Libyan Crisis

Why in news?

The Tripoli based government of Libya has decided to launch a peace initiative.

What is the post-independence history of Libya?

- Libya is mostly desert and oil-rich country in northern Africa.
- Libya gained independence in 1951.
- 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.
- The civil war in Libya may lead to a new migrant crisis from Africa.
- Libya has the largest oil reserve in Africa and one of the largest oil producers in the world.
- Instability in Libya may increase oil prices globally.

What is the political status of Libya?

- Libya has been torn by violence and political instability since long-time ruler Muammar Gaddafi was toppled and killed by rebels in 2011..
- Today there are two governments in Libya, one based at Tobruk and the other in the capital Tripoli.

- The capital city Tripoli was captured by the Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj is called the Government of National Accord (GNA)
- It has international recognition.
- The self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), commanded by
- Mr. Haftar, backs the Tobruk government.
- Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are backing Mr. Haftar’s forces.
- Turkey and Qatar backs the Tripoli based government.

What is the need of the peace talk?

- The recent tipping point of the crisis was the attempts by **Mr Haftar** led **LNA** to oust the government of **Mr. al-Sarraj (GNA)** and to capture Tripoli.
- The U.S. had also taken a favorable view.

- Hundreds of people have already been killed, but both sides have refused to agree to a ceasefire despite international calls.
- So the UN recognized Tripoli based government (GNA) has decided to launch a peace initiative aimed at stabilizing the war torn country.
- The Tripoli based government has proposed setting up a national peace forum with help from the UN, to be followed by simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections.

What needs to be done?

- The world powers, including the U.S., Britain and their Gulf allies should look beyond their narrow geopolitical interests and use their influence to establish order in the country.
- Prime Minister al-Sarraj's offer could be a new beginning only if a ceasefire is reached, and respected, by all sides.

Source: The Hindu

