Syllabus subtopic: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

Prelims and Mains focus: About the crisis in Libya and its impact on the regional and global geopolitics

News: Both sides in Libya’s conflict agreed to a ceasefire from Sunday to end nine months of fighting following weeks of international diplomacy and calls for a truce by powerbrokers Russia and Turkey.

Background

The oil-rich North African country has been wracked by bloody turmoil since a NATO-backed uprising killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with multiple foreign powers now involved.

Events leading to ceasefire

- Since April last year, the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli has been under attack from forces loyal to eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar, which days ago captured the strategic coastal city of Sirte.

- Late on Saturday, Haftar’s forces announced a ceasefire in line with a joint call by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

- Early on Sunday, the head of the GNA, Fayez al-Sarraj, announced his acceptance of the ceasefire, saying it had taken effect on Sunday.

- The UN mission in Libya welcomed the announcements.