

## 11 Nov 2022: UPSC Exam Comprehensive News Analysis



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### A. GS 1 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

## B. GS 2 Related

**Category: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **1. Russia's withdrawal from Kherson**

*Syllabus: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries*

*Prelims: About the Kherson region*

*Mains: Analysis of Russia's move of withdrawing from the Kherson region in Ukraine.*

#### **Context:**

Recently, Ukraine's defence and intelligence agencies reported that Russian troops have retreated from Kherson.

## The status of Russia's Ukraine invasion



Image Source: The Hindu

### Kherson region and its importance

- Kherson is geographically situated in a strategic location both for Russia and Ukraine.
- Kherson is located northwest of the Dnipro River and the Kherson region shares borders with the Black Sea, Donetsk and Crimea.
- After [Russia annexed Crimea in 2014](#), the occupation of Kherson by Russia since March 2022 had become advantageous for Russia to transfer its military from Crimea to counter Ukraine.
- Kherson played a crucial role in providing access to Odesa and Black Sea ports in the west and acted as the key route to secure southern Ukraine.
- Likewise for Ukraine, regaining Kherson has become significant to safeguard its population in Kalanchak and Chaplynka districts and also to get back Crimea.
- Further, Kherson is also a key agricultural region with several irrigational channels.

### Occupation of Kherson by Russia

- Kherson was occupied by Russia through intense fighting in early March 2022.
- The battle of Kherson facilitated Russia to capture and occupy the southern part of Ukraine as the battles for Kharkiv and Kyiv continued in the north.
- The capture of Kherson has facilitated Russia to capture the other key port cities such as Mariupol in the Sea of Azov, and Odesa thereby extending its control.
- The irrigation canals of the Kherson region were utilised as defence positions and a strong line of defence was developed to prevent Ukraine's counter-attacks.
- Russia had further positioned its soldiers in Kherson and stockpiled the ammunition.

### Reasons for Russia's withdrawal from Kherson

- **Mobilisation failure:** As Russia made rapid advancements in capturing the southern and northern cities of Ukraine, its military resources which included personnel and weapon systems started to deplete at a rapid rate.
  - Despite following partial mobilisation strategies to address these challenges, the failure of new recruits became an additional challenge to Russia to check Ukraine's counter-attacks in the Kherson region.
- **Inability to govern Kherson:** Despite imposing martial law, Russia has failed to effectively govern or administer Kherson as the three-tier security deployed in the area could not enforce Russia's control on the ground.
- **Increasing counter-attacks from Ukraine:** Ukraine was initially supplied only with short-range and low-grade weapons by the West. However, as Russia continued to increase its aggression, the West increased its support to Ukraine by extending military training of personnel as well as the supply of medium to high-range weapons systems which include the Howitzers, HIMARS, air defence systems, battle tanks and drone technologies.
  - This increased support from the west has helped Ukraine to reclaim various Russian-occupied areas such as Izyum, northeast, southeast of Kharkiv, Izyum-Slovyansk, Kupiansk and northwest Kherson.

### Analysis of the move by Russia

- The challenges of mobilisation and re-mobilisation of Russia's defence systems, shortage of weapons and the failure to restrict the advancements of Ukraine forces have played a major role in forcing Russia to withdraw from Kherson.
- As Ukraine continues to enhance its military capacity with the help of support from the West such as upgrading from land-based to air-based to heavy battle tanks, Russia is now facing trouble in retaining its captured territories in Ukraine.
- Similar to the withdrawal from Kherson after the initial attack, Russia has earlier shifted its strategy of capturing Kyiv to focusing on eastern Ukraine after undertaking attacks on Kyiv.
  - Likewise, Russia had also withdrawn from its strategy to capture Kharkiv as taking control of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions became a more important objective.



- However, the Ukrainian forces and leadership predict the move by Russia to be a delusion for a retreat.
- Further, the leaders of the U.S. and EU have regarded the withdrawal as a “difficult position” for the Russian President and have criticised the brutality of deporting Ukrainians.

**Nut graf:** *Withdrawal of Russia from Kherson has come at a critical juncture of the Russia-Ukraine war as it exposes serious gaps in Russia’s military might, highlights Russia’s strategy to withdraw under serious attack or resistance and reflects the larger political objectives of both the sides which provide an idea about how far they would go with the war.*

### C. GS 3 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### D. GS 4 Related

*Nothing here for today!!!*

### E. Editorials

**Category: WORLD HISTORY**

#### 1. India in World Wars

**Syllabus:** GS1, World Wars

**Mains:** *Significant contribution of India in World Wars*

**Context:** November 11 is observed as Remembrance Day in [Commonwealth of Nations](#) member states since the end of World War I to remember members of their armed forces who died in the line of duty. Remembrance Day is also known as Armistice Day. It marks the day [World War I](#) ended.

