

1. Muammar Gaddafi Killed in Sirte

- Muammar Gaddafi, who ruled Libya for over **40 years**, was killed on **20 Oct' 2011** while
- years after coming to power in a coup.
- Muammar Muhammad **Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi** was born to nomadic parents in the desert region of Sirte in 1942. He went on to study history at the **University of Libya** in 1961 and then entered the **Benghazi Military Academy**.
- He remained the autocratic **ruler of Libya from 1969**, when he seized power in a **bloodless military coup** that trying to flee from his **hometown, Sirte**.
- Muammar Gaddafi ruled Libya for 42 overthrew **King Idris I** until 2011 when his government was overthrown in a civil war.
- His 42-year rule prior to the uprising made him the **fourth longest ruling** non-royal leader since 1900, as well as the **longest-ruling Arab leader**.
- He pinned several titles to himself the **Brother Leader** and **Guide of the Revolution**, in 2008 a meeting of traditional African rulers bestowed on him the title King of Kings .After seizing power in 1969, he abolished the Libyan Constitution of 1951 and civil liberties enshrined in it.
- He imposed laws based on the political ideology which he had formulated and called it the **Third International Theory**.He also published **The Green Book**.
- The **United Nations** called Libya under Gaddafi a pariah state. In the 1980s, countries around the world imposed sanctions against Gaddafi.
- A leading advocate for a United States of Africa, he served as Chairperson of the African Union (AU) from 2 February 2009 to 31 January 2010.

2. Libyan Civil War-2011

- Protests against Gaddafi's rule began in Feb' 2011. Soon an uprising that spread across the country, with the forces opposing Gaddafi establishing a government based in **Benghazi** named the **National Transitional Council (NTC)**.
- This led to the 2011 Libyan Civil War, which included a military intervention by a **NATO-led coalition** to enforce a **UNSC Resolution 1973** calling for a no-fly zone and protection of civilians in Libya.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued **arrest warrants** on 27 June 2011 for Gaddafi, his son **Saif al- Islam**, and his brother-in-law **Abdullah al-Senussi**, head of state security for charges, concerning crimes against humanity.
- Rebel forces engaged in a coastal offensive and took most of their lost territory, and captured the capital city of Tripoli in August 2011.Gaddafi evaded capture.

3. Palestine got full Membership of UNESCO

- Palestine got the membership of UNESCO (United Nations Educational , Scientific and C u l t u r a l Organisation) with 107 votes in favour and 14 votes against, there were 52 abstentions. Eighty-one votes were required for approval with 173 UNESCO member delegations present.
- The USA, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Australia and the Czech Republic **voted against**. Britain, Italy and many Pacific and Caribbean island nations **absented** themselves from the voting.
- India, Russia, Brazil, China, South Africa and France voted in favour. **UNESCO is the first UN agency** Palestine has joined as a **full member**.



- UNESCO protects historic heritage sites and works to improve world literacy and cultural understanding. Its headquarters are located at Place **de Fontenoy** in Paris, capital of France.
- Palestine is also seeking full membership in the UN but USA has threatened that it will veto it unless there is a peace deal with Israel.
- Full membership of UNESCO is a small but crucial step forward for the Palestine in its attempts to achieve international **recognition and statehood**

4. Congo: Thomas Lubanga Dyilo is a convicted war criminal

- **Thomas Lubanga Dyilo** is a convicted war criminal from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the **first person ever convicted** by the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- He founded and led the **Union of Congolese Patriots** (UPC) and was a key player in the **Ituri conflict** (1999–2007).
- **Reason:** Rebels under his command have been accused of massive human rights violations, including ethnic massacres, murder, torture, rape, mutilation, and forcibly conscripting child soldiers.
- On 17 March 2006, Lubanga became the first person arrested under a warrant issued by the ICC.
- His trial, for the **war crime** of "conscripting and enlisting children under the age of fifteen years and using them to participate actively in hostilities", began on 26 January 2009, and he was found guilty on 14 March 2012. He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years.
- **Ituri conflict:** It is a conflict between the **agriculturalist Lendu** and **pastoralist Hema** ethnic groups in the Ituri region of the north eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- While there have been many phases to the conflict, the most recent armed clashes ran from 1999 to 2003, with a low-level conflict continuing until 2007.
- The conflict had been vastly complicated by the presence of various armed groups who participated in the **Second Congo War**, the large amount of small arms in the region, a scramble for the area's abundant natural resources, and the ethnic tensions of the surrounding region.
- The **Lendu** ethnicity was largely represented by the **Nationalist and Integrationist Front (FNI)** while the **Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC)** claimed to be fighting for the **Hema**. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the conflict and hundreds of thousands forced from their homes.
- The increased intensity of the violence is also the result of a 'borrowing' of ethnic ideology from the **Hutu-Tutsi** standoff.
- **Human Rights Watch** reported that the Lendu began thinking of themselves as kin to the Hutu, while the Hema identify themselves with the Tutsi. While there is little basis to this new formation of identity, it vastly increases the imagined stakes of the conflict.