

TARGET MAINS 2022

CURRENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS-1

→ GS-II ✓

# Topics to be discussed

1. Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis
2. Russia - Ukraine War
3. NATO ✓
4. Operation Ganga ✓
5. BIMSTEC Summit ✓



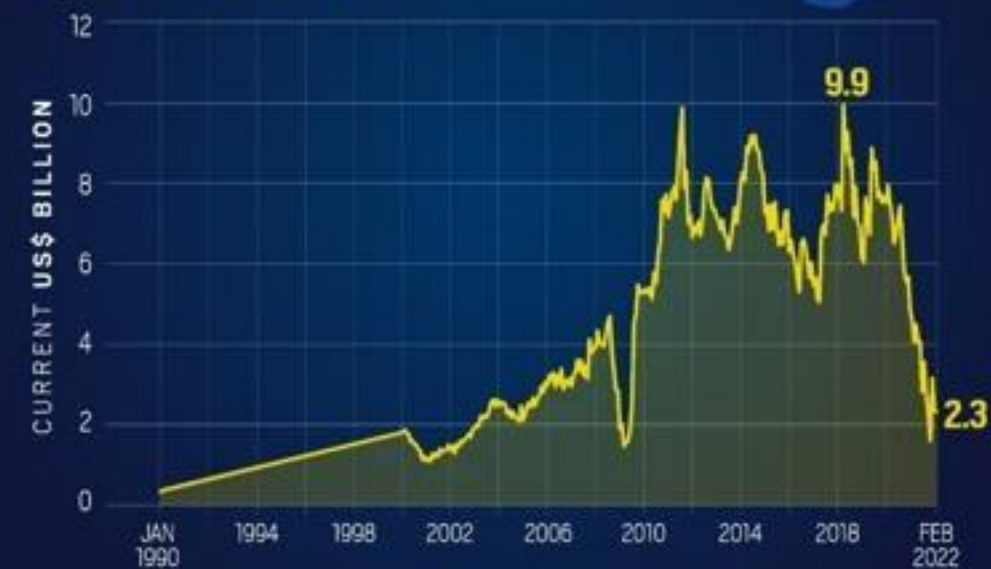
# 1. Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

What's Happening in Sri Lanka?

- The Sri Lankan economy has been facing a grave crisis owing to a serious Balance of Payments (BoP) problem.
- Its foreign exchange reserves have depleted rapidly.
- It has become increasingly difficult to import essential consumption goods.
- The country is unable to repay external debts.
- It has led to massive protests & violence.
- The Government has fallen and leaders were forced to resign.

## SRI LANKA'S DEPLETING FOREIGN RESERVES

TOTAL RESERVES



Source: World Bank

Public Debt



2015-2020 → Sirisena Govt

Rise - Prices - Food Items  
Fuel Price  
Medical

Protests  
Violence

Emergency

Govt

Debt Burden

99 yr Lease  
Hambantota Port  
Matela Airport  
Colombo Port

2015

Economic Investments - Infra

China - Debt Trap Diplomacy

Pandemic COVID-19

Russia Ukraine War

Tax Cuts

Revenue

Tourism

Terr Attack - 2019

Rajapaksa 2019

Tamir

ISIS

Tea  
Rubber

What led to this situation?

- Economic Mismanagement - Rajapaksa brothers
- Irresponsible Borrowing & Expenditure - Debt Burden
- Impact of IMF loans
- Slowdown in domestic production & exports
- Recent shocks to the economy

