



## Bagram Airfield

[Source: IE](#)

The US President claimed that **China** now **occupies** the [Bagram Airfield](#), which **American forces** had **vacated** before pulling out from **Afghanistan in 2021**.

- **About Bagram Airfield:** It is the **largest air base in Afghanistan** that lies some 60 km to the north of Kabul, in the **strategic Parwan province**.
  - Parwan is **key to controlling** much of Afghanistan because the 2.6 km-long **Salang tunnel** in the Parwan province connects **Kabul to Mazar-e-Sharif** and other cities in the north, while **highways** provide linkages to **Ghazni and Kandahar** in the south, and [Bamiyan](#) to its west.



- Built by the **Soviets** in the **1950s**, it became vital during the [Cold War](#) and the **Soviet-Afghan War (1979-89)**.
  - After **2001**, it became the **operational hub of US forces** during the **War on Terror**.
- Bagram's strategic location makes it **vital**, and China's growing Taliban ties signal a careful push to gain a **strategic foothold in the region**.
  - **Lop Nur** in [Xinjiang](#), where **China** tested its **first atom bomb in 1964**, lies **2,000 km from Bagram**, while the **Koko Nur nuclear weapons facility** is located further east in **Qinghai province, China**.

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