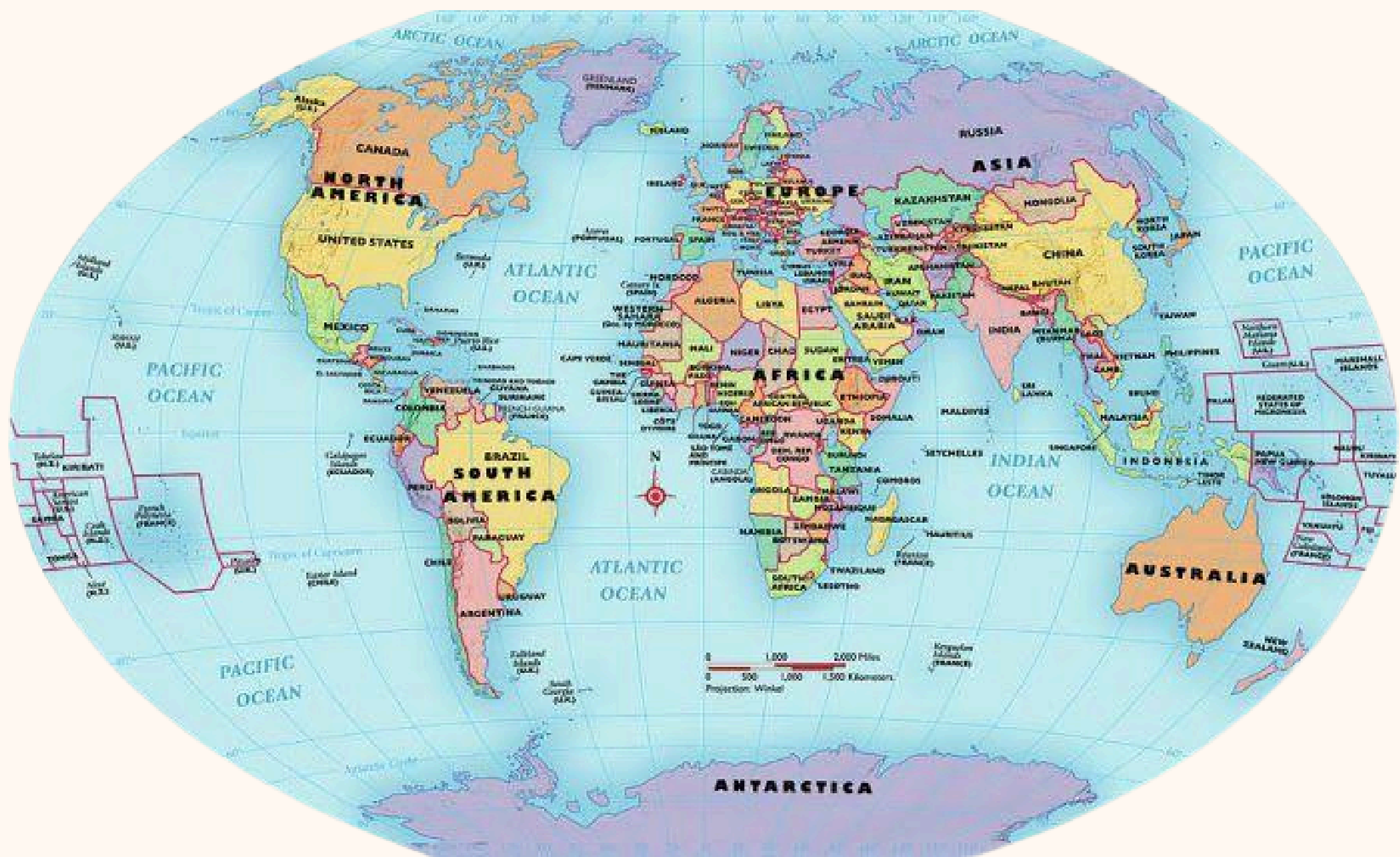




Sherlocking Prelims



**PLACES
IN
NEWS**

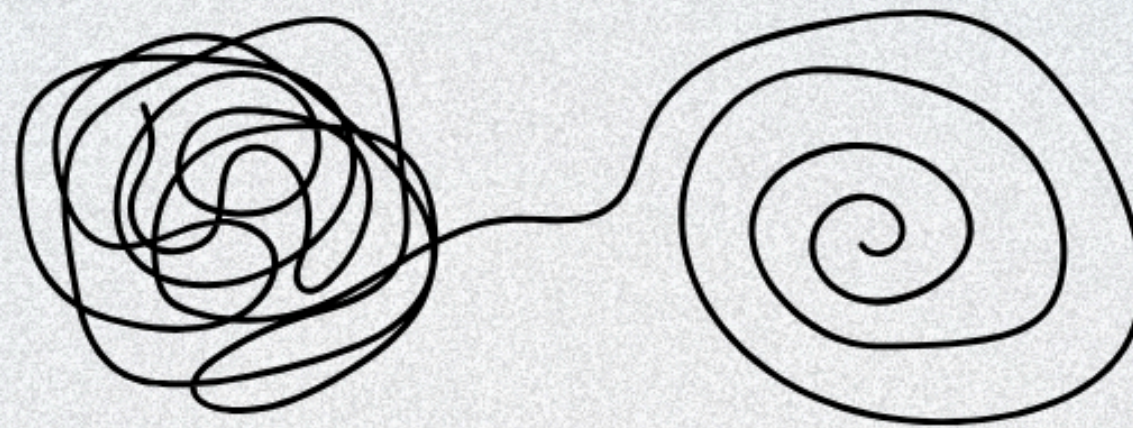
Unlock IAS Presents

Sherlocking Prelims Modules



- PYQs-centered module(s) (2011 onwards for GS, 2018 onwards for CSAT)
- Individual Modules available for – History, Geography, Environment, Science & Tech, Polity, Heuristics, CSAT
- Regular live doubt sessions for all modules.

Done with basics but not able to clear Prelims/apply the knowledge?



The Sherlocking Prelims Module(s) will help you **rewire your approach** – teaching you to **leverage common sense** and foundational knowledge



AIR 14 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'

“ I was unable to clear my first Prelims attempt in CSE 2022. A major change in strategy took place after I came across Neil sir's 2022 Prelims Sherlocking video on YouTube the next year and it taught me how to properly analyze PYQ's the right way and identify themes, patterns and Heuristics. ”



AIR 230 (2023) on 'Sherlocking'

Ricky Lohkar Pradhan

@neilcantbirdwahtch thanks a lot for the Sherlocking course. I really could not have cleared prelims if not for Sherlocking.

11:03 AM



Neil
(Founder, Unlock IAS)
HCS (2021, Rank 93)

Join t.me/UPSCneil to get FREE UPSC guidance and get answers to your academic doubts!

FREE!



Places In News

Red Sea



- Houthi attacks in the Red Sea have disrupted global shipping, raising costs and trade risks.
- The mnemonic **“DESSEY”** to remember the countries bordering the Red Sea:

