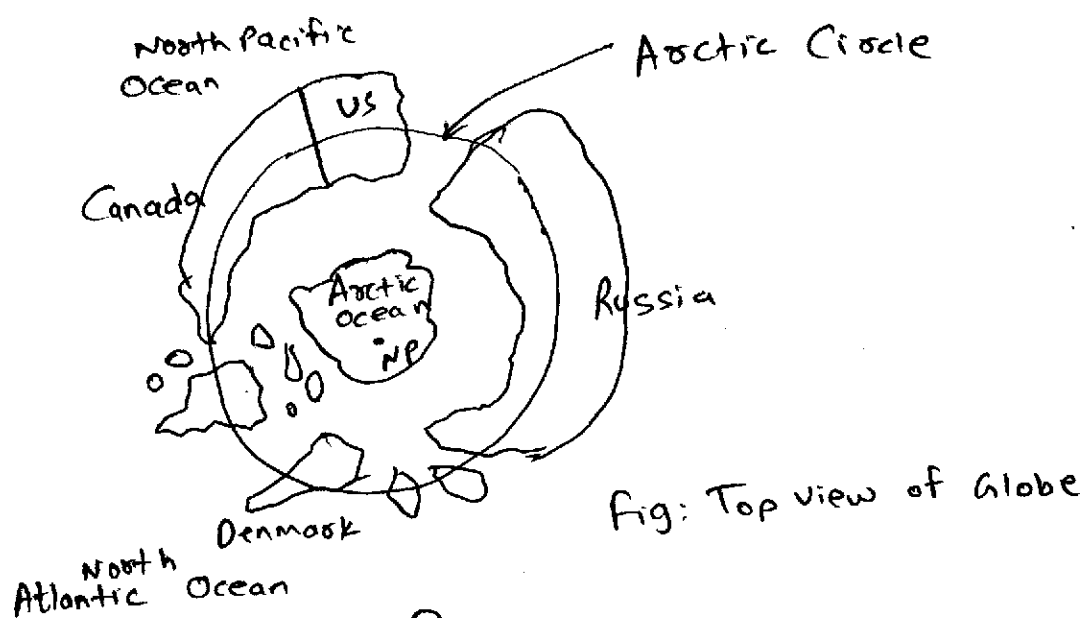


Q. India's observer status in the Arctic council must be utilized effectively to mitigate the impending danger in the arctic region. Analyse (200 words)

Ans: Arctic Council is leading intergovernmental forum established through Ottawa Declaration of 1996 for cooperation Among Arctic States on issue of Sustainable Development & Environment Protection.

→ Arctic Region lies in North Pole. The Region is rich in Natural Resource & Energy.



→ Importance of Arctic Region :-

Energy :- Oil & Natural Gas deposits, estimated to be 22% of world's unexplored resource. Mineral deposit of around 25% of Global reserve of Rare Earth. It have $\frac{1}{5}$ of world's petroleum.

Transport :- Commercial Navigation through NSR. It reduces time & fuel which ultimately reduce product cost.

Strategic Asset :- Every nearby countries tries to establish their dominance over the region like Russia, USA, China, etc

→ "In temperature & Politics, the Arctic is becoming hotter".

→ India's interest in these development, though distant, are not peripheral. Our extensive coastline makes us vulnerable to impact of Arctic warming on ocean current, fisheries, weather pattern & monsoon.

→ India's Interest in Arctic

Scientific Research:- India opened a research base named "Himadri" in Norway in 2008 for carrying out studies in Glaciology, Biological Science, etc

Petroleum & Mineral Exploration :-

Many regions have been discovered that hold potential mineral deposit that can be economically extracted

Navigation :- The Arctic Sea route is being opened due to reduction in sea ice

Strategic Addon :- This region have high geographical value due to future navigation route.

→ Like Russia demonstrated its capabilities through exercise with China, China projecting Polar Silk Road as an extension of BRI, India ~~must~~ has been actively pursuing its Arctic dream in order to strengthen its global ambition.

→ Way forward :-

This is one area where Indian can possibly play out in the future of geopolitic & challenge its rival China. And Arctic Council provide such platform to India.