Defence & Security · GS - III

Strategic infrastructure has increasingly become a target in contemporary interstate conflicts. Examine the geopolitical and military significance of the Crimean Bridge in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and discuss the wider implications of attacks on critical connectivity infrastructure.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 16/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Strategic geography of Crimea, Kerch Strait, military logistics, Black Sea region, critical infrastructure vulnerability, asymmetric warfare, civilian connectivity, international humanitarian law, escalation risks.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Crimean Bridge, spanning the Kerch Strait, connects the Crimean Peninsula with mainland Russia. Its strategic location makes it significant in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Geopolitical and Military Significance

- **Logistics:** It facilitates the movement of military personnel, equipment and essential supplies to Crimea.
- **Strategic connectivity:** It provides an important road and rail link between Russia and the peninsula.
- **Geopolitical symbolism:** The bridge represents Russia's physical integration of Crimea, whose annexation is not internationally recognised.

- **Maritime security:** Its location near the Black Sea and Sea of Azov gives it wider regional significance.

Wider Implications

- Attacks on critical infrastructure can disrupt military logistics and civilian transport.
- Drones and precision weapons enable asymmetric attacks against strategically important assets.
- Such operations risk escalation and damage to civilian infrastructure.
- International humanitarian law requires distinction, proportionality and precautions to protect civilians.

Conclusion

The conflict demonstrates the growing importance and vulnerability of strategic infrastructure. States must balance military objectives with civilian protection and international legal obligations.

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