

■ Quad Foreign Ministers Reaffirm Commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific

In a display of solidarity and commitment to regional stability, the Foreign Ministers of the Quad member countries have once again expressed their unwavering support for a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient. At a recent meeting chaired by External Affairs Minister Shri S Jaishankar in New Delhi, the leaders of the Quad - the



United States, Japan, Australia, and India - reiterated their adherence to the principles of freedom, rule of law, sovereignty, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. The Quad Foreign Ministers expressed their concern over the escalating Ukraine-Russia conflict and the need for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in accordance with international law, including the UN Charter. Additionally, the Quad leaders condemned the launch of an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) by North Korea on 16th February 2023 as a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. They called for the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and urged North Korea to comply with its obligations under UNSCRs. The Quad leaders also strongly emphasised the importance of maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in Myanmar, expressing deep concern at the deteriorating situation in the country. They called for a complete cessation of violence and the release of all those arbitrarily detained.