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1. 26th edition of the Malabar naval exercise begins off the Japanese island of Yokosuka (Nov. 9, 2022)

Indian warships in Japan's Yokosuka island for Malabar 2022

The **27th Malabar naval exercise 2022** featuring the navies of all four [Quad](#) countries India, the US, Australia and Japan began on 9 November 2022 off the **Yokosuka island** of Japan near the East China Sea.

Indian Naval ships **INS Shivalik** and **INS Kamorta** are participating in the 10-day exercise being hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). The Japanese Navy is called the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

The Indian Naval chief R Hari Kumar witnessed the opening ceremony of the Malabar exercise.

The opening ceremony of the exercise was attended by Commander of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Commander in Chief of Self Defense Fleet of Japanese Navy Vice Admiral Yuasa Hideki, Commander of US Navy's Seventh Fleet Vice Admiral Karl Thomas and Commander of Australian Fleet Rear Admiral Jonathan Earley.

Background of the Malabar Naval Exercise

The first Malabar exercise was held between the Indian and the US Navy along the Malabar Coast in Arabian Sea in **1992**.

Japan became the permanent partner of the exercise from 2015 onwards.

Australia participated for the first time in 2007 and again in 2020 and 2021.

The 2021 exercise between the four navies was held in the Philippines Sea and also in the Bay of Bengal.

2. Quad foreign minister sign an agreement to operationalise Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief at New York (Sept. 23, 2022)

The foreign ministers of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) signed an agreement in New York, United States on 23 September 2022 to operationalise Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in the Indo-Pacific area.

Foreign ministers of India([S.Jaishanker](#)), Australia(**Penny Wong**), United States(**Anthony Blinken**) and Japan(**Hayashi Yoshimasa**) signed the agreement to operationalise, which was announced by the Quad Leaders in Tokyo on 24 May 2022, as part of a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.

Under the HADR, the member countries will coordinate their disaster response operations in the region with other National and International agencies, private ,non-governmental organisations .

Next Quad foreign minister's meeting to be held in New Delhi

They also agreed to hold the next foreign minister's meeting of the Quad in India in early 2023.

The concept of QUAD was given by **Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** in 2007 for maritime cooperation between these countries after the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster in 2004.

IMPORTANT FACTS -***Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) :***

- It is a group of Australia, India, Japan and the United States to promote cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The first in person summit meeting of the Quad leaders was in **Washington, United States** in 2021.
- The second in person summit meeting was held in **May 2022 in Japan**
- The third summit meeting will be held in **Australia in 2023**.