





Subject - International Relations

#### Date 28th March 2023

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### **AUKUS Agreement**

#### CEPA

- It was a new three-way strategic defence alliance between Australia, the UK and US, to build a class of nuclear-propelled submarines.
- It was also aimed to work together in the Indo-Pacific region, where the rise of China is seen as an increasing threat and develop wider technologies.
- The deal marks the first time the US has shared nuclear propulsion technology with an ally apart from the UK.
- It is a trilateral security collaboration for the Indo-Pacific signed in 2021 by Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS).
- The main feature of this agreement is the transfer of US nuclear submarine advancements to Australia.
- Its Indo-Pacific orientation positions it as a counter-alliance to China's assertive behaviour in the South China Sea.
- It entails a new framework of meetings and engagements between the three nations, as well as cross-industry collaboration on new innovations (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities).
- The United States, United Kingdom, and Australia recently revealed details of their plan to build a new fleet of nuclearpowered submarines to counter China's impact in the Indo-Pacific region.

• Under the AUKUS treaty, Australia will acquire a minimum of three nuclear-powered submarines from the United States.

Sleepy Classes IAS Awakening Toppers

- The AUKUS agreement, which includes Australia procuring nuclear-powered submarines with the assistance of the United States and the United Kingdom, is being lauded and criticised at the same time.
- It is seen as a way of bolstering deterrence and cohesion in the Indo-Pacific region.
- China, on the other hand, sees it as an adverse alliance that the US is forming in the region, along with the Quadrilateral forum or the Quad.
- This agreement will have a number of strategic ramifications for Asia, including India.
- But nevertheless, it also presents a chance for India to forge a distinct set of relationships with the US and its partners.

#### **Concerns Over AUKUS Grouping**

- The AUKUS collaboration has been viewed as a threat to the region's security and stability, particularly by China.
- The agreement includes the sharing of sensitive defence technologies and knowledge, which has raised concerns about the initiative's implications on the region's strategic balance.

#### **Diplomatic Impact**

- The AUKUS partnership has also been perceived as a diplomatic debacle for nations like India, Japan, and South Korea, which have conventionally been viewed as key regional partners of the US.
- These countries are concerned that the new alliance will marginalise the traditional partners and diminish their position in the area.



## Implication of Nuclear Technology Transfer

- The exchange of nuclear-powered submarine technological capabilities to Australia under the AUKUS partnership has raised concerns about the impact on global non-proliferation initiatives.
- Some experts are concerned that this action will set precedent and inspire other nations to explore nuclear capabilities

# **Counter to AUKUS**

- According to China, the new <u>Global</u> <u>Security Initiative</u> will work against the Cold War Mentality.
- It will counter the US Indo-Pacific Strategy, Quad (India, US, Australia and Japan grouping) and AUKUS (Australia, UK and US).
- It Aims to Establish an **Asian security model** that substitutes:
  - $\circ$  Confrontation
  - $\circ$  Coalition
  - Zero-sum framework with **Communication, Collaboration, and Win-Win outcomes**.



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