International Relations · GS - II

Examine the strategic significance of the Black Sea in the Russia–Ukraine conflict and discuss its implications for NATO’s regional security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 25/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Geostrategic location, maritime trade, NATO’s southeastern flank, drone warfare, collective defence, energy security, escalation risks.

Model Answer

Introduction:

The Black Sea is a strategically important maritime region connecting Eastern Europe with the Mediterranean. The Russia–Ukraine conflict has increased its significance for regional security and international trade.

Strategic Significance

1. Military importance: The Black Sea provides access to strategically important ports and supports naval operations.
2. Trade and food security: It is a major route for grain, energy and other commercial shipments.
3. NATO security: Bulgaria, Romania and Türkiye are NATO members bordering the Black Sea, making regional instability a concern for the alliance.
4. Emerging threats: Drone attacks and risks to commercial shipping expose vulnerabilities in maritime surveillance and critical infrastructure.
5. Escalation risks: Incidents near NATO territory can increase tensions and complicate diplomatic efforts.

-

Way Forward:

NATO members should strengthen maritime surveillance, coordinate air and drone defence, protect commercial shipping and maintain diplomatic communication to prevent miscalculation.

Conclusion:

The Black Sea demonstrates how a regional conflict can affect international trade, alliance security and wider geopolitical stability.

BECOME IAS
AI POWERED UPSC PREP