D – Djibouti

E – Egypt

S – Sudan

S – Saudi Arabia

E – Eritrea

Y – Yemen



Places In News

North Sea

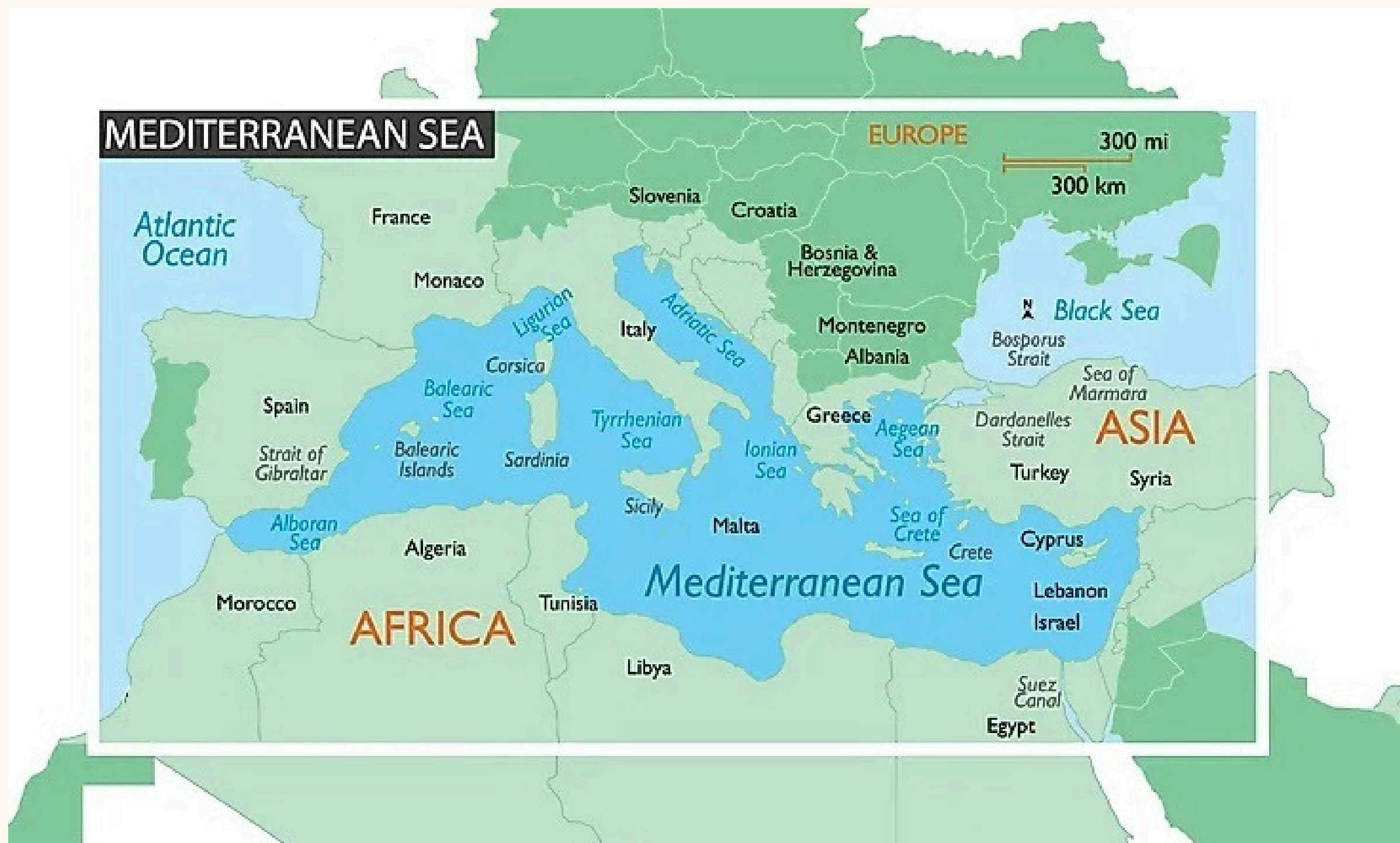


- **Discovery of massive ancient landforms, revealing it was once buried under a giant ice sheet during the last Ice Age.**
- **Simple mnemonic to remember the North Sea bordering countries: “Nice Dogs Go Near Big Ugly Fish”**
 - **Nice = Norway**
 - **Dogs = Denmark**
 - **Go = Germany**
 - **Near = Netherlands**
 - **Big = Belgium**
 - **Ugly = UK**
 - **Fish = France**



Places In News

Mediterranean Sea



- **Critical maritime route connecting the Suez Canal to Europe; Frequent migrant boat tragedies near Italy, Greece, and Libya.**
- **Bordering Countries: Mnemonic**
 - **Southern Border: METAL**- [Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Libiya]
 - **Eastern Border: LIST**- [Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Turkiye]
 - **Northern Border: MISS MBA GF Cry** [Monaco, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Greece, France, Croatia]
 - **Island Nation: Cyprus**