Mains Q

IMF  
Japan

India

15-20 yr

2005

China

Mil Support

Economic Investments

Infra

Colombo Port

2006-09

War

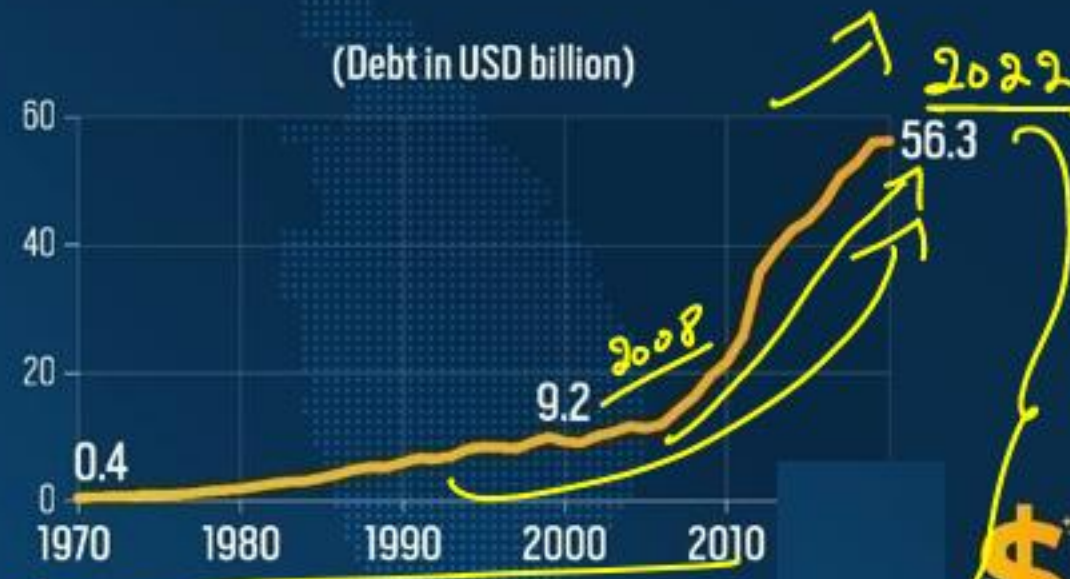
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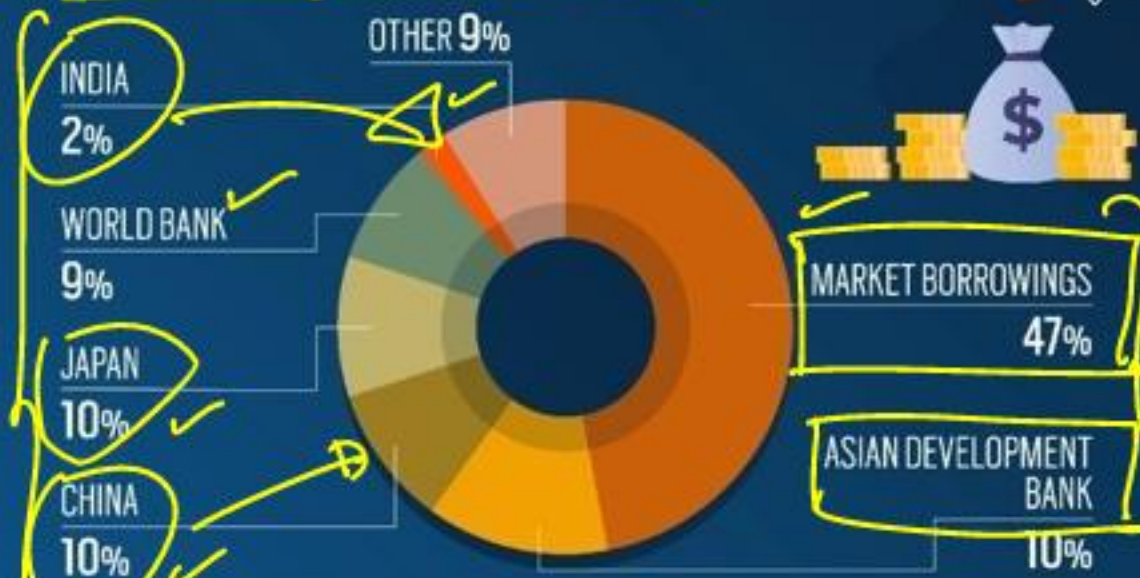


## SRI LANKA'S FOREIGN DEBT

PUBLIC DEBT PROJECTED TO HAVE RISEN  
FROM 94% IN 2019 TO 119% OF GDP IN 2021



### SHARE OF MAJOR LENDERS IN FOREIGN DEBT





\$3.5 Billion

China - \$3 Billion

# 1. Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

## India's Assistance

SAARC Doctrine → IOR

Sri Lanka

External Power - China  
NSA - Terror  
Org Crime

- \$400 million currency swap - under the SAARC Framework
- \$1 billion loan under Asian Clearing Union settlement deferred → Payments → Rescheduled
- \$500 million new Line of Credit - for importing fuel from India
- \$1 billion credit facility → for procurement of food, medicine and other essential items
- India has also sent ships with sugar, rice and wheat
- India open to additional \$2 billion aid with eye on China



# 1. Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

## Expected Questions

Intro

1. Sri Lanka's economic crisis is a lesson for all countries on responsible borrowing and prudent economic policies. Discuss by examining the factors that have contributed to this crisis.

Intro

Body

China  
Non-State

2. The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has geo-political implications for India. Critically evaluate.



