

India and the Arctic: Prospects for Partnership

Concept Note

The Arctic is emerging as a region of high geopolitical and geo-economic activity. As per recent scientific estimates, it is warming at a rate three to four times the average normal. It is not only the Arctic states that are being impacted by these transitions, but several non-Arctic states also remain vulnerable. An emerging interconnection of 'Science' and 'Geopolitics' makes the Arctic a region of global interests. The advent of the Ukraine crisis has accelerated militarization of the Arctic. NATO's expansion with Finland and Sweden's decision to join the security alliance has led to East-West power realignment in the Arctic. 'Cooperation' (both scientific and geo-political) that is fundamental in addressing Arctic issues, currently remains suspended as a result of the suspension of the Arctic Council.

India released its first Arctic Policy document in March 2022. It rests on six important that project the country's holistic approach for the region. From scientific and environmental research to the country's geopolitical and geo-economic priorities, this policy document asserts on developing India's National capacity building in the Arctic. At this critical juncture, how India proceeds with its national objectives remains crucial. This one-day seminar aims to address India's approach in the Arctic from scientific, geopolitical and emerging geo-economic perspectives.