International Relations

“Long-range precision strikes are changing the nature of modern warfare by targeting military assets far behind the front line.” Discuss with reference to the Russia–Ukraine war.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 15/10/2026	—	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Long-Range Strike Capability, Precision-Guided Weapons, Neptune Missile, Fighter-Bombers, Airbase Vulnerability, Military Logistics, Force Projection, Defence Technology, Escalation Risks.

Model Answer

Introduction:

Modern warfare increasingly involves attacks on military assets beyond the immediate battlefield. Long-range missiles and drones allow states to target airbases, logistics hubs and command infrastructure.

Significance:

Ukraine’s reported strike on Russia’s Borisoglebsk airfield illustrates this trend. The reported damage to Su-34M fighter-bombers could affect Russia’s ability to conduct air-to-ground missions, particularly if repairs or replacement take significant time. Such attacks can also force adversaries to disperse aircraft, strengthen airbase protection and divert resources towards air defence.

Indigenous systems such as Neptune demonstrate how domestic defence development can expand operational options. However, the effect of a strike depends on verified damage, aircraft availability, repair capacity and the ability to sustain further operations.

Challenges:

Military airfields remain protected by layered defences, while deep strikes can trigger retaliation and increase escalation risks.

Conclusion:

Long-range precision weapons can impose substantial operational and financial costs, but their strategic impact depends on sustained capability and the wider military balance.

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