## 2. Russia – Ukraine War

### Why in News?

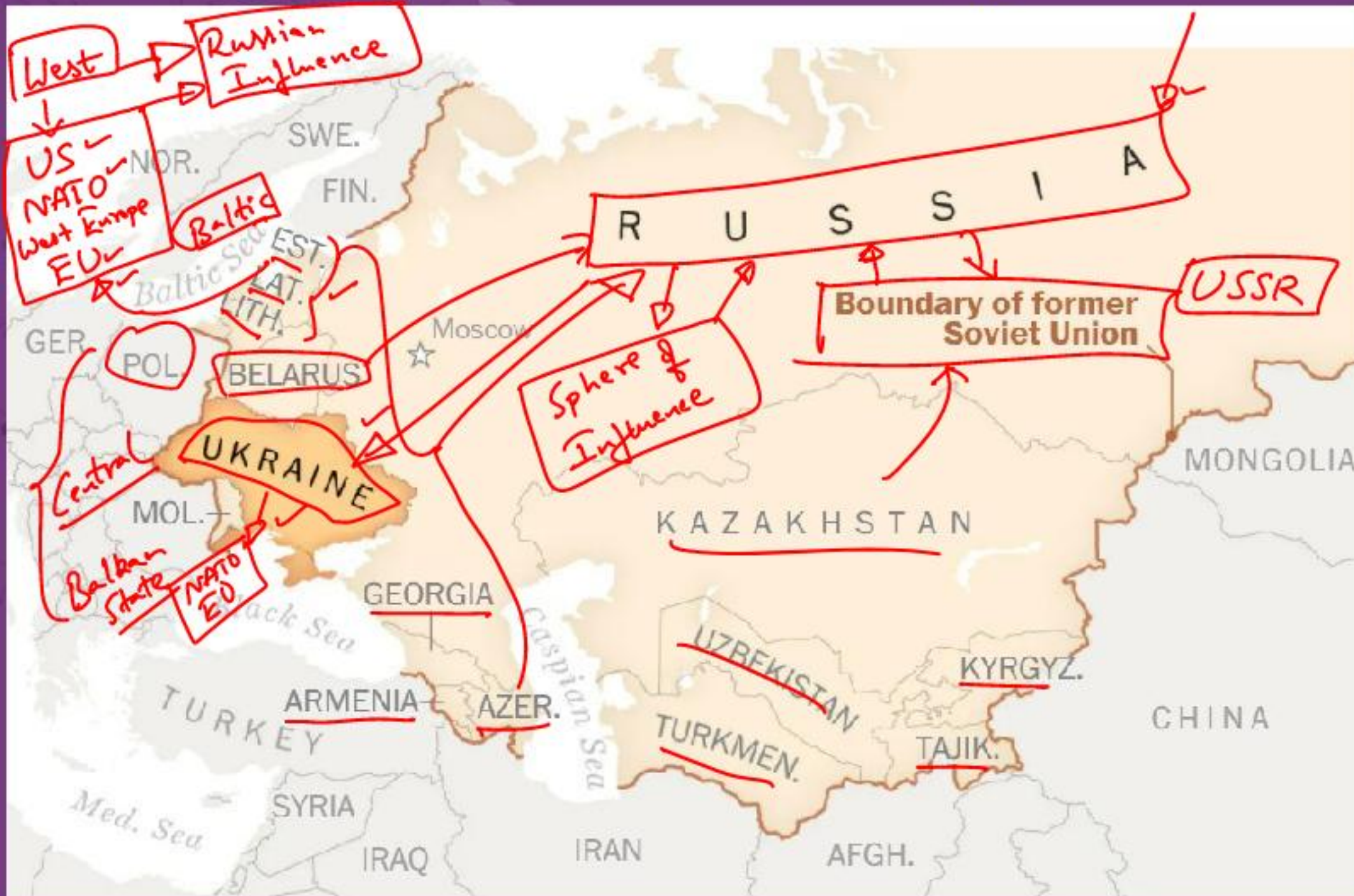
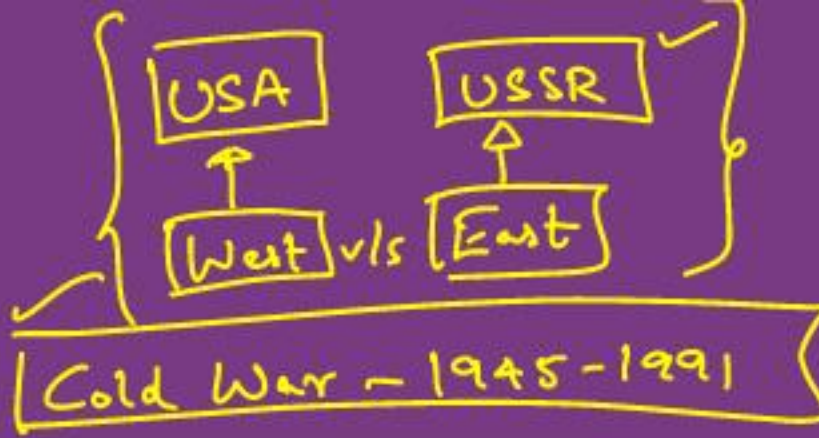
- Russia declared war against Ukraine and invaded the country.
- It had amassed over 1 lakh troops along with heavy war-fighting equipment along the Ukrainian border.
- The war has dragged for several months with significant economic and geo-political implications for the world.

