

GEELONG TREATY: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

NEWS: Australia, UK Sign 50-Year Geelong Treaty Under AUKUS Amid US Review of Alliance
WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The **Geelong Treaty** is a landmark bilateral agreement between the **UK and Australia** to jointly develop and operate **nuclear-powered submarines** under **AUKUS Pillar I**, deepening defense cooperation.

It comes amid **strategic uncertainty** in the US, raising concerns about long-term AUKUS commitments and non-proliferation norms.

About the Geelong Treaty

The Geelong Treaty is a formal, long-term bilateral defense agreement between the UK and Australia. It focuses on joint development and operation of nuclear-powered submarines (SSN-AUKUS class).

Enables cooperation on:

- Design
 - Construction
 - Operation
 - Sustainment
 - Disposal of SSN-AUKUS submarines
- Marks a deeper institutionalization of AUKUS Pillar I at a bilateral level.

What is AUKUS?

AUKUS is a trilateral strategic and defense alliance among Australia, the UK, and the US, launched in 2021. Its primary goal is to strengthen collective deterrence in the Indo-Pacific amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Two Pillars of AUKUS

- **Pillar I:** Transfer of nuclear-powered submarine technology to Australia.
- **Pillar II:** Collaboration in 8 advanced military technologies, including:
 - AI
 - Quantum
 - Cybersecurity
 - Robotics
 - Hypersonics
 - Innovation
 - Electronic warfare

Why was AUKUS formed?

- To counterbalance China's rise in the Indo-Pacific
- Ensure freedom of navigation and uphold rules-based order
- Enhance strategic edge of member nations

Opportunities Presented by the Geelong Treaty & AUKUS

For Australia:

- Entry into nuclear-submarine club
- Strategic autonomy

For UK:

- Boost to defense production
- Greater Indo-Pacific presence

In Technology:

- Collaboration on AI, quantum, hypersonics, cyber

India's View on AUKUS

- Not a member, maintains non-alignment
- Cautious about nuclear proliferation risks
- Engages bilaterally with AUKUS nations & Quad

Key Challenges

1. **US Production Limits:** Needs ramp-up to meet AUKUS demand
2. **US Policy Ambiguity:** Internal review under "America First"
3. **Non-Proliferation Issues:** Nuclear tech to non-nuclear weapon state
4. **Industrial Complexity:** Requires sustained workforce, logistics

Conclusion

The Geelong Treaty strengthens UK–Australia defense ties and nuclear submarine collaboration under AUKUS. India remains cautiously engaged, balancing opportunities with nuclear and regional concerns.

Source: <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/australia-uk-sign-50-year-geelong-treaty-under-aucus-amid-us-review-of-alliance/>