Places In News

Adriatic Sea



- Record-high temperatures (30°C) caused mucilage outbreaks, harming marine life and disrupting fishing.
- **Bordering Countries: Mnemonic**
MBA ICS
[Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia]



Places In News

Baltic sea



- Record-high temperatures (30°C) caused mucilage outbreaks, harming marine life and disrupting fishing.
- Bordering Countries: Mnemonic
SR. DGP FELL
[Sweden, Russia, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania]



Places In News

Nagorno-Karabakh



- **Russian troops have begun pulling out** of Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijan regained control of the region from Armenian separatists.
- A region **internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan**, is surrounded by Azerbaijan and is connected to Armenia through the Lachin corridor



Places In News

Ukraine (Capital: Kyiv)



- **Russian missiles have struck Ukraine's Snake Island (Zmiinyi Island) in the Black Sea.**
- **Ukraine shares its borders with Belarus to the north, Russia to the east, Moldova and Romania to the southwest, and Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland to the west.**



Places In News

Nord Stream



- A new study finds that **explosions** damaging the Nord Stream pipelines **may have released thousands of tonnes of methane** into the Baltic Sea.
- Nord Stream: It is an offshore pipeline system (Nord Stream 1 and 2) that transports natural gas from Russia to northern Germany.



Places In News

Kursk Region



- Russia has declared an **emergency in the Kursk Region** after Ukrainian troops advanced deep into its territory.
- Kursk lies in central Eastern European Plain, along the Ukraine border, within the Dnieper and Don river basins.



Places In News

Lebanon (Capital: Beirut)



- **Israel has stepped up its offensive against Hezbollah, deploying additional troops along the southern Lebanon border.**
- **Borders: Syria to the north and northeast, Israel to the south, and shares a maritime boundary with Cyprus.**



Places In News

Gulf of Aden



- A recent **pirate attack** in the Gulf of Aden has raised security concerns in the region.
- It is a deepwater basin **connecting the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea**, serving as a key maritime route.
- **Bab el-Mandeb** is a narrow strait connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, located between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in Africa.



Places In News

Turkiye (Capital: Ankara)



- **Turkiye has launched airstrikes against Kurdish militants in Iraq and Syria**, escalating regional tensions.
- **Borders:** Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece, and Bulgaria.
- **Water Bodies:** Surrounded by the Black Sea to the north, Mediterranean Sea to the south, and Aegean Sea to the west.



Places In News

Somalia (Capital: Mogadishu)



- A **deadly suicide bombing** and gun attack in Mogadishu has led to civilian casualties.
- Positioned on the **Horn of Africa**, it's the easternmost country in continental Africa.
- **Borders:** Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya
- **Water Bodies:** Bounded by the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean.

