



31 July 2024

National and International News

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| <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 System' post-Kargil War (1999). • Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Ensure expeditious procurement of the |



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| | <p>armed forces' approved requirements in terms of capabilities and prescribed time frames.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Optimize utilization of allocated budgetary resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 Labour Organization (ILO)</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: |



- **Policy Formulation:** Develops international policies to promote human rights, improve working conditions, and enhance employment opportunities.
- **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.
- **Recognition:**
 - **Nobel Prize for Peace:** Awarded in **1969** for its contributions to improving labour conditions and promoting social justice.

Mission LiFE



Why in the news?

- **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.

About Mission LiFE:

- **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:**
 - **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:**
 - 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:**
 - Save Energy
 - Save Water
 - Say No to Single Use Plastic
 - Adopt Sustainable Lifestyle



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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, involves perpetrators impersonating official authorities to extort money from victims via video calls. <p>About Digital Arrest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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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