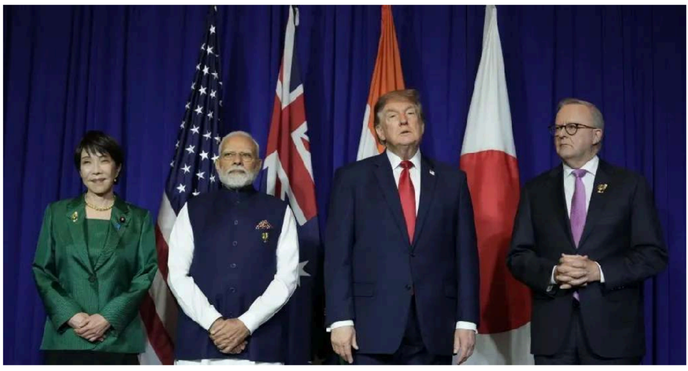
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PM Modi by his side, Trump calls him 'very tough' at Quad Summit in Manila



CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 US President Donald Trump on Tuesday called his Quad counterparts phenomenal people and close friends, singling out Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi for their resolve.

Speaking to reporters alongside Modi, Takaichi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Trump said his long personal equations with the three leaders would help the talks.

"We have a great relationship with these people and these countries, and we have right from the beginning," Trump said. "I've been with all three of them for a long time, and they're phenomenal people, and they're friends of mine, so that helps."

Interrupting a follow-up question, he added with a smile: "And by the way, he's a very tough man, just in case," pointing to Modi. "And she may be even tougher. And we're okay, too," he said, gesturing towards Takaichi.

The Manila meeting is the first in-person Quad leaders' summit since 2024, held on the sidelines of the 49th ASEAN Summit, as the four Indo-Pacific nations seek closer coordination on security and economic resilience.

Speaking to reporters, Trump underlined joint progress on supply chains.