



Black Sea

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Why in news?

Russia's increased attacks on the **Black Sea ports in Ukraine** are **delaying vital aid reaching Palestinians** and stopping crucial grain supplies from being delivered to the global south, the British Prime Minister said recently.

Black Sea

Geographical Location

- The **Black Sea**, also known as the **Euxine Sea**, is one of the major water bodies and a **famous inland sea of the world**.
- The area surrounding the Black Sea is commonly referred to as the **Black Sea Region**.
- This marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean, located between Eastern Europe and Western Asia.
- It is surrounded by the **Pontic, Caucasus, and Crimean Mountains in the south, east and north** respectively.
- The Turkish straits system -**the Dardanelles, Bosphorus and Marmara Sea**- forms a transitional zone between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.
- The Black Sea is also connected to the **Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch**.
- The bordering countries of Black Sea are: **Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania**.
- The Black Sea **drains into the Mediterranean Sea**, via the **Aegean Sea and various straits**.

Straits

- **Kerch Strait**: The Black Sea and the Sea of Azov are connected by the Kerch Strait.
- It is **between the Crimean peninsula of Kerch and the Russian peninsula of Taman**.
- It gets its name from the **city of Kerch** (a city on the Kerch Peninsula in the east of Crimea).
- **Bosphorus strait**: The **Black Sea** and the **Sea of Marmara** are joined by the Bosphorus Strait.
- **Dardanelles strait**: The **Aegean Sea** and the **Sea of Marmara** are joined by the Dardanelles Strait.

Limited Oxygen Levels

- The **Black Sea's deeperwaters have lower levels of oxygen** due to its unique geological and hydrological conditions.
- The lack of oxygen in the lower layers creates a distinct environment, and it is **one of the world's largest anoxic basins**, meaning it has **areas with very little dissolved oxygen**.
- Islands: It contains several islands, with the largest ones being **Snake Island(Ukraine), Giresun Island (Turkey) and St. Ivan Island (Bulgaria)**.

Trade through the Black Sea

- At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, the Black Sea is an important artery for commodity flow.
- The Black Sea is used to transport crude oil, refined oil, agricultural goods, and iron and steel.

- The Bloomberg report says that Ukraine and Russia trade more than a quarter of the world's wheat, almost a fifth of its corn, and most of its sunflower oil.