CIA

Europe

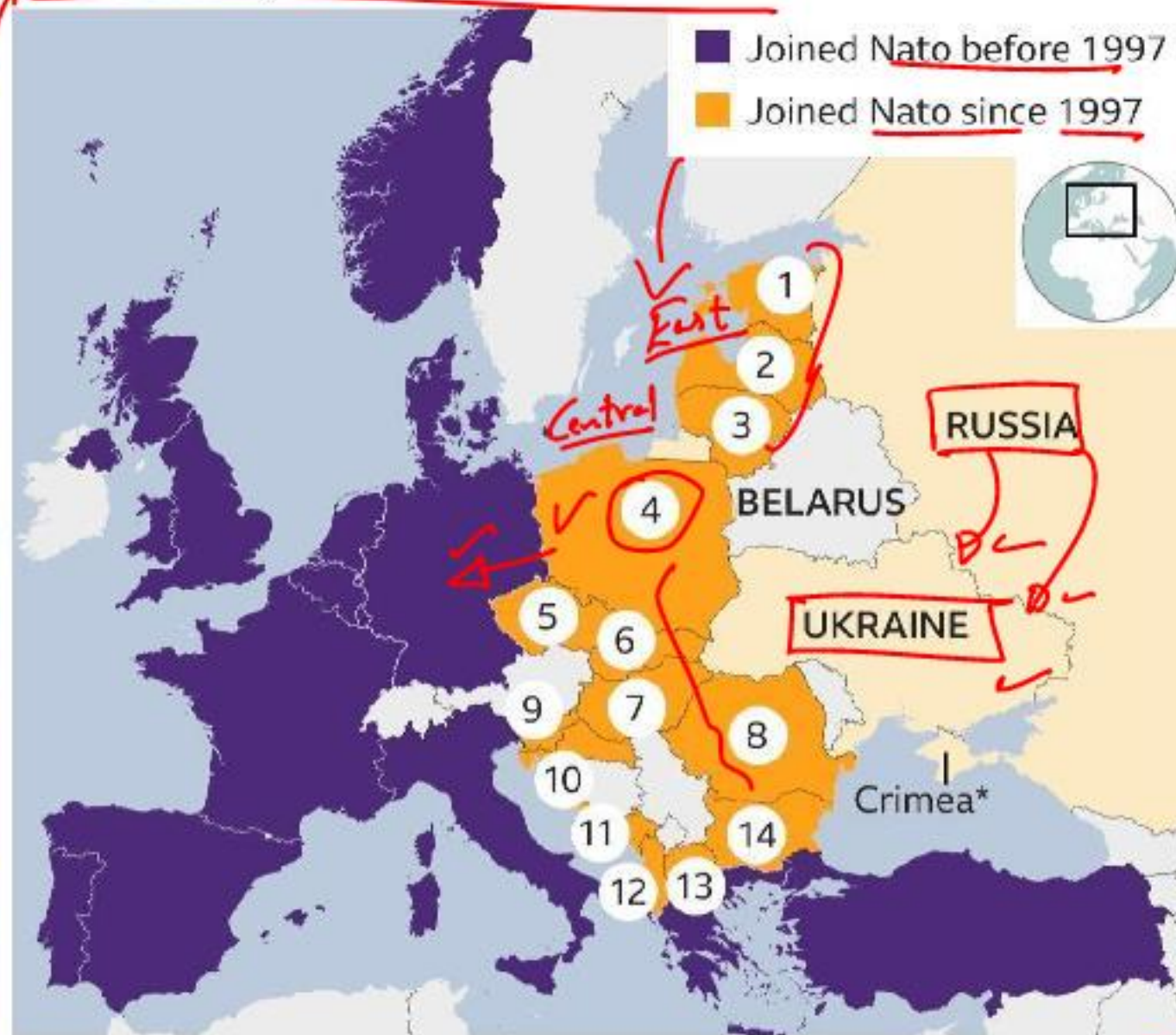


## 2. Russia – Ukraine War





## Nato's expansion since 1997

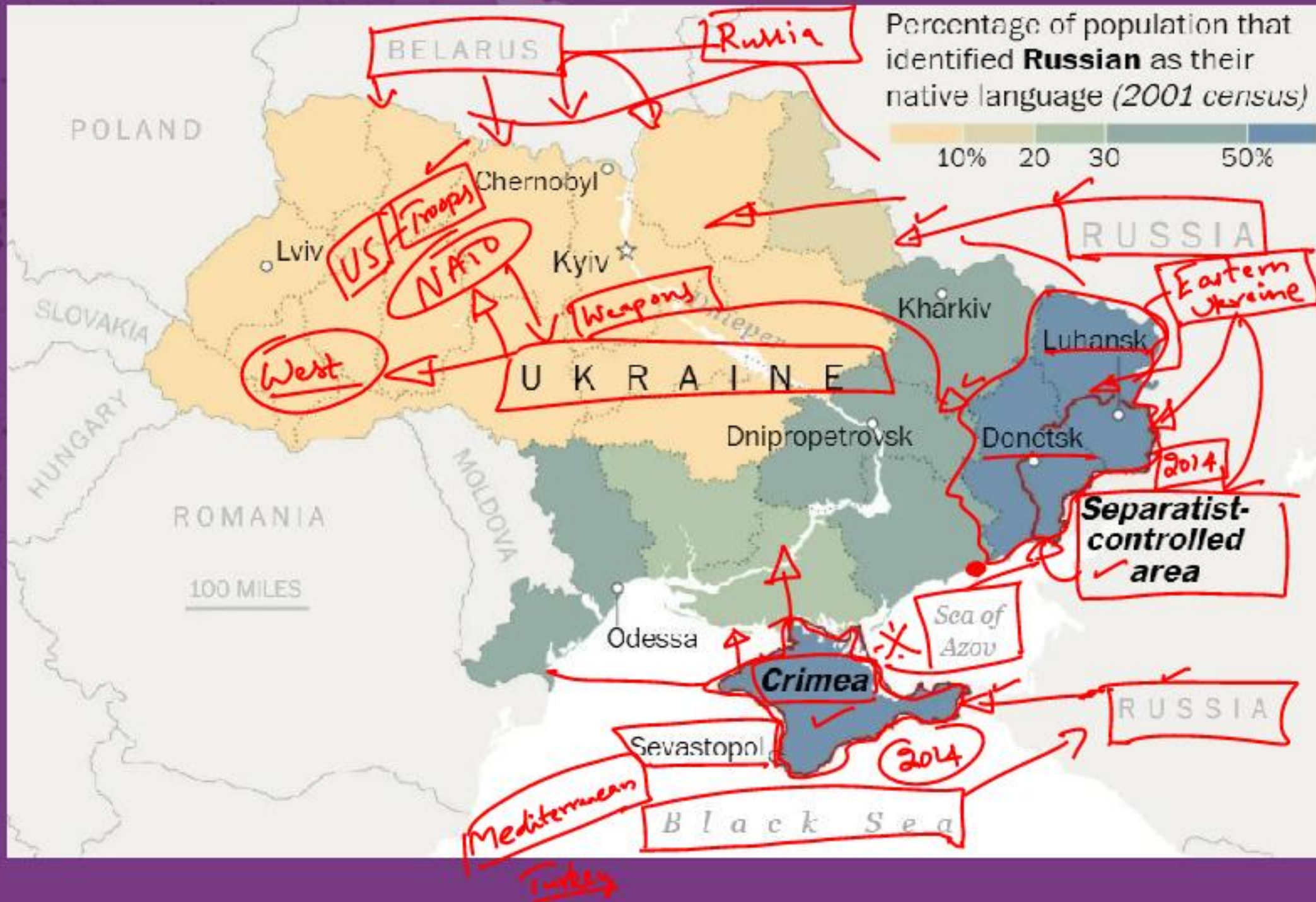


- |             |                  |              |                   |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| ① Estonia   | ⑤ Czech Republic | ⑨ Slovenia   | ⑬ North Macedonia |
| ② Latvia    | ⑥ Slovakia       | ⑩ Croatia    | ⑭ Bulgaria        |
| ③ Lithuania | ⑦ Hungary        | ⑪ Montenegro |                   |
| ④ Poland    | ⑧ Romania        | ⑫ Albania    |                   |

\*Russia annexed Crimea in 2014



## 2. Russia – Ukraine War









## 2. Russia – Ukraine War

### India's Position & Concerns

- Diplomatic dilemma – US v/s Russia
- UNSC – Abstained on voting; Urgent de-escalation of tensions → Talks
- Indian community in Ukraine – Students
- Oil prices & Sanctions → Discounted Price
- Impact on India-Russia defence trade → S-300, S-400

Principle of  
Strategic  
Autonomy

Refused – Follow  
Sanctions



## 2. Russia – Ukraine War

### Expected Questions

1. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a complicated challenge for India's independent foreign policy. Illustrate.
2. Russia's war in Ukraine signifies the emergence of a new cold war with the West. In the light of this statement, examine the factors that led to the war and its immediate consequences on the global economy.



