the Quad's cohesion. Plans for a leaders' summit persist, but US trade pressures, including a looming 9 July tariff deadline and a proposed bill targeting India's Russian oil trade, strain ties. Concurrent US-Pakistan engagement further tests the Quad's strategic unity.
Quad Goals Foreign Policy *By Rishi Iyengar and John Haltiwanger* July 03, 2025	The Quad launched the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to diversify supply chains dominated by China. However, tensions loom as Trump's unpredictable trade policies, including looming tariffs, strain relations with Quad members. India negotiates trade deals, Australia faces unexpected tariffs, and Japan cancels security talks over US defence spending demands. Despite these challenges, the Quad plans a leaders' summit in India, navigating Trump's erratic China strategy.
Quad leaders condemn Pahalgam terror attack, seek action against perpetrators India Today July 02, 2025	The Quad Foreign Ministers from India, the US, Japan, and Australia condemned the 22 April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 civilians. Meeting in Washington, D.C., they denounced all forms of terrorism, including cross-border attacks, and urged global cooperation to bring the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers to justice. The ministers expressed condolences to victims' families and called for UN member states to support investigations. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar highlighted India's counterterrorism efforts, including Operation Sindoor, which targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan, affirming India's right to defend against terrorism.
Rubio wants Quad to deliver results, starting with critical minerals Nikkei Asia July 02, 2025	The Quad nations—India, Australia, Japan, and the United States—have introduced a collaborative effort to strengthen critical mineral supply chains, driven by concerns over China's dominance in these resources essential for advanced technologies. In a joint statement issued late 2nd July, the Quad expressed "serious apprehension" about the "sudden disruptions and long-term dependability of critical supply chains, particularly for vital minerals."
2025 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting US department of State July 01, 2025	On 1 July 2025, the Quad Foreign Ministers from the US, Australia, India, and Japan met in Washington, D.C., for their 10th meeting, focusing on a free and open Indo-Pacific. They launched the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative to enhance economic security by diversifying critical mineral supply chains. Key initiatives include expanded maritime security cooperation, such as the Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission and the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA). The Quad also announced the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership, advancements in critical technologies like AI and semiconductors, and continued humanitarian support, including USD$30 million for Myanmar's earthquake relief.

Op-Eds	Key Takeaways
NATO 2025 SUMMIT	
NATO inches toward Cold War-level defence spending with new 5% target The Economic Times June 28, 2025	The conclusion of the Second World War in 1945 positioned the United States as a dominant global power, establishing the framework for Pax Americana—a US-led order founded on principles of liberal democracy, open markets, and security underpinned by American strength. This system maintained a delicate peace throughout the Cold War era. However, recent events, notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, along with a shifting global consensus, have revealed significant challenges to this order.
As NATO revises defence-spending goals, Germany arms up to position itself as the backbone of European security The Indian EXPRESS *By Gurjit Singh* June 27, 2025	As NATO establishes a new goal of 5% of GDP for defence spending by 2035, Germany has committed to increasing its own expenditure to 3.5% by 2029. This decision represents a notable step in Germany's defence strategy since reunification, reinforcing its role as a vital contributor to European security. The initiative reflects Germany's recognition of evolving global challenges and aligns with ongoing dialogue on shared responsibilities among allies. Furthermore, Berlin intends to enhance its capabilities by significantly increasing its defence investments, expanding military forces, and strengthening dual-use infrastructure to meet NATO's strategic demands.
Key takeaways from the Trump-dominated NATO summit NPR (news, podcast and radio) June 26, 2025	During the recent NATO Summit held in The Hague, member states reached a consensus to implement a significant revision of defence spending guidelines, setting an ambitious target of 5% of GDP by 2035. This plan allocates 3.5% of GDP towards military capabilities and 1.5% towards infrastructure and resilience initiatives. This strategic shift, advocated by President Trump, reflects a renewed commitment to strengthening collective defence, reminiscent of Cold War-era investment levels. While some nations are fully supportive, discussions continue regarding the best path forward for all members.
Trump gets king's treatment at NATO summit while Ukraine sits on the sidelines THE KYIV INDEPENDENT *By Martin Forunusek* June 26, 2025	At the 2025 NATO Summit in The Hague, the spotlight shifted to the adoption of a new 5% defence spending target, strongly advocated by President Trump, resulting in a noticeably diminished focus on Ukraine. While Trump signalled some support for providing Patriot missiles, no firm aid commitments were made. NATO reaffirmed its commitment to Article 5 and pledged continued support for Ukraine, though Kyiv received only limited mention in the summit's final communiqué. President Zelensky met with Trump and secured certain funding pledges, yet concerns persist over the enduring resolve of Western allies. Secretary General Rutte successfully engaged Trump, but Ukraine's prominence within NATO's strategic agenda appeared to wane.
NATO allies agreed to a 5 percent defence spending target in a low-drama summit. Now what? Atlantic Council June 25, 2025	During the NATO Summit held in The Hague on 24–25 June 2025, member leaders reached a historic agreement to raise defence spending to 5% of GDP by 2035. This decision marks a significant achievement for US President Donald Trump and reflects a notable shift in NATO's strategic framework. The summit reaffirmed the Alliance's unity and commitment to Article 5, while highlighting the importance of cooperative dialogue.