



Biden to meet Quad leaders virtually on Friday

March 10, 2021



U.S. President Joe Biden will hold an online meeting on Friday with the leaders of Japan, India and Australia, the White House said on Tuesday, the first leader-level meeting of a four-country group seen as part of efforts to balance China's growing military and economic power.

1. U.S. President Joe Biden will meet virtually _____

2-1. A senior US administration official told Reuters: _____

2-2. to support _____

2-3. as well as the aim _____

3. They are also expected to discuss security in the Indo-Pacific, _____

4-1. White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Tuesday _____

4-2. on bolstering _____

"The Quad has met regularly at the working and minister level. However, Friday will be the first time that the quad is meeting at the leader level. That President Biden has made this one of his earliest multilateral engagements speaks to the importance we place on close cooperation with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific."

5-1. The U.S. is looking to strengthen ties _____

5-2. as China adopts _____

5-3. around Taiwan _____

6. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin _____

7-1. A senior U.S. official told Reuters _____

7-2. and lay the groundwork _____

[Vocabulary]

- **virtually**: using computers or the internet; using computer technology over the internet, and not involving people physically going somewhere:
 - *Nowadays all these things can be experienced virtually.*
 - *Building a relationship with new employees can be difficult when it's done virtually.*
- **senior**: with a high rank or position
 - *...senior officials in the Israeli government.*
 - *Television and radio needed many more women in senior jobs.*
- **administration official**: a person that is either hired or appointed to work for a particular unit of government
 - *He changed his position as a commissioned officer to become a public servant and an administration official.*
 - *The security of the merchandise was guaranteed by the administration officials.*
- **financial agreement**: a written agreement or contract between two parties that sets out how the parties would like to divide their financial resources if the relationship comes to an end.
- **manufacture**: to make goods in large quantities in a factory
 - *The first three models are being manufactured at the factory in Ashton-under-Lyne.*
 - *We import foreign manufactured goods.*
- **backlog**: an amount of work or other things that you should already have done or dealt with; a number of things which have not yet been done but which need to be done.
 - *There is a backlog of repairs and maintenance in schools.*
 - *We're working weekends in order to clear a backlog of orders.*
- **Indo-Pacific**: The Indo-Pacific seas or ocean
 - *Indo-Pacific coral reefs*
 - *They live in coral reefs of the tropical Indo-Pacific.*
- **Jen Psaki**: (born December 1, 1978) an American political advisor and the 34th and current White House press secretary
- **Quad**: The **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue** (abbr. **QSD**, also known as the **Quad**) is an informal strategic forum between Australia, India, Japan and the United States and that is maintained by semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills between member countries.

- **highlight:** to describe something in a way that makes people notice it and think about it
 - *Two events have highlighted the tensions in recent days.*
 - *The case highlights the need for adequate controls on such experiments.*
- **bolster:** to make something stronger or more effective
 - *Hopes of an early cut in interest rates bolstered confidence.*
 - *...a number of measures intended to bolster morale.*
- **working level:** field level
 - *We still have some remaining work that has to be done at the working level.*
 - *No agreement was reached between the two leaders in Hanoi even after working-level negotiations.*
- **multilateral:** involving three or more groups, especially the governments of three or more countries
 - *A multilateral solution to certain trade problems will be slow in coming.*
 - *Many want to abandon the multilateral trade talks.*
- **assertive:** confidently aggressive; behaving in a confident way in which you are quick to express your opinions and feelings
 - *We need to be bold and assertive.*
 - *Britain today is less assertive and confident.*
- **South China Sea:** a tropical arm of the Pacific Ocean near southeastern Asia subject to frequent typhoons
 - *The power balance in the South China Sea also has an enormous impact on security in Japan's surrounding waters, namely the East China Sea and Philippine Sea.*
 - *The Philippines plans to rename the South China Sea as "West Philippine Sea".*
- **Antony Blinken:** 71st United States Secretary of State: Incumbent; Assumed office January 26, 2021 ◆ (born April 16, 1962) is an American government official and diplomat serving as the 71st United States secretary of state since January 26, 2021. He previously served as deputy national security advisor from 2013 to 2015 and deputy secretary of state from 2015 to 2017 under President Barack Obama.
- **Lloyd Austin:** **Lloyd James Austin III** (born August 8, 1953) is a former United States Army four-star general currently serving as the 28th United States secretary of defense since January 22, 2021. He is the first African American to serve as the United States secretary of defense. Austin previously served as the 12th commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM) from 2013 to 2016.
- **high-profile:** often seen in public, mentioned in newspapers, or appearing on television
 - *...the high-profile reception being given to the president.*
 - *He resigned from a high-profile job as economic adviser to the president.*

□ **groundwork**: work that you do in order to prepare for something; The groundwork for something is the early work on it which forms the basis for further work

- *Yesterday's meeting was to lay the groundwork for the task ahead.*
- *These courses provide the groundwork of statistical theory.*

□ **in-person**: an appearance carried out personally in someone else's physical presence

- *He carried out the negotiations in person.*
- *You must apply for the license in person.*