Quad: first joint maritime patrol exercise in 2027

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News

The joint statement of the Quad Leaders' Summit held in Manila, capital of the Philippines, on 17 November 2026 said the maritime patrol aircraft of the four countries will fly together in a maritime exercise in 2027. P-8 aircraft of India, the US and Australia and Japan's P-3C will take part; it is the first such exercise in a Quad context. Alongside, a new 'Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration' was announced to improve information sharing and maritime domain awareness. The inaugural 'Quad Business Leaders' Forum', announced by India and bringing together business leaders, officials and policy experts of the four countries, will be held in early 2027. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi attended. The leaders opposed unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion and voiced 'grave concerns about economic coercion, including through arbitrary export restrictions'. The statement also covered trusted AI access, undersea cable connectivity and cyber-security cooperation.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Summit	Quad Leaders' Summit, Manila, 17 Nov 2026
Exercise	First maritime patrol-aircraft exercise under the Quad – 2027

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Aircraft	P-8 (India, US, Australia); P-3C (Japan)
New initiative	Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration
Business forum	First Quad Business Leaders' Forum – India's initiative; early 2027
Leaders	Modi, Trump, Albanese, Takaichi
Previous summit	Wilmington, USA – 2024
Members	India, USA, Japan, Australia

Background

- The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) is an informal grouping of four democracies – India, the US, Japan and Australia. It has no secretariat and is not a treaty-based military alliance. Its shared goal is a 'free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific'.
- India's position: Japan (1960 security treaty) and Australia (1951 ANZUS) are US treaty allies, while India stays outside military alliances and follows 'strategic autonomy'. In November 2019, at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, India announced the seven-pillar Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).
- Defence/science: the P-8 is derived from the Boeing 737 Next Generation airliner and performs anti-submarine, anti-surface and intelligence-surveillance missions. The Indian Navy has flown its P-8I version since 2013. Japan's P-3C 'Orion' carries a detector that senses the magnetic anomaly of submarines.
- Maritime domain awareness: the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) opened at Gurugram in December 2018 and shares merchant-shipping data with partner nations. Although all four navies have taken part in Exercise Malabar since 2020, Malabar is not an official Quad activity.

Tamil Nadu link: In August 2022 the US Navy's 'USNS Charles Drew' was repaired at L&T's Kattupalli shipyard in Tiruvallur district – the first time a US Navy ship was repaired at an Indian shipyard (Defence Ministry – PIB). It shows the role of Tamil Nadu's shipyards in Quad maritime cooperation.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The joint statement of the Quad Leaders' Summit held in Manila, capital of the Philippines, on 17 November 2026 said the maritime patrol aircraft of the four countries will fly together in a maritime exercise in 2027.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Summit: Quad Leaders' Summit, Manila, 17 Nov 2026; Exercise: First maritime patrol-aircraft exercise under the Quad – 2027; Aircraft: P-8 (India, US, Australia); P-3C (Japan); New initiative: Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration.

What is the background to this news?

The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) is an informal grouping of four democracies – India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The P-8 maritime patrol aircraft, set to fly in the Quad exercise, is derived from which civilian airliner?

A) Airbus A320

B) Boeing 777

C) Boeing 737

D) Embraer E190

Answer: C – Explanation: Boeing 737 Next Generation. The Indian Navy has flown the P-8I version since 2013; Japan will field its P-3C.

2. Which was the first US Navy ship to be repaired in India, at L&T's Kattupalli shipyard near Chennai in 2022?

A) USNS Mercy

B) USS Nimitz

C) USS Gerald R. Ford

D) USNS Charles Drew

Answer: D – Explanation: USNS Charles Drew (August 2022), a first for Indian shipyards. It showed Tamil Nadu's role in India–US maritime cooperation.

3. Of the three Quad partners of the United States, which one is NOT a formal US treaty ally?

A) India

B) Japan

C) Australia

D) None of these

Answer: A – Explanation: India, which follows 'strategic autonomy'. Japan (1960 security treaty) and Australia (1951 ANZUS) are US treaty allies.

4. At which forum did India announce its Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2019?

A) G20, Osaka

B) East Asia Summit

C) Shangri-La Dialogue

D) UN General Assembly

Answer: B – Explanation: East Asia Summit, Bangkok (Nov 2019); it has seven pillars incl. maritime security. Modi set out India's Indo-Pacific vision at Shangri-La in 2018.

5. Where is the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) located?

A) Kochi

B) Gurugram

C) Visakhapatnam

D) Sri Vijaya Puram

Answer: B – Explanation: Gurugram (Dec 2018). It shares shipping data with partners to build maritime domain awareness – the aim of the Quad's new initiative too.

Sources: White House – Quad Leaders' Summit Joint Press Release; News On AIR; ThePrint (ANI); PIB (MoD); MEA. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.