#### India’s pivotal role in World Wars:

- Over one million Indian troops served overseas, of whom 62,000 died and another 67,000 were wounded. In total at least 74,187 Indian soldiers died during the war.
- In World War I the Indian Army fought against the German Empire on the Western Front.
- Indians mobilised four days after Britain declared war on Germany, with the support of nationalist leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi.

- Indians fought with valour and distinction in the trenches of Europe, West Asia and North Africa.
- Indian soldiers won a total of 11 Victoria Crosses for their sacrifice in World War I. Khudadad Khan became the first Indian to be awarded a Victoria Cross. He was a machine gunner with the 129th Baluchi Regiment.
  - The Victoria Cross is the highest award for gallantry that a British and Commonwealth serviceman can achieve.
- As high as 100 million British Pounds (present-day Rs 838 crore) was gifted by India to Britain to fund their war anticipating dominion status and home rule in return.
- As much as 37 lakh tonnes of supplies and jute for sandbags were sourced by the British from India. India supplied all sorts of material for the war, including clothing, weaponry including tanks, armoured cars, guns, etc.
- The British raised men and money from India, as well as large supplies of food, cash, and ammunition, collected by British taxation policies.
- India raised the largest ever volunteer army, of 2.5 million, for the [Second World War](#).
- More than 87,000 of those men are cremated or buried in war cemeteries around the world and in India.
- Indian doctors and nurses were deeply involved on British soil and in other countries. In 1939, the Indian Comforts Fund (ICF) was established at India House in Aldwych that was run by Indian and British women.
  - Between 1939 and 1945, the ICF supplied over 1.7 million food packets to soldiers and Asian prisoners of war, besides putting together warm clothes and other supplies.
- Thirty-one Victoria Crosses — 15 % of the total — went to soldiers from undivided India.
- Without Indian soldiers, non-combatant labourers, material and money, the course of both conflicts would have been very different as acknowledged by Field Marshal Auchinleck, Britain's last Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, in an interview years later.

### **Post-war scenario: Forgotten in India**

- There is no recognition within India of its contribution to the world wars.
- In Britain, the contribution of the Commonwealth including the Indian subcontinent is memorialised in the Commonwealth Memorial Gates that lead up to Buckingham Palace.
  - The Gates commemorate the campaigns where Commonwealth soldiers served with distinction; there is also a canopy inscribed with the names of the Commonwealth recipients of the George and Victoria Crosses.
- Much of India's recent history is encapsulated in these gates, in a spirit of gratitude and equality.
- India did not recognise these contributions for many reasons, mainly due to the atrocities of colonial history.
  - When World War I ended in 1919 and Britain won with the help of Indian soldiers, India was denied its promised reward.

- Britain betrayed the hopes of nationalists. Instead of self-government, the British imposed the Rowlatt Act, by silencing and censoring the press, detaining political activists without trial, and arresting without a warrant any individuals suspected of treason against the Empire culminating in the horror of [Jallianwalla Bagh](#) in April 1919.
- This was compounded when Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared war on Germany on India's behalf in 1939 without consulting Indian leaders.

### Recognising the heroes:

- The failure of Indian independence to follow automatically from India's participation in the wars does not mean that the war efforts extended colonial rule by protecting Britain.
- There was fighting on Indian soil to defend India. India was threatened in the Second World War by advancing Japanese forces who got as far as Burma/Myanmar. They were repulsed in the battles of Imphal and Kohima between March and July 1944. Know more about the [Battle of Kohima](#) in the link.
- Those who went abroad to fight alongside white British soldiers returned with the knowledge that they were equal to their colonial masters.
- Our today has been built on the sacrifice of many, including those who died fighting fascism. Therefore India's valuable contribution shall not be written out of its history books. It is our duty to recognise and honour them.

***Nut Graf:** India's silence over world wars arises from the uneasy relationship between the Indian contribution to fighting fascism on a global stage and the nationalist movement for freedom at home. The success of the first is seen to have come at the cost of the second when Britain betrayed nationalist expectations of greater autonomy for India in return for support during World War I.*

### Category: GOVERNANCE

#### 1. Broadcast of socially relevant topics

***Syllabus:** GS2, Government policies and interventions for development of various sectors and issues arising out of them.*

***Mains:** Significant role played by the media in a Democracy*

**Context:** The Union Cabinet recently approved new guidelines for public service broadcasting.

#### Introduction:

- Under new guidelines, all stations having permission must have to broadcast content on issues of national importance and social relevance for at least 30 minutes every day.
  - The guidelines exempt foreign channels and sports channels as it is not feasible to broadcast such content.
- Acknowledging that airwaves or frequencies are considered public properties and are to be used in the best interest of society, the guidelines have listed eight themes as national importance and social relevance.
- The half-an-hour content will not be provided by the government. The TV channels are given the freedom to create and broadcast their own content.
- These guidelines will replace the existing ones operational since 2011 and would ease the issue of permission to the companies and limited liability partnership (LLP) firms registered in India for uplinking-downlinking of TV channels and associated activities.

