International Relations · GS - II

Examine the growing geopolitical significance of the Arctic region and discuss its implications for global security and international cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Climate change; emerging maritime routes; natural resources; US-Russia-China competition; Greenland's strategic location; Arctic governance; international cooperation

Model Answer

Introduction

The Arctic is emerging as an important geopolitical region due to climate change, natural resources, maritime connectivity and increasing strategic competition among major powers.

Strategic Significance

1. Economic Importance

- Melting sea ice is increasing the seasonal accessibility of routes such as the Northern Sea Route.
- The region contains significant hydrocarbon and mineral resources.

2. Geopolitical Competition

- Russia is expanding its military and economic infrastructure in the Arctic.
- The United States considers Greenland strategically important for defence and surveillance.
- China seeks a greater role through scientific research, investment and its stated interest in Arctic shipping connectivity.

3. Security Implications

Increased military deployments and competition over resources and maritime access may intensify regional tensions. Security cooperation between the US and Denmark concerning Greenland reflects these strategic concerns.

4. Global Governance

The Arctic Council provides a platform for cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable development. International maritime law, particularly UNCLOS, remains important for managing competing interests.

Way Forward

Strengthening confidence-building measures, scientific cooperation, environmental safeguards and peaceful dispute resolution is essential.

Conclusion

The Arctic must remain a zone of peaceful cooperation rather than becoming another arena of geopolitical confrontation.

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