# International Relations · GS - II

**“IPMDA (Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness) bridges the gap between India’s SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and the Quad’s collective Indo-Pacific strategy.” Make a critical assessment of the statement focusing on IPMDA.**

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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
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| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Maritime domain awareness, SAGAR, Quad, near-real-time data, dark vessels, IUU fishing, HADR, Information Fusion Centre-IOR, capacity building, regional partners, strategic limitations**

## Model Answer

The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), launched by the Quad in 2022, provides partners with near-real-time and cost-effective maritime information, thereby connecting India's regional maritime vision with wider Quad cooperation.

For India, IPMDA complements SAGAR by strengthening maritime awareness, maritime security, disaster response and capacity building across the Indian Ocean. Its linkage with the Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region in Gurugram is particularly significant for developing a common maritime picture. The initiative has also expanded access to dark-vessel data among more than two dozen countries, supporting action against unlawful maritime activities and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

However, IPMDA is primarily an information-sharing and capacity-building mechanism rather than a collective military alliance. Differences in technological capabilities, data-sharing arrangements, sovereignty concerns and varying strategic priorities among partner states may limit its effectiveness.

Nevertheless, by combining technology, information sharing and capacity building with India's inclusive regional approach, IPMDA provides a practical bridge between SAGAR and Quad's Indo-Pacific objectives.

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