

Being an observer member of Arctic Council, India can capitalise the changed discourse towards sustainable use of Arctic.

Arctic ocean lies in the North Pole, and with climate change it's becoming a strategic issue among many countries.

→ It's a resource rich region with 30% of world's undiscovered natural gas & 13% oil reserves.

→ It's not a global common, unlike Antarctic and no global policy like Antarctic treaty exist to safeguard it.

→ Due to human presence, many issues like - oil spills, nuclear waste etc are rising which creates an Arctic paradox.

→ It holds 40% of endemic species which can extinct if not addressed.

→ many countries have unsettled claims like Russia-USA, which can

raise conflict in near future.

→ countries like China has released a white paper for Polar Silk Road which can change the dynamics of the region.

→ Arctic and weather around the globe including Indian monsoon have an hypothetical link which is under threat.

Hence, India's status as observer member is significant for the constructive role it has to play such as:-

(i) Energy needs of India are growing and only a pluralistic Arctic policy can ensure its fulfilment.

(ii) R&D - India till now concentrated in understanding climate link through missions like Himadri & MOSAIC. This provides capacity to explore Himalayan region also.



(iii) Environmental concerns - India's stature as responsible member of UNFCCC is well established. It can push the climate change norms in Aschic Council for a smooth and adaptive transition.

(iv) collaboration - India's ongoing missions like NCPOR & FESCO group & with Norway can create unknown avenues for in future.

Thus, Aschic Council provides a platform for India to present its interest and negotiate for better Aschic policies.