



# Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

[Source: IE](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, Azerbaijan launched a military operation in the disputed [Nagorno-Karabakh region](#), resulting in casualties. The operation is part of a long-standing dispute between [Azerbaijan and Armenia](#) over the region

## What is the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict?

- Nagorno-Karabakh, known as **Artsakh by Armenians**, is a landlocked mountainous area in the Caucasus region (the transcontinental region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea).
  - It is internationally **recognised as part of Azerbaijan but its inhabitants are predominantly ethnic Armenians**.
  - They have their own government which has enjoyed close links to Armenia's but has not been officially recognised by Armenia or any other country.
- The conflict dates back to the late 1980s when the region declared its independence from Azerbaijan as the Soviet Union collapsed.
  - The **first war erupted between Armenia and Azerbaijan** over the territory, which ended with a **ceasefire in 1994**, leaving Nagorno-Karabakh and some surrounding areas **under Armenian control**.
  - The ceasefire was frequently violated by both sides, and several attempts to negotiate a peaceful settlement failed.
- In **2020, Azerbaijan launched the Second Karabakh War**, winning a resounding victory and retaking seven surrounding districts and about a third of Nagorno-Karabakh.
  - **Russia brokered a peace deal** after the Second Karabakh War in 2020 and provided for up to 1,960 Russian peacekeepers stationed in the region. //



## Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan is a country in Asia that is bordered by Russia, Georgia, Armenia, and Iran.
  - The east of the country is bordered by the Caspian Sea.
  - Much of the north and west is covered by the Caucasus Mountains.
- **Capital city:** Baku.
- Azerbaijan is abundant in oil and natural gas.
- **Yanar Dag**, a famous site in Azerbaijan, has a natural eternal fire fueled by seeping natural gases, burning for over 65 years along the **Caspian Sea**. This unique phenomenon aligns with Azerbaijan's nickname, "**The Land of Fire.**"

## Armenia

- A landlocked country in the **Caucasus** with Turkey to the west, Georgia to the north, and Azerbaijan to the east.
- **Capital:** Yerevan.
- Armenia is a **mountainous country**.
  - **Highest Peak:** Mount Ararat.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

#### Prelims

Q. Consider the following pairs:

	Regions often mentioned in news	Reason for being in news
1.	North Kivu and Ituri	War between Armenia and Azerbaijan
2.	Nagorno-Karabakh	Insurgency in Mozambique
3.	Kherson and Zaporizhzhia	Dispute between Israel and Lebanon

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?(2023)

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

**Explanation: (d)**

- Kivu and Ituri are related to the Republic of Congo. A war between the Republic of Congo and Rwanda started in 1994 with genocide of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis and Hutus. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Nagorno-Karabakh is a region of southwestern Azerbaijan. It is used to refer to an autonomous oblast (province) of the former Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (S.S.R.) and to the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, a self-declared country whose independence is not internationally recognized. The old autonomous region occupied an area of about 1,700 square miles (4,400 square km), while the forces of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh presently occupy some 2,700 square miles (7,000 square km). **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Kherson and Zaporizhzhia are related to Ukraine and they are related to the dispute between Ukraine and Russia. **Hence, pair 3 is not correctly matched.**