



Crisis in Libya

General Khalifa Haftar, head of the **Libyan National Army (LNA)**, has launched an offensive on the capital Tripoli of Libya.

- Haftar forces have already taken control of the **east of the country including most of the oilfields.**
- The general supposedly has the backing of **Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and some West Asian countries, apart from Russia and France.**

Background

- Anti-government protests began on **February 15, 2011**, leading to civil war between opposition forces and Muammar Gaddafi loyalists.
- The capital city, **Tripoli was captured and the government was overthrown after military intervention by western powers.**
- In Libya, a **UN-backed internationally recognized government was put in place called the Government of National Accord (GNA).**
- Libya has no single government currently, with **LNA backing the Tobruk-based parliament which governs the East of Libya**, and the **GNA which controls Libya's western parts from Tripoli.**
- The UN-backed government failed to provide stability to Libya. West Libya which was under GNA control was replete with inter-militia battles and kidnappings.
- The GNA commands no security forces, public administration scarcely exists, water, petrol and power shortages abound, and few banks operate.

International Response

- The GNA of Libya has asked the **UN Security Council to intervene to protect Tripoli.**
- United Nations has issued a **plea for a temporary ceasefire to allow** the wounded to be evacuated.
- Many European countries, the US has asked to **cease hostilities and de-escalation of tension.**
- The **US has ordered evacuation of its troops stationed in Tripoli.**
- **India also evacuated its contingent of peacekeeping forces comprising of 15 CRPF personnel from Tripoli.**
- India has also asked its citizens to exercise extreme caution.

Impact

- The civil war in Libya **may lead to a new migrant crisis from Africa into Europe.**
- **Libya has the largest oil reserve in Africa** and one of the largest oil producer in the world. **Instability in Libya may increase oil prices globally. This will impact India directly.**



Country Profile: Libya

- Libya is a mostly **desert and oil-rich country in northern africa.**
- Libya **gained independence in 1951.** Soon after oil was discovered and earned the country immense wealth.
- Colonel **Gaddafi seized power in 1969** and ruled for four decades until **he was toppled in 2011** following an armed rebellion assisted by Western military intervention.
- Capital: **Tripoli**
- Population: **6.4 million**
- Area: **1.77 million sq km** (685,524 sq miles)
- Major language: **Arabic**
- Major religion: **Islam**
- Currency: **Libyan dinar**

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiiias.com/printpdf/crisis-in-libya>