### **Significance of public service broadcast:**

- Public service broadcast assumes importance in the time of polarising opinions, heated debates and narrow targeting of ideas on television.
  - Public service broadcasting will allow different viewpoints to be expressed and foster an enlightened understanding of current events.
  - A free exchange of ideas, free exchange of information and knowledge, debating and expression of different viewpoints are important for the smooth functioning of democracy.
- The themes of national importance and socially relevant issues that have been picked out include education and spread of literacy, agriculture and rural development, health and family welfare, science and technology, welfare of women and weaker sections of society, protection of environment and of cultural heritage and national integration.
  - These are subjects on which a lot more awareness is necessary.
- According to a FICCI-EY report, with television subscriptions estimated to add another 42 million by 2025 from 178 million in 2021, on the face of it, the public service broadcast is crucial in a diverse country with innumerable issues.
- It also makes a major contribution to shaping a sense of national identity.

### **Issues with the guidelines:**

- Once the guidelines are implemented, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will monitor the channels for the broadcast of this content. In case non-compliance is observed in the Ministry's view, an explanation will be sought.
  - If a channel continues to be non-compliant, more steps can be taken based on specific advisories that will be issued from time to time, and on a case-to-case basis.



- The guidelines say “the Central Government may, from time to time, issue a general advisory to the channels for telecast of content in national interest, and the channel shall comply with the same”.
- Though the Government has left it to the channels to “appropriately modulate their content to fulfil the obligation”, its stated intention to step in as and when required may be seen as an attempt to control mainstream media to its advantage.
  - The government’s pressure in the name of regulations is dangerous for the freedom of media.
- Corporate and political power has overwhelmed large sections of the media, both print and visual, which lead to vested interests and destroy freedom.
- There is also no clarity yet on compensation norms and who is going to finance the public service component on TV.
- Representatives of several broadcasters pointed out that they had paid hefty fees for the use of airwaves and any binding guidelines that adversely impact their commercial interests is not fair.

**Nut Graf:** *New broadcast guidelines have made it obligatory for all TV channels to undertake public service broadcasting for a minimum period of 30 minutes a day on socially relevant topics. With wide consultations regarding the modalities, public service broadcasting can be used as an effective tool to “inform, educate, entertain” the public on relevant issues.*

## F. Prelims Facts

### 1. CE20 Cryogenic Engine

**Syllabus:** *GS-3; Science and Technology; Achievements of Indians in science & technology and indigenization of technology*

**Prelims:** *About CE20 Cryogenic Engine and Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)*

#### Context

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine.

#### CE20 Cryogenic Engine

- CE20 cryogenic engine is an indigenously developed engine by ISRO for [Launch Vehicle Mark-3 \(LVM3\) \(previously called GSLV-Mk3\)](#).
- The CE-20 engine would be the uppermost (third and final) engine on the LVM3 rocket.

- The induction of the CE-20 engine will further enhance the LVM3 payload capability up to 450 kg with additional propellant loading as the engine is capable of generating more thrust and can lift much more payload mass to space.
- Major modifications in the CE-20 engine include the introduction of 3D-printed LOX (Liquid Oxygen) and LH2 (Liquid Hydrogen) turbine exhaust casings and Thrust Control Valve (TCV).

### **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) or GSLV-Mk3**

- LVM3 rocket is regarded as India's heaviest launch vehicle.
- The LVM3 rocket was previously known as GSLV-Mk3.
- LVM3 is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
- LVM3 consists of:
  - Two solid strap-on motors that help burn solid fuel
  - A core-stage liquid booster that burns a combination of liquid fuels
  - C25 cryogenic upper stage which helps burn liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen
- The LVM3 rocket is designed and developed to carry a 4-ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and satellites of about 8 tons into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

### **G. Tidbits**

#### **1. Human rights defenders must obey law of the land, says India at HRC session**

- The Solicitor-General of India at the [UN Human Rights Council \(UN HRC\)](#) in Geneva has said that India appreciates the role played by human rights defenders, journalists and activists in the democratic system but these activities must be in line with the law of the land.
- At the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of India at the HRC, countries like Greece, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Vatican City have urged the Government to ensure freedom of religion and end discrimination against human rights defenders and religious minorities.
- Germany, Ireland and South Korea have also asked for the transparent implementation of the [Foreign Contribution Regulation Act](#) and not to unduly restrict the freedom of association in India.
- Further, Italy has urged India to enable civil society organisations and freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

