International Relations · GS - II

Examine the geopolitical significance of the Black Sea in the Russia–Ukraine conflict. Discuss its implications for maritime security and global trade, including India's interests.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Black Sea geopolitics, Russia–Ukraine conflict, NATO, maritime security, commercial shipping, grain exports, energy transportation, naval mines, disruption of supply chains, food security, global commodity prices, freedom of navigation, India's trade and energy interests, diplomatic engagement.

Model Answer

1. Introduction

The Black Sea is a strategically important maritime region connecting Eastern Europe with the Mediterranean through the Turkish Straits. The Russia–Ukraine conflict has increased security risks for commercial shipping and regional trade.

2. Geopolitical Significance

- **Strategic location:** The Black Sea provides access to important trade routes and supports regional military and economic interests.
- **Regional security:** Russia–Ukraine hostilities, naval deployments and maritime mines increase risks to vessels.

- **Global trade:** Disruptions to grain, fertiliser and energy shipments can affect international prices and supply chains.

3. Implications for India

- **Food and energy security:** Disruptions may increase commodity prices and import costs.
- **Economic impact:** Higher freight and insurance costs can contribute to global inflation.
- **Diplomatic interests:** India has an interest in peaceful resolution, secure maritime trade and respect for international law.

4. Measures Required

Strengthening diplomatic engagement, protecting commercial shipping, improving maritime risk monitoring and supporting negotiated solutions can reduce disruptions.

5. Conclusion

Black Sea security has consequences beyond Europe. Stable maritime routes and peaceful conflict resolution are important for global economic stability and India's national interests.

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