

U.S-Denmark-Greenland Security Deal

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Why in News?

U.S., Denmark, and Greenland plan to sign a new security pact at the UNGA in New York, pending Danish and Greenlandic parliamentary approval.

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT

GREENLAND

LAND OF ICE, GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE

	Location	Arctic region, northeast of Canada
	Political status	Autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark
	Capital	Nuuk
	Sovereignty	Denmark
	Self-government	Extensive autonomy; defence & foreign affairs remain closely linked to the Kingdom of Denmark
	Geographical significance	More than two-thirds lies within the Arctic Circle
	Strategic position	Between North America and the Eurasian Arctic
	Importance	Arctic security, missile-warning systems, space surveillance, North Atlantic routes and emerging resource interests

A Key Player in the Arctic




*A Stable Arctic
A Safer World*

 Stronger Arctic Security

 Safer Sea Routes

 Sustainable Resources

 Enhanced Global Stability

New Security Deal - Major provisions

- **U.S. military presence** - The United States plans to establish or expand a **significant military presence** in Greenland.
- The agreement reportedly grants the United States **permanent access, basing, and overflight rights**.

- It aims to address U.S. national security concerns in the Arctic.
- **Exclusion of adversaries** - Non-NATO adversaries would be prohibited from establishing military bases in Greenland.
- Certain “**sensitive investments**” by adversarial countries would also be restricted.
- The specific investment restrictions and operational details had **not been publicly disclosed at the time of the agreement’s announcement.**
- **Duration** - US President described the agreement as having **no expiry date, referring to it as having “infinite life.”**
- Reports indicate that the agreement is intended to remain in effect even if Greenland becomes independent.

*The agreement **does not constitute** the acquisition of Greenland by the United States.*

- Denmark and Greenland have emphasized the following key principles:
 - Preservation of Danish sovereignty,
 - Maintenance of territorial integrity,
 - Protection of Greenlandic self-determination,
 - Advancement of Greenland's interests in international cooperation.
- **Existing U.S. Military Rights in Greenland** - The current arrangement is based on a previous legal framework.
 - **Defense of Greenland Treaty, 1951** - The United States and Denmark signed the Defense of Greenland Treaty in 1951.
 - This treaty granted the United States extensive military access to Greenland during the Cold War.
 - **Agreement 2004** - It amended and supplemented the 1951 defense arrangement, adding provisions on U.S. military activities and consultation with Greenlandic authorities.

Pituffik Space Base, formerly known as Thule Air Base, is currently operated by the United States in northwestern Greenland.

It supports missile warning, missile defense, space surveillance, and United States and NATO security operations.

Reference

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