#### **2. At COP-27, India insists on higher target by 2024**

- At the ongoing UN climate summit [COP-27](#) at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, India has highlighted that developing countries require enhancements in climate finance beyond the commitment of \$100 billion a year to meet their ambitious goals and the developed countries must lead the mobilisation of resources.
  - At the COP-15 held in Copenhagen in 2009, the developed/rich countries had jointly committed to mobilising \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries address and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- However, it is said that the developed countries have failed to deliver this finance and developing nations such as India, are pushing developed countries to commit to a new global climate finance target which is also known as the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate finance (NCQG)**.
- The Indian delegation at COP27 has said that climate actions to meet the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** targets need financial, technological, and capacity-building support from developed countries.
- Highlighting the work of the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), India has said that developed countries are the major contributors of the carbon stock in the atmosphere and the fact underlies the importance of the core principles of the **UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change** and its [Paris Agreement](#) namely equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities".

#### H. UPSC Prelims Practice Questions

**Q1. Consider the following statements with regard to the office of the Governor in Indian states: (Level – Easy)**

1. If a person is appointed as the governor of two or more states, his salary and allowances payable to him are shared by the states in such proportion as determined by the parliament.
2. The oath of office to the governor is administered by the President of India.
3. The constitution has not laid down any grounds for the removal of the governor by the president.

**Choose the correct code:**

- a. One statement is correct
- b. Two statements are correct
- c. All statements are correct
- d. None of them

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is not correct**, According to **Article 158(3)(3A)** of the Constitution, if a person is appointed as the governor of two or more states, his salary and allowances payable to him are shared by the states in such proportion as determined by the **President**.
- **Statement 2 is not correct**, As per Article 159 of the Constitution, the oath of office to the governor is administered by the **Chief Justice of the High Court** of the respective State and in his absence, the seniormost Judge of that Court would administer the oath.
- **Statement 3 is correct**, The Governor holds office “during the pleasure of the President” and the Constitution has not laid down any grounds for the removal of the governor by the president.

**Q2. Which of the following nations is/are the member/members of both ASEAN and the East Asia Summit: (Level – Medium)**

1. Indonesia
2. Laos
3. South Korea
4. Brunei

**Choose the correct code:**

- a. 1 & 3 only
- b. 2 & 3 only
- c. 1, 2 & 4 only
- d. All of the above

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Members of ASEAN:** Brunei, Cambodia, **Indonesia**, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- **Members of East Asia Summit:** Ten ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the **Republic of Korea** (South Korea), Russia and the United States.
- **South Korea is not a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, hence **option c** is the correct answer.

**Q3. Cryogenics can be best defined as (Level – Easy)**

- a. Study of the production and behaviour of materials at extremely low temperatures
- b. Study of different orbits of the Earth
- c. Study of the Sun's other surface
- d. Study of the Moon's surface



**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Cryogenics is the branch of physics that deals with the production and effects of very low temperatures.
- Hence **option a** is the correct answer.

**Q4. With reference to the “Tea Board” in India, consider the following statements: (Level – Difficult)**

1. The Tea Board is a statutory body.
2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
3. The Tea Board’s Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- a. 1 & 3 only
- b. 1 & 2 only
- c. 1 only
- d. 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct**, The Tea Board was established as a statutory body in 1954 under the provisions of Section (4) of the Tea Act, 1953.
- **Statement 2 is not correct**, The Tea Board works under the aegis of the **Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- **Statement 3 is not correct**, The Board's Head Office is located in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

**Q5. Consider the following pairs : (Level – Difficult) PYQ (2019)**

**Wildlife: Naturally found in**

1. Blue finned mahseer: Cauvery river
2. Irrawaddy dolphin: Chambal river
3. Rusty spotted cats: Eastern ghats

**Which one of the pairs given above are correctly matched?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Pair 1 is correct**, Blue-finned Mahseer is found naturally in the Cauvery river.
- **Pair 2 is not correct**, Gangetic river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) are found in the Chambal river. However, Irrawaddy Dolphins (*Orcaella brevirostris*) are a different species and are seen in the Chilika lagoon and other salt-water estuaries of Odisha.
- **Pair 3 is correct**, The rusty-spotted cat is one of the smallest cat species seen in India and these cats inhabit the forests of the Eastern Ghats.

### I. UPSC Mains Practice Questions

1. Examine the contribution of Indian soldiers during the World Wars. (10 Marks, 150 Words)(GS1 - World History)
2. In the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, evaluate the reasons for Russia's retreat from the strategic Kherson region. (10 Marks, 150 Words)(GS2 - International Relations)