



Coup in Gabon

For Prelims: Location of Gabon and its neighbours, [Coup in Niger \(2023\)](#).

For Mains: Effect of Policies and Politics of Countries on India's Interest, How Coup Affects the socio-economic fabric of a nation.

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

Gabon, a Central African nation, rich in oil but plagued by **poverty and political instability**, has witnessed another coup attempt by a **group of mutinous soldiers** who claimed to have seized power and placed the President of the country under house arrest.

- Coup attempt took place due to allegations of **election fraud and corruption against** Gabon's President Ali Bongo Ondimba, reflecting the growing discontent within the nation.

What are the Key Points About Gabon?

- **Geography:**
 - Gabon, a country **surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean** in the west, is a former **French colony**, and retains strong ties to France and French language and culture. The capital is **Libreville**.
 - It shares land borders with **Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea**, and the **Republic of Congo**.
 - Gabon has a **population of 2.3 million (2021)** and **forests covering 88% of its territory**.
 - Gabon is widely described as **'Africa's last Eden'**, the **Loango National Park is one of the country's best wildlife-watching spots**.

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- **Urbanisation:**

- Gabon has one of the **highest urbanisation rates in Africa** with more than **four in five Gabonese citizens living in cities.**

- **Gabon's Economy:**

- Gabon is the **4th largest oil producer in Sub-Saharan Africa.**
- Strong economic growth over the **past decade was driven mainly by oil and manganese production.**
- In 2020, the oil sector accounted for **38.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 70.5% of exports despite efforts to diversify the economy.**
- Gabon is a member of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**, but its oil wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few — and nearly **40% of Gabonese aged 15 to 24 were out of work in 2020**, according to the **World Bank.**

Other Recent Upheavals in Africa:

- [Coup in Niger \(2023\)](#)
- [Crisis in Sudan \(2023 and 2021\)](#)
- [Burkina Faso Coup \(2022\)](#)
- [Military Coup in Mali \(2021, 2020\)](#)

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