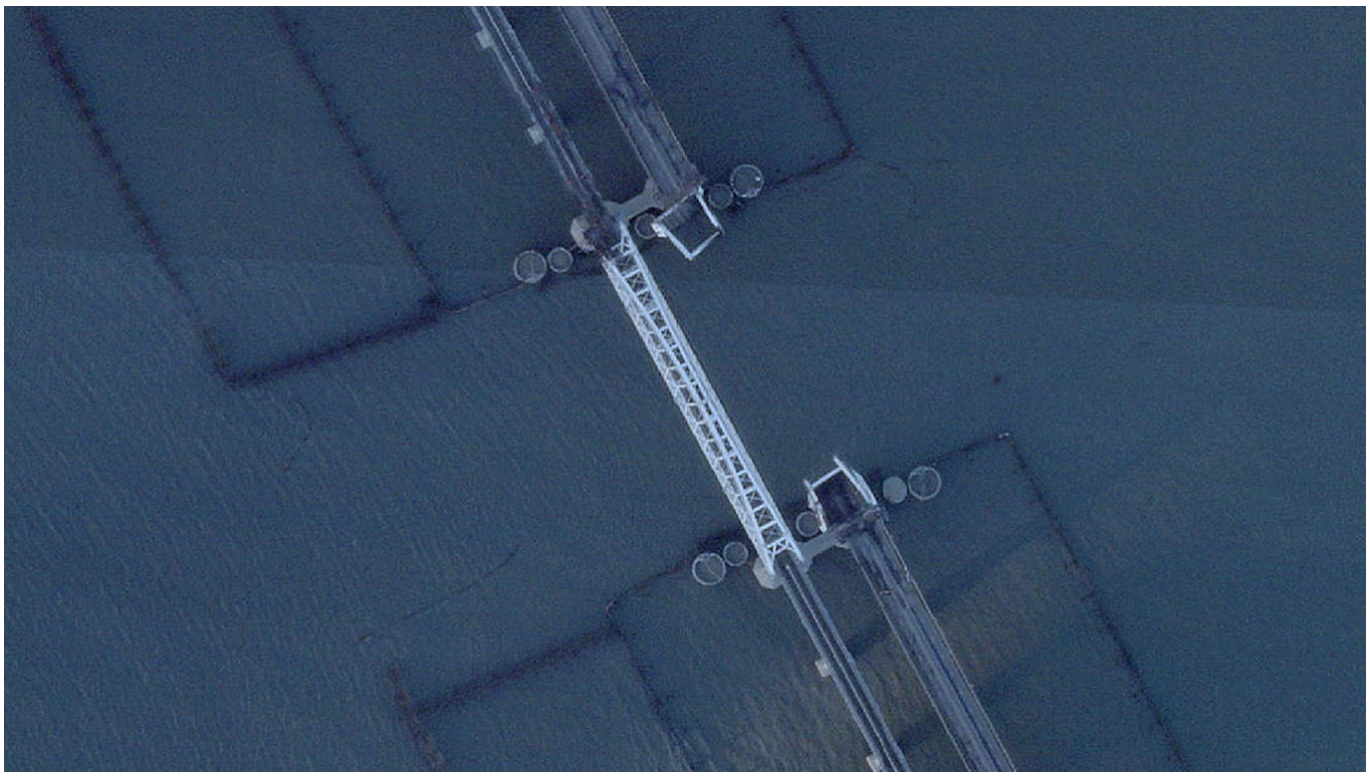
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Russia Has No Timeline for Crimean Bridge Repairs, Deputy PM Says

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A satellite photo of the damaged Crimea bridge in Kerch Strait, Crimea. **Planet Labs PBC / Handout via REUTERS**

Russia has yet to determine how long it will take to repair the Crimean Bridge after a Ukrainian strike brought down its main road span this week, Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said Friday.

The bridge, which links southern Russia to annexed Crimea across the Kerch Strait, remains closed to road traffic, while train service has partially resumed on a single track on the adjacent rail span.

“Our designers are calculating,” Khusnullin told state media, adding that officials would be able to give a timeline once engineers finished drawing up repair plans.

He said both the steel arch and the main beam supporting the roadway had been damaged.

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Ukrainian drones and missiles brought down the central road span on Tuesday in one of three attacks on the bridge this week that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described as retaliation for Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to respond with greater force.

On Thursday, Khusnullin suggested that "certain elements" of the bridge could reopen within one to two months, though he warned that winter storms would complicate work in the strait.

Engineers told The New York Times that replacing the collapsed 750-foot steel arch could take about two years under wartime conditions.

With the bridge closed to drivers and Crimea's civilian airports still closed to regular passenger flights, authorities have sought to divert motorists onto the R-280 highway, which runs through Russian-occupied southern Ukraine and has also come under Ukrainian attack.

This week's attack marked the fourth time Ukrainian forces have struck the Crimean Bridge since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

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