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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Date:** 13 November 2023

## INDO-PACIFIC MARITIME DOMAIN AWARENESS (IPMDA) INITIATIVE

*This article covers "Daily Current Affairs", and the topic details "Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative". This topic has relevance in the "International Relations" section of the UPSC CSE exam.*

### **For Prelims:**

What is the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative?

What is QUAD?

### **For Mains:**

GS2: International Relations

### **Why in the news?**

Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar recently stated that the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative, introduced by the Quad grouping, reflects our dedication to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

### **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative**

- The IPMDA initiative is a **technology and training initiative to enhance maritime domain awareness** in the Indo-Pacific region and **increase transparency to its critical waterways**.
- It was announced by the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)** grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan, and the United States, at the **Tokyo summit in May 2022**.

### **Aims:**

- Establish a **comprehensive system** for monitoring and securing maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific.
- Ensure the **safety of critical sea lines of communication**
- Promote **cooperation** among like-minded nations in the region

### **Benefits of the IPMDA :**

- **Maritime domain awareness and Tracking of "dark shipping":**
  - Dark shipping refers to maritime vessels that have turned off their Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponders, making them difficult to track.
  - The IPMDA initiative will help to track dark shipping and other tactical-level activities, such as rendezvous at sea, which can be used for illicit purposes.
- **Improved response to climate and humanitarian events:**

- The IPMDA initiative will provide partners with a better understanding of maritime activities in their waters, which will help them to better respond to climate and humanitarian events, such as natural disasters and search and rescue operations.
- **Increased transparency:**
- The initiative is designed to increase transparency in the Indo-Pacific maritime domain, which will help to reduce the risk of misunderstandings and miscalculations between the nations.

### **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**

- The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.
- It was initiated in 2007 and revived in 2017.
- The Quad is not a formal alliance but a significant forum for dialogue and cooperation on various security issues.

### **Objectives of the Quad**

- Promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region
- Uphold the rules-based international order
- Cooperate on security issues such as maritime security, counter-terrorism, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- Promote free and open trade and investment in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **Significance of Quad:**

- **Regional Security:**
- The Quad promotes a free, open, prosperous Indo-Pacific region.
- It serves as a counterbalance to the increasing assertiveness of China in the region, contributing to regional security and stability.
- **Strategic Cooperation:**
- As an inter-governmental security forum, the Quad facilitates strategic cooperation and dialogue among its member countries – the United States, India, Australia, and Japan.
- This collaboration enables sharing of information, joint military exercises, and discussions on maritime security and economic resilience.
- **Economic and Infrastructure Development:**
- The Quad members are committed to enhancing connectivity, infrastructure development, and economic resilience cooperation.
- This can have a significant impact on regional economic development and prosperity.
- **Indo-Pacific Influence:**
- The Quad represents a concerted effort by democratic nations to uphold the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and respect for international law in the Indo-Pacific region.
- This underscores the shared commitment to regional influence and the promotion of common values.
- **Response to China:**
- The revival of the Quad in 2017 and its subsequent activities have been viewed as a response to China's expanding economic and military power.

**Sources:**

Quad's IPMDA a proof of our commitment to a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific: Navy Chief – The Hindu

**Q1. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) Initiative, consider the following statements:**

1. IPMDA initiative is an initiative to enhance maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. It was announced by the G-20 grouping at the New Delhi Summit 2023.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q2. Consider the following:**

1. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is a strategic dialogue between Australia, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
2. The Quad is not a formal alliance or a treaty-based organisation.
3. The Quad was initiated in 2007 as a response to China's expanding economic and military power.

**How many of the abovementioned statements are correct?**

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Answer: (a)**

**Q3. Evaluate the strategic and geopolitical implications of India's participation in the Quad grouping, with a focus on its impact on national security.**

**Gaurav**