



## KURSK – GEOGRAPHY (PLACES IN NEWS)

**NEWS :** *What is behind Ukraine's Kursk operation in Russia?*

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

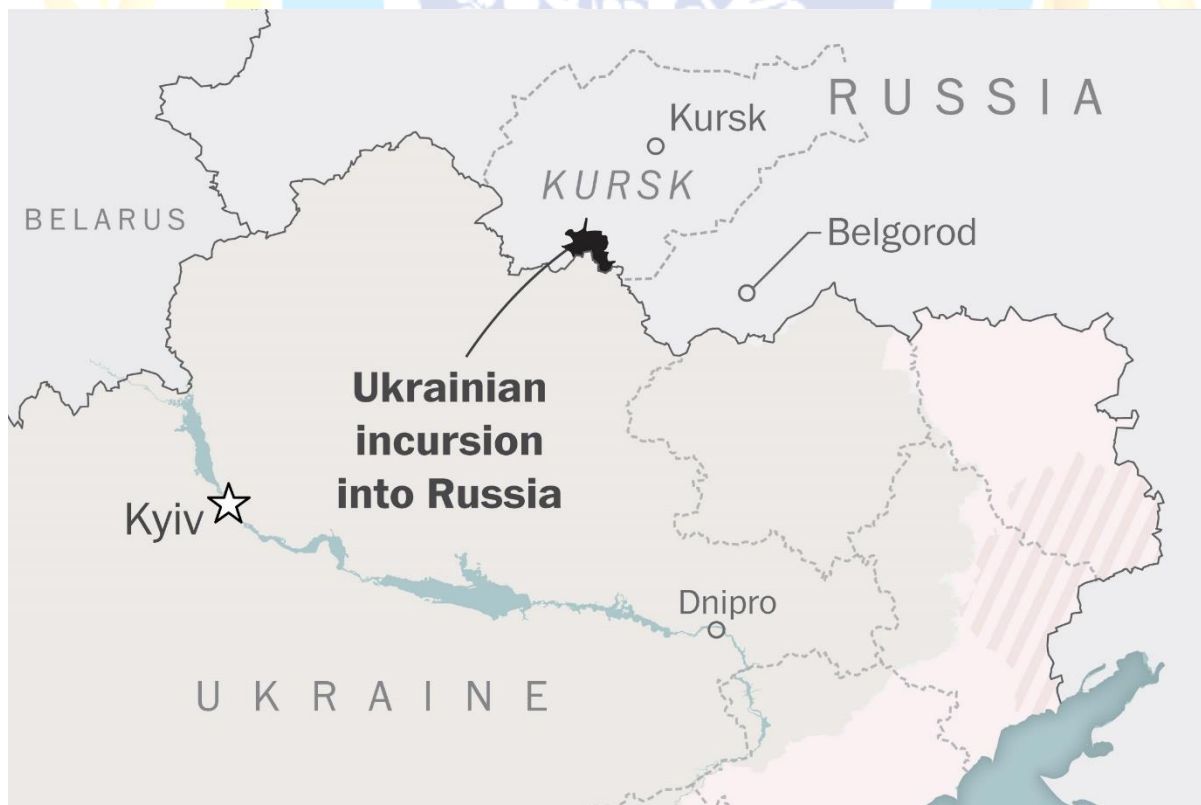
After Ukrainian troops moved into Russia's southern Kursk border region, Moscow sent reinforcements into the area.

### What are Ukraine's military and political goals?

#### Geographical Aspects

- **Location:** Kursk is a city and the administrative center of Kursk Oblast, Russia. It is strategically located at the confluence of three rivers: the Kur, Tuskar, and Seym.
- **Surrounding Environment:** The region is surrounded by fertile "Black Earth" or Chernozem, which is highly fertile black-colored soil. This soil is rich in humus (with a content ranging from 4% to 16%) and has high concentrations of phosphorus and ammonia compounds, making it extremely suitable for agriculture.

**Climate:** The region experiences a moderately continental climate, characterized by cold winters and warm summers. This climate supports a variety of agricultural activities, further complementing the fertile soil.





## Economic Activities

- **Industrial Focus:** The Kursk region has a diverse economy with a strong focus on iron-based industries, the chemical sector, and food processing. The industrial development in Kursk is bolstered by the presence of rich natural resources.
- **Kursk Magnetic Anomaly:** One of the most significant economic assets of the region is the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly, which holds the world's largest known iron-ore reserve. The iron content in this ore ranges between 35% to 60%, making it a key resource for the iron and steel industry.
- **Agriculture:** Thanks to the fertile Black Earth, agriculture plays a vital role in the region's economy. The region is known for producing various crops, including grains, sugar beets, and sunflowers.

## Energy

- **Kursk Nuclear Power Plant:** Located in Kurchatov, approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Kursk, the Kursk Nuclear Power Plant is a significant source of energy for the region. The plant plays a crucial role in meeting the energy demands of both Kursk Oblast and surrounding areas.

## Transportation

- **Railway Network:** Kursk is a key junction in the Russian railway network. It lies on a major railway line connecting Moscow and Kharkov, making it an important hub for passenger and freight transport. Trains from Kursk also link the city to Voronezh and Kiev, facilitating regional connectivity and trade.
- **Road Infrastructure:** Besides railways, Kursk is well-connected by road, with highways that link it to other major cities in Russia and neighboring countries.

## Historical Aspects

- **Early History:** The first recorded mention of Kursk dates back to 1032, indicating its long-standing historical significance in the region.
- **Mongol Invasion:** In the 13th century, Kursk was destroyed by the Mongols under the leadership of Batu Khan during the Mongol invasion of Kievan Rus', around 1237. This event marked a significant moment in the city's early history.
- **Soviet Era:** Kursk underwent significant changes after the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. On 26 November (9 December, new style) 1917, the Soviets took control of the city, marking the beginning of a new political and social order.
- **Cold War Role:** During the Cold War, Kursk hosted the Khalino air base, which played a strategic role in the military dynamics of the time. The presence of this base underscores Kursk's importance in Soviet defense strategies.

Source : <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/ukraine-kursk-operation-russia-9506353/>