Places In News

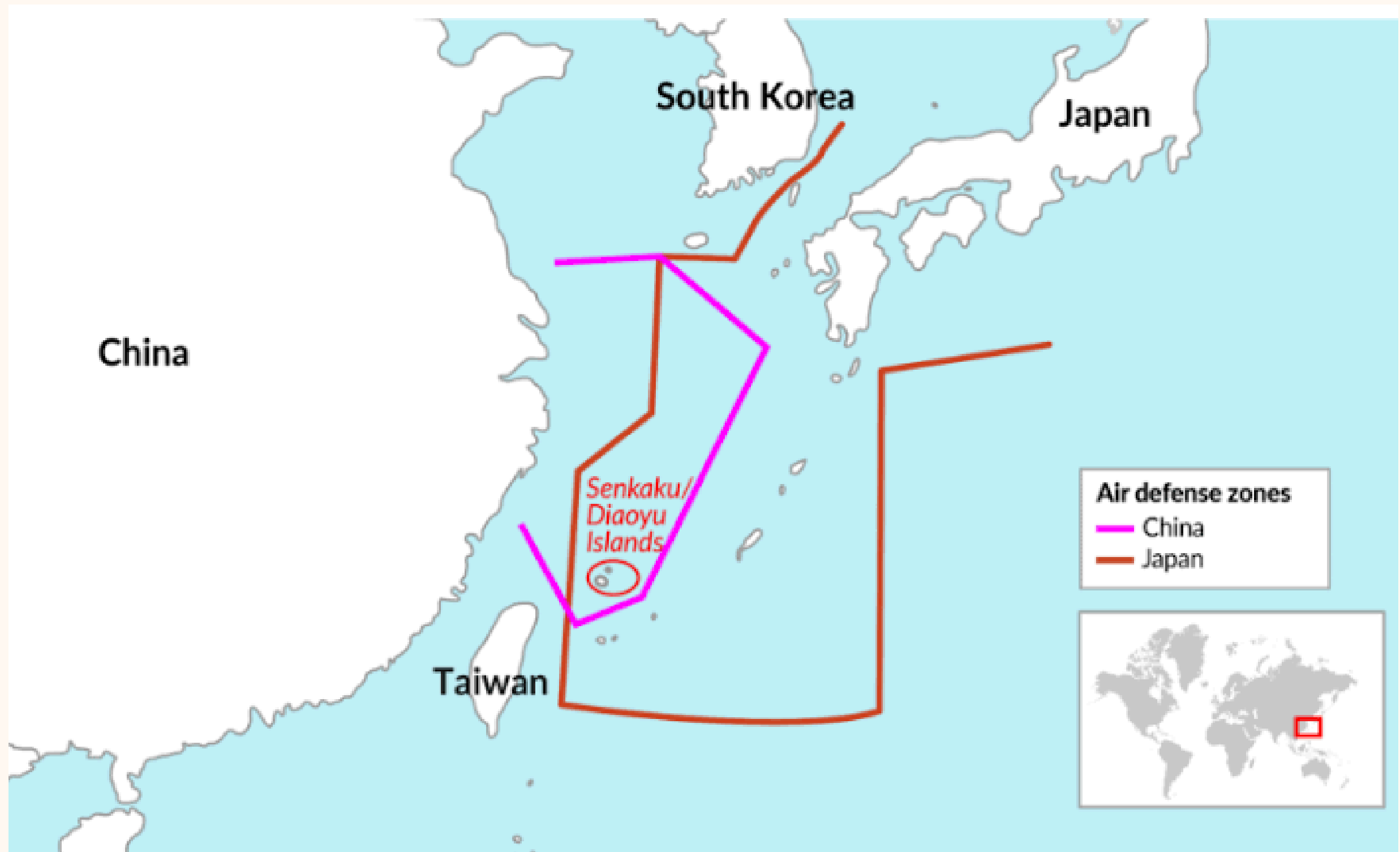
Abu Musa Island



- **Iran summoned China's envoy** after a China-UAE statement **questioned its sovereignty** over the disputed islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb.
- These islands are **claimed by both Iran and the UAE** but have been under Iranian control since 1971.
- **Strategic Location: Near the Strait of Hormuz**, a crucial chokepoint for global oil transport.

Places In News

Senkaku Islands



- **Japan and the USA jointly opposed any unilateral move by China to alter the status quo of the Senkaku Islands (called Diaoyu by China).**
- **Located in the East China Sea, around 410 km west of Okinawa, they are a point of territorial dispute between Japan and China.**

Places In News

Golan Heights



- It is bounded by the **Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee on the west,**
- **Mount Hermon** on the north
- **seasonal Wadi Al-Ruqqād River** on the east and
- **the Yarmūk River** on the south.



