



31 July 2024

National and International News

<p>Wagner Group</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wagner mercenary group from Russia reported severe losses, including a commander, in recent battles with separatist forces in northeast Mali. <p>About Wagner Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Name: PMC Wagner, a Russian paramilitary organization. Nature: A private military company and a network of mercenaries. Origin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerged in 2014 during Russia's annexation of Crimea. Operated in Syria and several African countries including Libya, Sudan, Mozambique, Mali, and the Central African Republic. Founders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yevgeny Prigozhin. Dmitry Utkin, a former special forces officer in Russia's GRU military intelligence. Legal Status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mercenary forces are technically illegal in Russia. Wagner registered as a "private military company" in 2022. Operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closely tied to the Russian military and intelligence community. Services vary based on client needs, including rebel groups and regimes. Funding ranges from direct payment to resource concessions.
<p>Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) recently approved amendments to the deal for 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs from General Atomics, USA. <p>About Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formation: Formed in 2001 following the Group of Minister's recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security




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	<p>System' post-Kargil War (1999).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure expeditious procurement of the armed forces' approved requirements in terms of capabilities and prescribed time frames. ○ Optimize utilization of allocated budgetary resources. ● Composition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chaired by the Defence Minister. ○ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) ○ Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force ● Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approve a 15-year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for defence forces. ○ Accord acceptance of necessity for acquisition proposals. ○ Categorize acquisition proposals as 'Buy', 'Buy & Make', and 'Make'. ○ Address issues related to single vendor clearance. ○ Decide on 'offset' provisions for acquisition proposals above Rs 300 crore. ○ Make decisions regarding the Transfer of Technology under the 'Buy & Make' category. ○ Conduct field trial evaluations.
<p>International Organization (ILO) Labour</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India, a founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), is likely to file a complaint against the UN agency regarding its India Employment Report 2024. <p>About International Labour Organization (ILO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Specialized Agency of the UN: Dedicated to improving labour conditions and living standards worldwide. ● History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation: Established in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles after World War I. ○ UN Agency: Became a specialized agency of the UN in 1946. ● Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland. ● Membership: 187 members (186 UN member states plus the Cook Islands). ● Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tripartite Agency: Includes governments, employers, and workers' representatives from 187 member states. ○ UNDP Membership: Part of the United Nations Development Group aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals. ● Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy Formulation: Develops international policies



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	<p>to promote human rights, improve working conditions, and enhance employment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Labour Standards: Creates and supervises the application of international labour standards. ○ Technical Cooperation: Implements international technical cooperation programs in partnership with its constituents. ○ Training and Education: Conducts training, education, and research activities to support its initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nobel Prize for Peace: Awarded in 1969 for its contributions to improving labour conditions and promoting social justice.
<p>Mission LiFE</p> 	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launches Ideas4LiFE portal for inviting ideas related to products and services for inducing behavioral changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles. <p>About Mission LiFE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unveiled by Prime Minister of India at the UNFCCC COP26 in 2021. ● Focuses on individual conduct in global climate action. ● Objective: Motivate at least 1 billion people (Indians and global citizens) to take individual and group actions for environmental protection and conservation (2022-2028). ● Vision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage small, everyday actions to drastically halt climate change. ○ Establish an ecosystem through the 'Pro-Planet People' (P3) community to support and sustain environmentally responsible behaviors. ● Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Everyone has a responsibility to live in harmony with the Earth and cause no harm. ○ Individuals living this way are designated as Pro Planet People. ● Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Save Energy ○ Save Water ○ Say No to Single Use Plastic ○ Adopt Sustainable Lifestyle ○ Reduce Waste ○ Adopt Healthy Lifestyles ○ Reduce E-Waste
<p>Digital Arrest</p>	<p>Why in the news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The "Digital Arrest" scam, a new form of online fraud,



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involves **perpetrators impersonating official authorities to extort money** from victims via video calls.

About Digital Arrest:

- The term “Digital Arrest” refers to a sophisticated **cyber scam where fraudsters impersonate law enforcement or government officials to extort money** from unsuspecting victims.
- This **scam typically involves video calls where the scammers falsely accuse the victim of illegal activities**, creating a sense of urgency and **fear to compel the victim to transfer money immediately**.
- **How It Works:**
 - **Initial Contact:** Victims receive a video call from scammers posing as authorities.
 - **Creating Fear:** Scammers use intimidating tactics, such as false accusations of criminal activities.
 - **Demand for Payment:** Victims are pressured to pay a large sum to avoid supposed legal consequences.

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