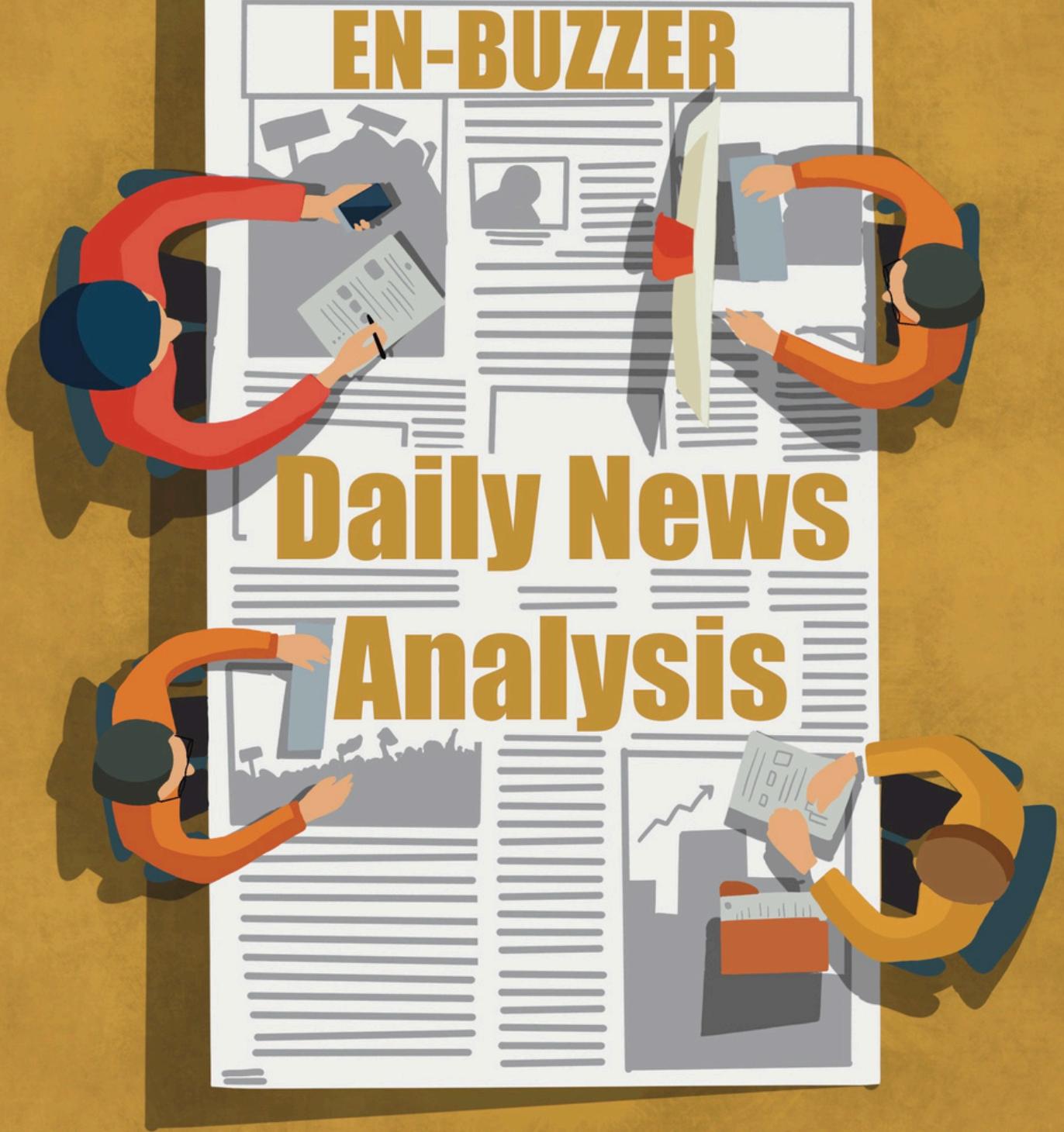




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**SUNDAY, 7th DECEMBER 2025**

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## 1. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)

- **Prelims** - Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations (Regional Grouping)

### Why in the news?

- The Quad grouping held an official-level counterterrorism dialogue in New Delhi

### Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)

- **What is it?** : QUAD is an informal group of **India, the US, Japan and Australia**.
- **Aim**: It is a strategic dialogue with the objective **to ensure a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific**.
- **Common Values Upheld by QUAD**
  - ➔ Political democracies
  - ➔ Market economies
  - ➔ Pluralistic societies
- **Primary Objectives**
  - ➔ Maritime security,
  - ➔ Combating the Covid-19 crisis, especially vis-à-vis vaccine diplomacy,
  - ➔ Addressing the risks of climate change,
  - ➔ Creating an ecosystem for investment in the region and
  - ➔ Boosting technological innovation.
- **Successes**
  - ➔ **Strategic Alignment**: Promotes a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) to counter China's influence.
  - ➔ **Defense Cooperation**: Joint military **exercises like Malabar** and focus on maritime security.
  - ➔ **Technological Collaboration**: Focus on emerging technologies like 5G, AI, and cybersecurity.
  - ➔ **COVID-19 Partnership**: QUAD Vaccine Initiative provided vaccines to Indo-Pacific nations.
  - ➔ **Climate and Disaster Management**: Joint initiatives for clean energy, climate resilience, and disaster response.

