

Armenia - Azerbaijan Peace Agreement

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A peace agreement brokered by the US has been signed between **Armenia and Azerbaijan**, marking a significant step toward resolving the longstanding conflict over **Nagorno-Karabakh**.

- Peace Deal: Both countries pledged to respect each other's territorial integrity, ending nearly four
 decades of conflict. The agreement includes mutual relinquishment of territorial claims, a ban
 on the use of force, and adherence to international law.
- US Role and Strategic Importance: The US gained exclusive rights to develop the 'Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity' transit corridor in the South Caucasus.
- Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountainous, landlocked region in the South Caucasus (The Caucasus is a mountain region between the Black and Caspian Seas, spanning Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia).
 - After the Russian Empire's collapse in 1917, Armenia and Azerbaijan both claimed Nagorno-Karabakh, causing lasting tensions. The 1994 ceasefire left Nagorno-Karabakh under Armenian-backed control (but internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan).
 - Azerbaijan reclaimed control in 2023 after a military offensive, displacing thousands of ethnic Armenians.
- India's Stance: India supports the peace deal as it sees Armenia and Azerbaijan as part of the <u>International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)</u>, a key project for India's trade routes connecting India to Russia.
 - Additionally, India has a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty with Armenia (1995).



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