

Greenland

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Geography

Why in News?

Recently, Greenland has been in focus after U.S. President Donald Trump called for immediate talks on acquiring the island.

- Greenland, the **world's largest non-continental island**, functions as a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark.
- **Location & Extent** - Situated in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, between North America and Europe.
- Though part of the North American continent, it is politically associated with Europe through Denmark.
- Canada's Ellesmere Island (north) and Iceland (southeast) are its nearest neighbours.
- **Arctic Position** - About two-thirds lies above the Arctic Circle.
- Experiences 24-hour daylight in summer and near-total darkness in winter.
- **Landscape** - Dominated by the Greenland Ice Sheet, which shapes most of the terrain and is the second largest in the world after Antarctica.
- **Protected Areas** - Nearly half of Greenland is protected as the National Park of Greenland, the world's largest national park.
- **Major mountain ranges** - Watkins Range, Stauning Alps
- **Major rivers** - Børglum, Qinnuata Kuussua, Majorqaq
- **Geopolitics - NATO Linkage** - Greenland is **part of NATO through Denmark's membership**, giving it strategic relevance in the transatlantic alliance.
- **Strategic Location** - Positioned between North America, Europe and the Arctic, making it vital for military surveillance and security.
- **U.S. Military Presence** - Hosts a key U.S. air base, highlighting its importance in Arctic and North Atlantic defence.
- **Resource Competition** - Greenland lies in a region rich in oil, gas and

critical minerals, increasing interest from major powers amid Arctic thaw.

- **Arctic Geopolitics** - Melting ice is opening new Arctic shipping routes, increasing global and regional competition from global powers such as the U.S., Russia and China.
- **India's stand - Climate Linkage** - India's Arctic Policy recognises that Greenland's ice melt affects global sea levels and alters atmospheric circulation, influencing the Indian monsoon.
- **Arctic Council Role** - *India has Observer status in the Arctic Council since 2013* and engages in discussions on environmental protection and sustainable resource use.
- **Market Impact** - Geopolitical uncertainty linked to the "Greenland factor" has contributed to global financial market instability.
- **Scientific Presence** - India operates the Himadri research station in Svalbard, with long-term scientific engagement with Arctic climate processes.



References

1. [TH | Trump calls for 'immediate' talks on Greenland](#)
2. [Facts about Greenland | Nordic cooperation](#)

