

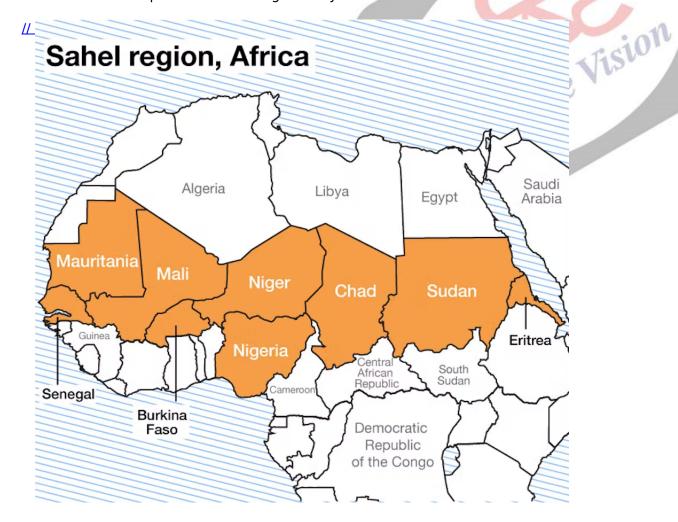
## **Coup in Niger**

## **Source: TH**

## Why in News?

**Niger** is currently in the midst of a political upheaval as a <u>military coup</u> has taken control, ousting the democratically elected President.

- The <u>Sahel region</u>, home to Niger, <u>Burkina Faso</u>, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, has witnessed political instability and ethnic tensions.
  - **Weak governance, corruption, and ethnic clashes** led to military interventions under the pretext of restoring stability.



## What are the Key Points About Niger?

Geography:

- Niger is a landlocked country located in West Africa, bordered by Algeria, Libya, Chad,
  Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali.
- Niger has more than 80% of its land area lying in the Sahara Desert.
  - Niger takes its name from the Niger River, which flows through the southwestern part of its territory
- It is the largest country in West Africa and roughly twice the size of France.
  - Capital city: Niamey.



#### Historical Context:

- Niger was a <u>French colony</u> until it gained independence in 1960.
- The country experienced a series of military coups and political instability in the decades following independence.
- **Climate:** Desert, mostly hot, dry, dusty, tropical in extreme south.
- **Economy:** Niger is one of the **world's poorest countries** and faces challenges related to poverty, food security, and underdevelopment.
  - However, it has significant natural resources, including gold mining reserves and a significant share of global <u>uranium</u> production.
  - The economy is largely agrarian, with a focus on subsistence farming and livestock.
- Ethnic Groups: Hausa, Zarma-Songhai, Tuareg, Fulani, Kanuri, Arab, Toubou.
- Official Language: French language is recognized as the official language of Niger.

## **UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question:**

# Q. In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught international attention for which one of the following reasons is common to all of them? (2023)

- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- (b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- (c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- (d) Successful coups

Ans: (d)

