



Quadrilateral Dialogue: China, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan

Why in News

Recently, China convened a **quadrilateral dialogue** with the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Nepal and Pakistan.

Key Points

▪ Four-point Plan:

- China proposed a **four-point plan** to **contain the [Covid-19 pandemic](#), boost economic recovery** and resumption of the **[Belt and Road Initiative \(BRI\)](#)** infrastructure projects.
- The **four-point plan included**:
 - To **share consensus** in fighting the pandemic as good neighbours.
 - To **learn from China and Pakistan's joint prevention and control model** of the pandemic.
 - To look at opening up **green channels** as soon as possible by the four countries.
 - **Green channel is the route** followed in passing through customs in an airport, etc by passengers claiming to have no dutiable goods to declare.
 - **China's expertise to the three countries in fighting Covid-19**. It also included the vaccines that are being developed, to be shared with the three countries.
- Pakistan, Nepal and Afghanistan **actively supported** the four-point cooperation initiative proposed by China.

▪ Other Discussed Issues:

- China also proposed extending the **[China-Pakistan Economic Corridor \(CPEC\)](#)** to Afghanistan, as well as taking forward an economic corridor plan with Nepal, called the **[Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network](#)**.
- All the four countries **supported the maintenance of multilateralism**, strengthened the role of the **[World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#)**, backed the **realisation of a ceasefire in Afghanistan** during the epidemic, and the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

▪ Concerns for India:

- China asked the three countries at the quadrilateral meet to **take advantage of their geography, strengthen exchanges and connectivity** between the four countries and central Asian countries, and **safeguard regional peace and stability**.
- The remarks assume significance as it came amid the **[border tensions between India and China](#)**.
- The quadrilateral meeting also came at a time of **deepening concerns over the India-Nepal relationship** due to border disputes at **[Kalapani region](#)**.
 - Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Oli also accused India of trying to destabilize his

government.

Way Forward

- China is making concrete strategic inroads in South Asia which will necessarily impact India's interests. Experts are of the opinion that attempting to rope in three members of the [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#) grouping, without including India, is a provocative move by China and should be seen as a message.

[Source: TH](#)

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