QUAD Leaders' Summit Likely in Manila: Economic and Strategic Security Agenda

Published: 14 November 2026 Mains: international



November 2026: The next Quad leaders' summit (India, US, Japan, Australia) is expected this month in Manila, Philippines. It would be the first Quad leaders' summit since the Trump administration's return, with economic and strategic security at the centre of the agenda.

The Quad's rhythm in 2026

Three foreign ministers' meetings: Quad foreign ministers met this year in New Delhi, Manila and Atlanta - each tying the 'free and open Indo-Pacific' agenda to economic security.

Concrete announcements: $85 million in AI cooperation and a $10 million critical minerals initiative during the year; a Quad Business Leaders' Forum was also formed to bring in the private sector.

Why Manila matters: Hosting in the Philippines spotlights the Quad's focus on South China Sea disputes; analysts see the group's 'rhythm' returning.

Significance for India

Strategic balance: The Quad is central to India's Indo-Pacific policy - cooperation on technology, minerals and maritime security amid China's growing pressure.

Economic-security agenda: Critical minerals, AI and supply-chain security tie directly into India's self-reliance strategy.

Why it matters for exams

Prelims facts: Quad members, the venues of 2026 foreign ministers' meetings, the Manila summit and the critical minerals/AI initiatives.

Mains theme: The Quad's evolution and India's multi-alignment policy.

Quiz: Test your knowledge

Q1: Consider the following statements about the Quad: 1. It includes India, the US, Japan and Australia. 2. In 2026 its foreign ministers met in New Delhi, Manila and Atlanta. 3. It is a formal military alliance. How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer and explanation: (b) Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong - the Quad is a strategic dialogue/cooperation platform, not a formal military alliance.

Q2: Where is the next Quad leaders' summit (November 2026) expected?

(a) New Delhi(b) Tokyo(c) Manila(d) Canberra

Answer and explanation: (c) Manila, the capital of the Philippines - the first leaders' summit since the Trump administration's return.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

In short: The next Quad leaders' summit is expected in Manila in November 2026 - the first since Trump's return; economic-strategic security tops the agenda.

Question: Which countries are in the Quad?

India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Question: What were the Quad's key initiatives in 2026?

$85 million AI cooperation, a $10 million critical minerals initiative, and the Quad Business Leaders' Forum.

Question: Why is the Manila summit special?

It is the first leaders' summit since the Trump administration's return; the Philippines' hosting is significant in the South China Sea context.

Sources:

- The Diplomat - From New Delhi to Manila to Atlanta: the Quad finds its rhythm in 2026
- Nikkei Asia - Quad leaders eye Manila meeting on economic, strategic security

Download this article: PDF

PCSMANTRA.COM