



AUKUS Grouping

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Why in News

Recently, the US has announced a **new trilateral security partnership for the Indo-Pacific, between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS).**

The major highlight of this arrangement is the **sharing of US nuclear submarine technology to Australia.**

Key Points

- **Focusing on Indo-Pacific:** The security grouping AUKUS will focus on advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.
 - Though the US has explicitly denied that the grouping is targeted against China, its Indo-pacific orientation makes it an alliance against China's assertive actions in the **South China Sea**.
 - The three countries alongside Canada and New Zealand already share extensive intelligence through the **Five Eyes alliance**.
- **Transferring Nuclear Submarines to Australia:** As part of this initiative, Australia will acquire nuclear-powered submarines with help from the UK and the US.
 - This step is significant because the **US has only shared nuclear submarine technology once before**, and it started in **1958 with Great Britain**.
 - Nuclear submarines that are **quieter** than their conventional counterparts but also more capable of being **deployed for longer periods** and **needing to surface less frequently**.
 - Alongside India's stated intent to acquire more nuclear-powered submarines, it will amount to a step-change increase in the **Quad's undersea and anti-submarine warfare capabilities**.
 - Quad is a grouping of India, USA, Australia and Japan.
 - **Australia is now set to join an elite group of only six countries** – India, the US, the UK, France, Russia and China – that operate nuclear-powered submarines. It will also be the **only country to have such submarines without having a civilian nuclear power industry**.

- **Multi-Sectoral Cooperation:** AUKUS will also involve a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries, as well as cooperation across **emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies** and undersea capabilities).

Five Eyes Alliance

- The Five Eyes alliance is an **intelligence-sharing arrangement** between five English-speaking democracies: **the US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.**
- The alliance was created during the **Cold War (1946-1991)** that was fought between the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as their respective allies.
- The alliance was needed to share sensitive information regarding their adversaries on all possible fronts available.
- It is often described as the **world's most successful intelligence alliance.**

Source: TH