# International Relations · GS - II

**The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China’s ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strengths and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.**

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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
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| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**AUKUS, Australia, United Kingdom, United States, Indo-Pacific, nuclear-powered submarines, advanced defence technology, China’s strategic rise, Quad, ASEAN centrality, regional security, technology sharing, arms race, strategic partnerships.**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Announced in September 2021, AUKUS is a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. It aims to strengthen defence capabilities and strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

### Strengths of AUKUS

- **Advanced defence capabilities:** The partnership initially prioritised helping Australia acquire conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines.
- **Technology sharing:** Cooperation includes advanced capabilities such as cyber technologies, artificial intelligence and undersea systems.
- **Military interoperability:** Joint planning, training and technology integration can strengthen collective deterrence.

- **Industrial cooperation:** Defence research, infrastructure and supply-chain partnerships can deepen long-term strategic ties.
- **Deterrence:** Enhanced maritime capabilities may complicate military coercion in the Indo-Pacific.

**Will It Supersede Existing Partnerships?**

AUKUS is unlikely to replace all existing regional arrangements because its objectives and membership differ.

- **Quad:** India, Australia, Japan and the United States cooperate on maritime security, critical technologies, infrastructure and regional resilience.
- **ASEAN:** Southeast Asian countries remain central to regional diplomacy and inclusive security frameworks.
- **Bilateral alliances:** Existing US alliances with Japan, South Korea and the Philippines serve distinct strategic purposes.

**Concerns and Impact**

AUKUS may intensify strategic competition, trigger regional security dilemmas and raise proliferation concerns. Its nuclear-powered submarines require stringent safeguards because nuclear propulsion differs from nuclear-weapon possession.

**Conclusion**

AUKUS strengthens defence cooperation among its members but is complementary to, rather than a complete substitute for, existing Indo-Pacific partnerships. Regional stability requires deterrence alongside diplomacy, transparency and inclusive cooperation.

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