

Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

Why in news?

Military action in Nagorno-Karabakh, region resulted in the death of 100 civilians
The two countries have fought over the region for decades, but the current conflict is most serious in recent years.

What is the issue?

Nagorno-Karabakh has been part of Azerbaijan territory since the Soviet era.
Nagorno-Karabakh region is recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but presently controlled by Armenian separatists
In 1994, Russia brokered a ceasefire, by which time ethnic Armenians had taken control of the region.
Even after the 1994 peace deal, the region has been marked by regular exchanges of fire.
In 2016, it saw a Four-Day War before Russia mediated peace.
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, chaired by France, Russia and US, tried to reach a peace agreement.

What lead to the fresh conflicts?

Reports suggest that clashes were a fallout of Azerbaijan's bid to reclaim some territories occupied by separatist Armenians.
It is the first time that both countries have proclaimed martial law.

Azerbaijan stand

It defended the "military operation to clear the territories occupied by the enemy for almost 30 years"
It alleged Armenia has occupied regions around Nagorno-Karabakh with Russia support to create a "security zone".

Other countries stand

Turkey: It backs Azerbaijan and condemned Christian-majority Armenia for not resolving the issue through peaceful negotiations
Russia: It supplies arms to both countries and is in a military alliance with Armenia called the Collective Security Treaty Organization.
US: It have limited their participation to appeals for maintaining peace so far.
European Union: Appeal for ceasefire as this region is an important transit route for the supply of oil and natural gas.

India's stand

India does not have an articulated policy for the South Caucasus unlike "Neighbourhood First", "Act East" or "Central Asia Connect".
India has a friendship and cooperation Treaty (1995) with Armenia.
India's energy security hinges to a certain extent on the stability of this region.
Armenia extends its unequivocal support to India on Kashmir issue whereas Azerbaijan supported Pakistan's narrative on this issue.
India's trade or investment with Armenia and Azerbaijan are very low.
Azerbaijan falls on the International North South Transport Corridor route, connecting India with Russia through Central Asia
India has adopted a balanced and neutral stance by endorsing the concept of respect for territorial integrity.

What next?

Azerbaijan maintained that for the fighting to stop, Armenia must unconditionally leave Nagorno-Karabakh.
Armenian government has lodged a request with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for an interim measure
Armenia requested Azerbaijani government to "cease the military attacks towards the civilian settlements along the entire line of contact."

Proposed solutions

UN security council adopted four resolution including immediate evacuation of occupied territory by Armenia.
Azerbaijan holds a precondition that Armenia soldier must withdraw from the region to initiate a peace process
Armenia want this region to be independent and act as a buffer.