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7 DECEMBER 2025

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Daily News Analysis

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SUNDAY, 7th DECEMBER 2025

Table of Contents

1. Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD).....	2
2. Ethiopia's Afar Depression.....	4
3. Exercise Harimau Shakti - 2025.....	5
4. Prelims Pointers.....	6





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.