→ **Economic Resilience:** Strengthened regional supply chains and infrastructure development.

- **Failures**

- **Divergent Priorities:** Member nations have differing security and strategic concerns.
- **Informal Structure:** No institutional framework or binding commitments.
- **Anti-China Perception:** Seen as a containment strategy, leading to heightened tensions.
- **Limited Regional Impact:** Struggles to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- **Uneven Contributions:** Imbalances in member nations' economic and military capabilities.
- **Domestic Political Challenges:** Changes in leadership or policies may affect commitment.

- **Way Forward**

- **Institutional Strengthening:** Create a formal QUAD Secretariat (example: like NATO's Brussels HQ) to ensure continuity and long-term coordination.
- **Defence & Security Cooperation:** Expand naval exercises such as Malabar to include more complex anti-submarine and cyber-warfare drills.
- **Technology & Supply Chain Resilience:** Develop secure semiconductor and critical-mineral supply chains (example: India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies – iCET).
- **Health & Pandemic Preparedness:** Scale up the QUAD Vaccine Partnership, replicating India-US collaboration that delivered vaccines to Indo-Pacific countries.
- **Climate & Infrastructure Collaboration:** Promote quality infrastructure via **Blue Dot Network (BDN)** as a transparent alternative to BRI projects.
- **Strategic Communication & Consistency:** Maintain unified messaging on Indo-Pacific security (example: joint QUAD Leaders' Statements asserting FOIP vision).

## 2. Ethiopia's Afar Depression

- **Prelims** - Ethiopia's Afar Depression
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Geography (Geomorphology)

### Why in the news?

- Scientists predict that Africa's Afar region could become Earth's next ocean basin.

### Ethiopia's Afar Depression

- **Other Name:** Danakil Depression or Afar Triangle.
- **Location:** Located in northeastern Ethiopia, extending into Djibouti and Eritrea.
- **Fact:** One of the lowest, hottest, and most tectonically active regions on Earth.
- **Geomorphological Setting**
  - **Location:** At the triple junction where three tectonic plates meet: the **African (Nubian) Plate, the Somali Plate, and the Arabian Plate.**
  - **Elevation:** ~125 meters below sea level at its lowest point.
  - **Known For**
    - ★ Volcanoes (Erta Ale)
    - ★ Hydrothermal fields (Dallol)
    - ★ Salt flats and rift valleys
    - ★ Active rifting & seafloor spreading on land
  - **Part of:** East African Rift Valley

### 3. Exercise Harimau Shakti - 2025

- **Prelims** - Exercise Harimau Shakti - 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations (Bilateral Relations)

#### Why in the news?

- The Fifth edition of “Exercise Harimau Shakti -2025” commenced in Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

#### Exercise Harimau Shakti - 2025

- **What is it?**: It is a **bilateral joint military exercise** between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army, initiated in 2012.
- **Aim**: To enhance interoperability and defence cooperation through sub-conventional operations under UN Chapter VII mandate.
- **Focus Area**
  - Focus in desert and semi - desert warfare.
  - The exercise rehearses counter-terrorist operations including cordon-and-search, search-and-destroy, heliborne insertions, helipad security, and casualty evacuation drills.
  - It incorporates Army Martial Arts Routine (AMAR), combat reflex shooting, and yoga to build endurance and share best practices for UN peacekeeping and peace enforcement.

#### Other Exercises Between India and Malaysia:

- **Exercise Udara Shakti**: Bilateral air force exercise.
- **Exercise Samudra Laksamana**: Bilateral naval exercise.

## 4. Prelims Pointers

- **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**

- An Initial Public Offering (IPO) is the process where a private company sells its shares to the public for the first time, transitioning it into a publicly traded entity listed on a stock exchange.
- This allows the company to raise equity capital from institutional and retail investors while providing liquidity to existing shareholders like founders or venture capitalists.

- **Goldilocks Economy**

- A Goldilocks economy describes an ideal economic state that is "just right"—neither too hot (overheating with high inflation) nor too cold (recessionary with contraction)—featuring steady growth, low inflation, and low unemployment.