

Nagorno-Karabakh region



Location

- ✓ Nagorno-Karabakh region is a mountainous land-locked region in the South Caucasus. It is a forested region and geographically lies within the boundary of Azerbaijan.

Features

- ✓ The region is also called Artsakh (chiefly by Armenians).
- ✓ South Caucasus or Transcaucasia is a region on the southern Caucasus Mountains on the border of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It roughly comprises of the modern countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia.
- ✓ Nagorno-Karabakh lies in the mountainous range of Karabakh.
- ✓ Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, although it is ruled by the Republic of Artsakh (formerly known as the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh).
- ✓ The Republic of Artsakh is autonomous but controlled by Armenia.
- ✓ The major ethnic group of the region is Armenian.

Who controls it?

- ✓ While the area remains in Azerbaijan, it is today governed by separatist Armenians who have declared it a republic called the "Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast".
- ✓ While the Armenian government does not recognise Nagorno-Karabakh as independent, it supports the region politically and militarily.

Ethnicity & the conflict

- ✓ Ethnic tensions from decades ago have a crucial role in the dispute.
- ✓ While the Azeris claim that the disputed region was under their control in known history, Armenians maintain that Karabakh was a part of the Armenian kingdom.
- ✓ At present, the disputed region consists of a majority Armenian Christian population, even though it is internationally recognised as a part of Muslim-majority Azerbaijan.