



PRIME NEWS ANALYSIS

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AUKUS – Geo-Political Impact

Recently a new trilateral security partnership was announced between Australia, UK and the USA for Indo Pacific. This new partnership is known as AUKUS and the major highlight of this arrangement is the sharing of US nuclear submarine technology with Australia and thereby giving it a nuclear heft in the Pacific where China has been particularly aggressive.

The need of the new grouping

- In recent years, Beijing has been accused of raising tensions in disputed territories such as the South China Sea.
- Western nations have been wary of China's infrastructure investment on Pacific islands, and have also criticized China's trade sanctions against countries like Australia.
- In the press conference, while China was not mentioned directly, the three leaders referred repeatedly to regional security concerns which they said had "grown significantly".

About the AUKUS Pact:

- Under the AUKUS alliance, the three nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science and technology,
- Under the first major initiative of AUKUS, Australia would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines with the help of the US and the UK.

Reaction of European allies

- European allies have not been happy about this new trilateral partnership.
- France has even ordered the recall of its ambassadors to Washington and Canberra.
- The European Union has also announced its own strategy to boost political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific.

Impact on Indo-Pacific Realm/QUAD

- There is concern that AUKUS could leave a deep scar and weaken the international coalition in the Indo-Pacific.
- It is not clear whether the QUAD and AUKUS will reinforce each other or remain mutually exclusive.

Impact on India?

India and Japan are excluded in the grouping. QUAD is considered to be the important step for India for her Indo-Pacific strategy. There is a concern whether the new grouping may weaken the QUAD and also concerned about split in Indo-Pacific strategy.