### 3. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

#### Why in News?

- Russia – Ukraine War
- Expansion of NATO
- Finland & Sweden's membership



### 3. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance.
- It was set up in 1949 by the western countries.  
*(WWII)*
- 30 member states - 27 European, 2 North American & Turkey.  
*(12) US, Canada, West Europe*
- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.



### 3. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

#### WHAT IS NATO'S ARTICLE 5?



COLLECTIVE DEFENSE IS THE HEART OF THE NATO ALLIANCE.

THE PARTIES AGREE THAT AN ARMED ATTACK AGAINST ONE OR MORE OF THEM IN EUROPE OR NORTH AMERICA SHALL BE CONSIDERED AN ATTACK AGAINST THEM ALL

ARTICLE 5,  
THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY,  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
4 APRIL 1949

IF AN ALLY IS ATTACKED, EACH AND EVERY OTHER NATO MEMBER WILL COME TO THEIR DEFENSE

THE FIRST, AND ONLY TIME NATO HAS INVOKED ARTICLE 5 WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES



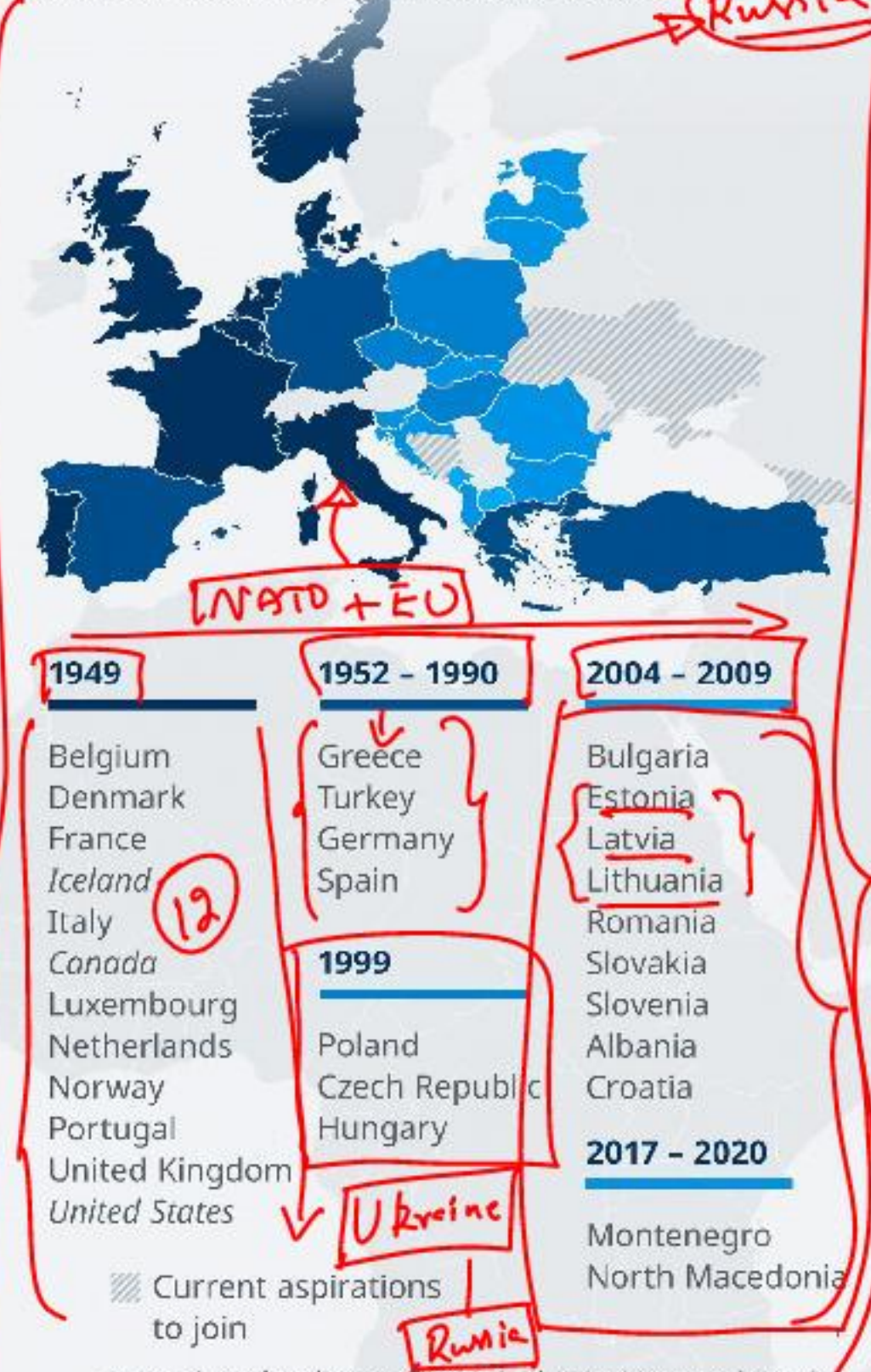
NATO  
↓  
AQ  
AI

AQ



## NATO's eastern expansion

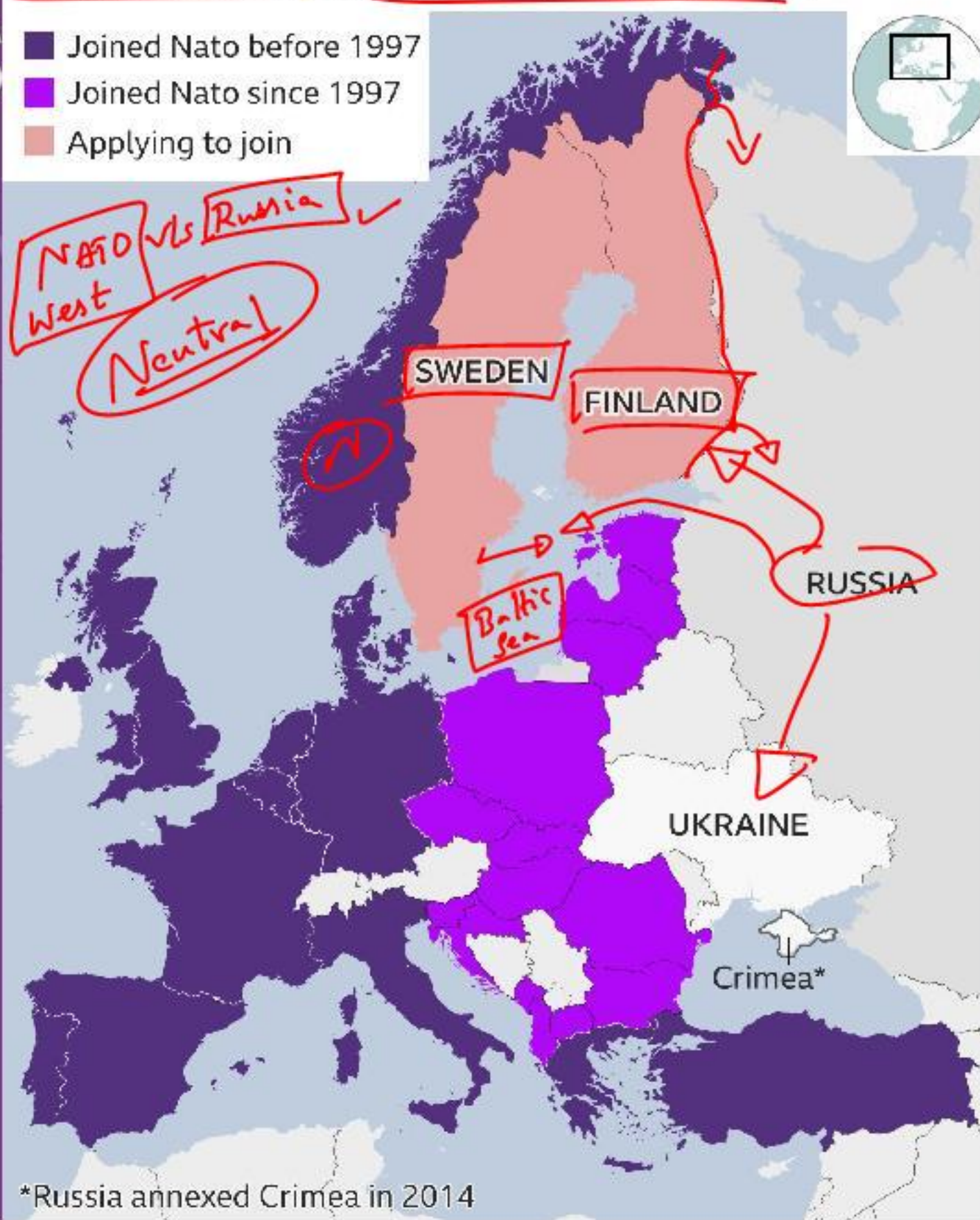
European countries' membership by year



Map excludes founding members Iceland, United States and Canada.



