Defence & Security · GS - III

Strategic infrastructure such as bridges, ports and transport corridors can become critical vulnerabilities during prolonged armed conflicts. Assess their significance in military logistics and the need for infrastructure resilience.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 22/11/2026	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~ 250 words

Answer Hint

Military logistics, strategic connectivity, critical infrastructure, supply lines, chokepoints, dual-use infrastructure, maritime security, redundancy, infrastructure resilience, civilian protection.

Model Answer

Introduction

Modern warfare increasingly targets critical infrastructure to disrupt an adversary's mobility, logistics and economic activity. Damage to the Crimean Bridge illustrates how a single transport link can acquire considerable military and strategic significance.

Strategic Significance of Infrastructure

1. **Military logistics:** Bridges and transport corridors facilitate the movement of troops, ammunition, fuel and equipment.

2. **Geographical chokepoints:** Infrastructure connecting geographically separated territories can become a major operational vulnerability.

3. **Economic disruption:** Damage to transport networks affects civilian mobility, trade and essential supplies.

4. **Strategic signalling:** Attacks on prominent infrastructure can influence political calculations and demonstrate military capabilities.

Challenges to Infrastructure Security

- **Concentration risk:** Dependence on a limited number of transport routes increases vulnerability.
- **Dual-use character:** Civilian infrastructure may also support military logistics, complicating protection during armed conflict.
- **Repair difficulties:** Underwater damage, structural complexity and continuing hostilities can delay restoration.
- **Escalation risks:** Infrastructure attacks may trigger retaliation and widen conflict.

Measures to Strengthen Resilience

- Develop alternative transport routes and logistics corridors.
- Strengthen structural protection, surveillance and emergency response systems.
- Establish rapid repair capabilities and strategic reserves.
- Improve coordination between civilian authorities and defence agencies.
- Ensure compliance with International Humanitarian Law, particularly distinction and proportionality.

Conclusion

Resilient infrastructure is essential for both national security and civilian welfare. Military preparedness must therefore combine protection of critical assets, alternative logistics networks and adherence to international humanitarian obligations.

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