



India Hosts Two 2+2 Ministerial Dialogues

In the month of November 2023 New Delhi hosted 2+2 Ministerial Dialogues with two of its comprehensive strategic partners who are also members of the Quad. India's External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister met with their counterparts from the U.S. on November 09-10 and Australia on November 20.

This was the fifth 2+2 dialogue with the Americans and the second 2+2 dialogue with the Australians. This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) reflects the key discussions, insights, and outcomes emerged during these two ministerial dialogues through the compilation of articles/news covered in print and electronic media.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>2+2 Dialogues <i>Rajaram Panda</i> The Statesman December 15, 2023</p>	<p>The ministerial dialogue with Australia focussed on enhancing collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region and the Quad. While the main focus of the dialogue with the U.S. was on a shared vision and a shared future, with Australia, besides trade and defence issues, it also included the commitment of both sides to assist the Palestinian civilians in Gaza with all possible humanitarian needs.</p>
<p>Analysing the Fifth Indo-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial <i>Pradeep S Mehta and Sohini Nayak</i> The Economic Times November 25, 2023</p>	<p>The Fifth 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, 2023, between India and the United States of America has successfully captured the curiosity of the global community, ratchetting the bilateral 'comprehensive global strategic partnership' between the two large democracies. One hopes that in future, this would become a 3+3 dialogue encompassing the trade ministers as well, as trade is intrinsically linked to both foreign policy and defence policy.</p>
<p>Joint Statement on the Fifth Annual India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue U.S. Department of Defence November 10, 2023</p>	<p>As natural and trusted partners with a shared commitment to advance democracy, human rights, and pluralism, and growing convergence of strategic interests, the U.S. and India reaffirmed their resolve to promote a resilient, rules-based international order with respect for international law, including the UN Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to ensure peace and prosperity for all.</p>

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<p>Outcomes of the November U.S.-India 2+2 Dialogue <i>Manjari Chatterjee Miller, Clare Harris and Sanjana Sharma</i> Council on Foreign Relations November 17, 2023</p>	<p>Though the 2+2 dialogue was anticipated to be a synergic forum, there were certain challenges forecasted for the meeting. For instance, the divergence between the positions of India and the U.S. on the conflict in Ukraine was predicted to be a point of contention during these talks. The ongoing India-Canada diplomatic rift was thought to present a further challenge.</p>
<p>2+2 India-U.S. Dialogue: Deepening of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership <i>S D Pradhan</i> The times of India November 16, 2023</p>	<p>Given the U.S. need for India in the Indo-Pacific region and India's need for better technology, the relations are likely to deepen further. However, India must continue to develop its technological capabilities as it will be unrealistic to expect the U.S. to share its top technology. This is true with all nations. All nations keep the best technology for their use.</p>
<p>A layered relationship Hindustan Times November 14, 2023</p>	<p>The India-U.S. 2+2 dialogue of defence and foreign ministers was an opportunity to take stock of a partnership that is growing closer and stronger amid serious geopolitical challenges arising from the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict. This year has been a landmark one for the India-U.S. relationship as high-profile visits from both sides have driven the ties underpinned by the glue of shared challenges and rapidly expanding collaboration in defence and technology.</p>
<p>Joint Statement: Second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Defence Ministry of Australia November 20, 2023</p>	<p>Both sides welcomed the positive and increased momentum of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP), which has brought benefit to both countries and helps to support the security and prosperity of our region. The Indian side appreciated Australia's strong support for India's G20 Presidency. The Ministers welcomed India's hosting of the Voice of Global South Summit to hear the ideas of the developing world in health, food security, affordable access to energy, climate finance and technologies and economic growth.</p>
<p>India-Australia Ties The 2+2 Dialogue <i>Dr D K Giri</i> Daily Excelsior December 03, 2023</p>	<p>It is pertinent to note the driving factors that bring Australia and India closer. India's strong ties with the U.S. since the Indo-U.S. Civil Agreement signed in 2008 helped Australia, as an ally of United States to embrace India. Second, China's border clashes with India and trade disputes with Australia bring them together. China, in fact, as a common threat to both India and Australia works as a catalyst in their bilateralism.</p>
<p>2+2 Dialogue: India, Australia agree to further strengthen ties to deal with 'exceptional challenges' The Tribune November 20, 2023</p>	<p>At the second India and Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, the two nations decided to further strengthen their strategic partnership to deal with "exceptional challenges" in the Indo-Pacific region and across the globe, with a special focus on defence cooperation. They also underscored the importance of further enhancing cooperation in information exchange and maritime domain awareness.</p>

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<p>Momentum in the India-Australia Relationship on Display With 2+2 Strategic Dialogue <i>Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan</i> The Diplomat November 27, 2023</p>	<p>The Australia-India relationship has grown tremendously in the last three years, especially considering that the two countries elevated their relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership only in June 2020. The inaugural round of 2+2 ministerial dialogues between the two countries took place in September 2021. That India engages in 2+2 ministerial-level strategic dialogues only with a handful of countries (the U.S. and Japan being two of them; not coincidentally they are also Quad partners) reflects the significance of Australia in India’s strategic calculations.</p>

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