Places In News

Gaza Strip

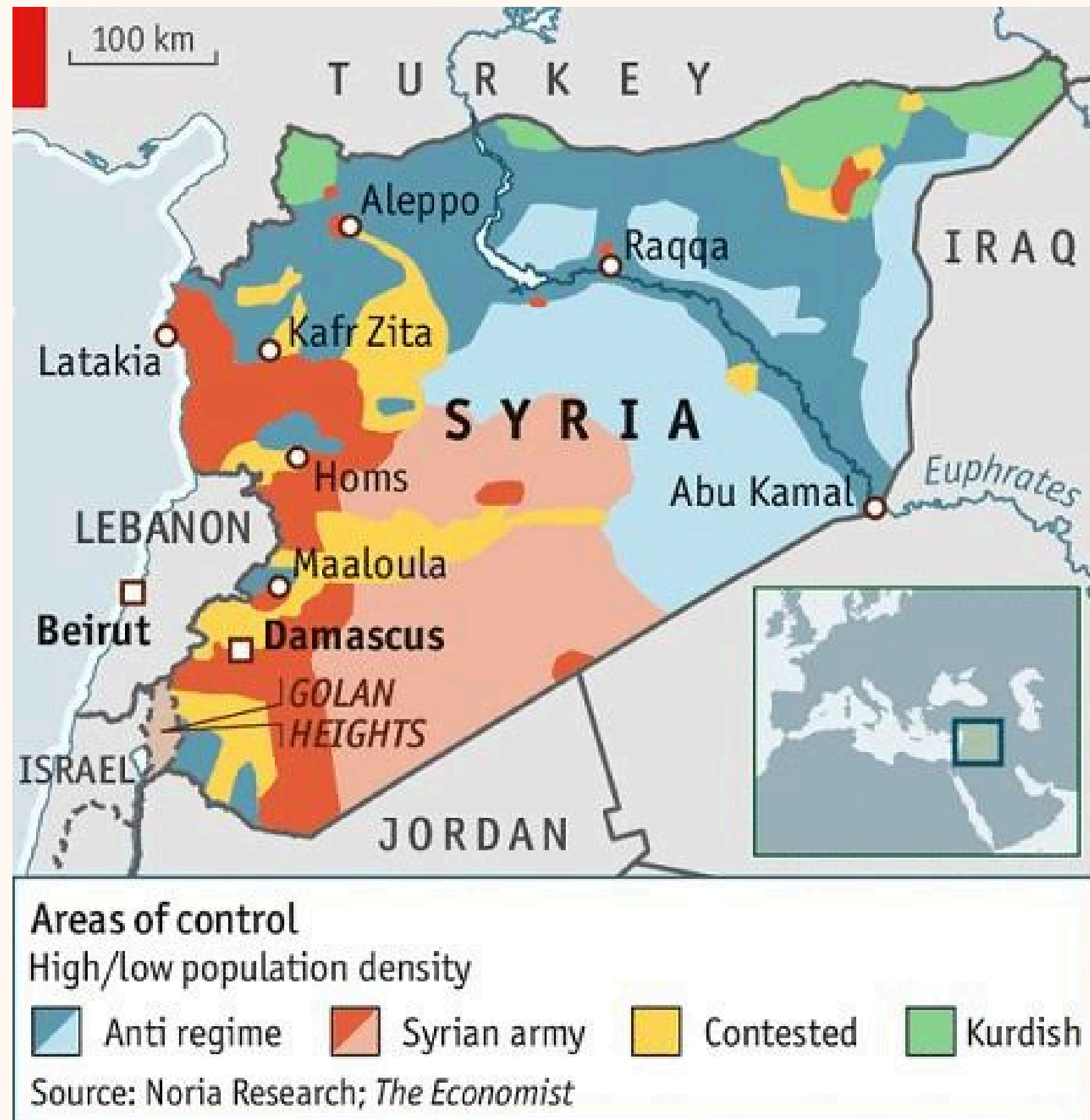


- The key areas of dispute are the **West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem**. Israel controls all three, but Palestinians claim them for a future state.
- **Gaza Strip**: A **coastal enclave bordering Israel and Egypt**, densely populated and controlled by Hamas. Its narrow coastline is strategic along the Mediterranean Sea.
- **West Bank**: **Located between Israel and Jordan**, it includes the Jordan Valley.



Places In News

Syria



- **Conflict in Syria** continues with **Israeli airstrikes** targeting sites in
- Aleppo,
- Hama,
- Homs,
- Palmyra.