

Mali

February 23, 2022

In news— Recently, Mali's army-dominated interim parliament, called the National Transitional Council, has approved a plan allowing the military government to rule for up to five years (after that Democratic transition).

Key updates-

- The army-dominated legislature also decided that the country's interim president cannot stand for a future democratic election, as part of the same bill.
- After staging a coup in the impoverished Sahel state in August 2020, Mali's military rulers initially promised to stage a vote in February 2022.
- But in December 2021, the military government proposed staying in power for between six months and five years, citing security concerns.
- In response, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) last month imposed a trade embargo and closed its borders with Mali.

About Mali-

- Mali is a **landlocked country of western Africa, mostly in the Saharan and Sahelian regions.**
- The national **capital, Bamako, is located on the Niger River.**
- **French is the official language of Mali, but languages of the Niger-Congo family dominate.**
- The area that is now Mali was once **part of the three great precolonial Sudanic empires: Ghana, Mali, and Songhai.**
- The **Bambara (Bamana) ethnic group** and language predominate, with several **other groups—including the Fulani (Fulbe), Dogon, and Tuareg**—also present in the population.

- **The Niger River flows through its interior, functioning as the main trading and transport artery in the country.**
- **Mali's landscape is largely flat and monotonous. Two basic relief features can be distinguished: plateaus and plains,** which are crossed by two of Africa's major river systems, the Niger and the Sénégal.
- Mali lies within the intertropical zone and has a hot, dry climate, with the sun near its zenith throughout most of the year.
- In general, **there are two distinct seasons, dry and wet.**
- **There are two main vegetation zones** that correspond to the climatic regions of the Sudan and the Sahel.