## Nato's eastward expansion since 1997





### 3. NATO's Membership

- NATO's charter says that countries that are party to the founding Washington Treaty can invite any European country to join the alliance in order to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic region.
- But in order for a country to join NATO, unanimous approval is required, which equals the approval of all 30 existing allied countries. North Atlantic - Collective Defense
- NATO membership normally requires a long process. For this, a multi-stage process is required to be completed.
- The invited country must meet the political, legal, and military requirements of NATO, and should fulfill the economic, military, legal, political and intelligence obligations of NATO membership.





### 3. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

#### Expected Questions

1. How does the proposed expansion of NATO, to include Finland and Sweden, affect European geopolitics?



## 4. Operation Ganga ✖

### Why in News?

- It was the evacuation mission launched by the Government of India to bring back Indians stranded in Ukraine.
- Nearly, 20000 <sup>Students</sup> Indians were stuck since Russia launched its war against Ukraine.



## 4. Operation Ganga

BusinessToday.In

### OPERATION GANGA IN A NUTSHELL

Govt of India launches ops to repatriate stranded Indians from Ukraine

4 ministers sent to oversee evacuation efforts



Jyotiraditya  
Scindia  
Romania



Kiren Rijiju  
Slovak  
Republic



Hardeep  
Puri  
Hungary



Gen VK  
Singh  
Poland



Airlines running evacuation flights



IAF's C-17  
Globemaster  
also operational  
from today

3 more Globemaster  
aircraft to visit  
Poland, Hungary,  
Romania

6 flights carrying 1,377 Indians departed for India in last 24 hrs



## 4. Operation Ganga

Indian  
Diaspora

Govt

### Past Evacuations

- Kuwait Airlift 1990
- Sierra Leone 2000
- Operation Rainbow & Castor 2004 - Sri Lanka & Maldives
- Operation Sukoon 2006 - Lebanon - Civil War
- Operation Safe Homecoming 2011 - Libya - Civil War - Arab Spring
- Operation Maitri 2015 - Nepal
- Operation Raahat 2015 - Yemen - Houthis Rebels - Iran
- Wuhan Evacuation 2020 - China
- Operation 'Samudra Setu' & Vande Bharat Mission 2020-21
- Operation Devi Shakti 2021 - Afghanistan - Taliban



## 4. Operation Ganga

### Challenges in Mass Evacuations

• Advisories & Communication → Dispersure

• Identifying & Locating → Evacuation

• Logistics & Route Planning → Safe Route

• Permissions & Safe Passage ✕

• Diplomatic Geopolitics & Contacts → Navigating Complex



## 4. Operation Ganga

### Safety of Indian Nationals Abroad

- Indian Diaspora – students, workers & PIO's

- Safety & Well-being – Moral & Humanitarian obligation

- Cultural Ambassadors – Project Soft Power influence

- Shape & Influence foreign policy

- Pressure group on host foreign government


- Send back remittances

Forex → CAD



## 4. Operation Ganga

### Expected Questions

- 
1. India has become a pioneer in evacuating its nationals in distress who are stuck abroad in difficult circumstances. Examine with relevant examples.
  2. Ensuring the safety and well-being of the Indian diaspora is a duty and a moral obligation on the government of India. Critically evaluate.



## 5. BIMSTEC Summit ✕

Why in News?

Bay of Bengal

South Asia  
South East Asia

- 5th BIMSTEC Summit hosted in virtual mode by Sri Lanka.

Mar, 2022



# BIMSTEC

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Stands for **The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**

Founded in 1997 through **Bangkok Declaration**

## 7 MEMBER COUNTRIES



## Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas—trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries



## 5. BIMSTEC Summit

### Outcomes of 5th Summit

- BIMSTEC Charter adopted
- 7 Sectors of Co-operation Identified

Sectors	
Bangladesh	: Trade, Investment and Development
Bhutan	: Environment & Climate Change
India	: Security Sub-sectors: Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Disaster Management, Energy
Myanmar	: Agriculture and Food Security Sub-sectors: Agriculture, Fisheries & Livestock
Nepal	: People-to-People Contact Sub-sectors: Culture, Tourism, People to People Contact (forums of think tanks, media etc.)
Sri Lanka	: Science, Technology & Innovation (Sri Lanka) Sub-sectors: Technology, Health, Human Resource Development
Thailand	: Connectivity



## 5. BIMSTEC Summit

### Outcomes of 5<sup>th</sup> Summit

- Master Plan for Transport Connectivity (2018-2028)

It lists 264 projects entailing a total investment of \$126 billion. Projects worth \$55 billion are under implementation.

- Mutual legal assistance in criminal matters

- Cooperation between diplomatic academies

- Establishment of a technology transfer facility in Colombo.



## 5. BIMSTEC Summit

### Expected Questions

1. BIMSTEC represents a bridge between South Asia and South-East Asia. In the light of this statement, examine the key outcomes of its recent summit.