International Relations · GS - II

Strategic infrastructure has increasingly become an instrument of geopolitical pressure and military signalling in contemporary conflicts. Analyse its implications for regional security and international diplomacy with reference to the Russia–Ukraine conflict.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 18/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Strategic infrastructure, military signalling, geopolitical leverage, economic disruption, maritime connectivity, escalation risks, international law, crisis diplomacy, conflict resolution.

Model Answer

Introduction

The repeated attacks on the Crimean Bridge during the Russia–Ukraine conflict highlight how strategically important infrastructure has become a target in modern warfare. Such infrastructure has both civilian and military significance.

Strategic Significance of Infrastructure

- **Military logistics:** Bridges, ports, railways and energy networks facilitate troop movement, military supplies and operational connectivity.
- **Economic disruption:** Damage to transport infrastructure disrupts trade, supply chains and civilian economic activity.

- **Geopolitical signalling:** Attacks on symbolic or strategically important assets can communicate military resolve and exert pressure on adversaries.
- **Regional security:** Disruptions around the Black Sea and Sea of Azov can affect maritime movement and regional stability.

Implications for International Diplomacy

1. **Escalation risks:** Retaliatory attacks may widen the conflict and reduce opportunities for negotiations.
2. **Civilian protection:** Damage to dual-use infrastructure raises concerns under international humanitarian law, particularly distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack.
3. **Diplomatic complexity:** Military actions near important international meetings can complicate confidence-building and diplomatic engagement.
4. **Global economic effects:** Disruption of transport and maritime networks can affect trade and regional economic security.

Way Forward

Strengthening diplomatic channels, protecting civilian infrastructure, respecting international humanitarian law and establishing mechanisms to prevent escalation are essential.

Conclusion

The targeting of strategic infrastructure demonstrates the growing connection between military operations, economic security and diplomacy. Sustainable conflict resolution requires combining security considerations with international legal obligations and dialogue.

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