

Russia -Wagenar group

- Evgeny Prigozhin, the chief of Russia's Wagner Private Military Company, staged a short-lived mutiny against the country's defense establishment on June 24, pushing Vladimir Putin's Russia into an unprecedented internal security crisis.
- Mr. Prigozhin said he was not staging a coup and stayed away from directly attacking the Kremlin.
- But he demanded the ouster of Russia's top defense brass and launched a "march of justice", with a convoy of armed men and armored vehicles, towards Moscow.
- Mr. Putin opted to resolve the situation through talks but the fact that a feud between his Ministry of Defence (MoD) and a favorite, powerful warlord came to the brink of an open civil war speaks more of chaos rather than order in Moscow

What was the deal?

- When he launched his mutiny, Mr. Prigozhin demanded the ouster of the MoD top brass, mainly Mr. Shoigu and Gen. Gerasimov.
- Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) had slapped a criminal case against Mr. Prigozhin. The future of Wagner was also hanging in balance.
- According to the Kremlin, as part of

the deal, Mr. Prigozhin would relocate to Belarus and those Wagner members who did not join the mutiny would be allowed to sign contracts with the MoD.

- The case against Mr. Prigozhin would be dropped. But Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, "Changes of personnel in the MoD", a reference to Mr. Prigozhin's key demand, were not discussed.
- After the deal was announced, Wagner left the southern headquarters in Rostov and Mr. Prigozhin was seen leaving the city in a black SUV amid cheers from the locals.
- But it's not clear when he would move to Belarus, how many of his men would follow him, or what would be their role in the country

THE HINDU

Fibonacci spirals in plants

- Spirals, referred to as Fibonacci spirals for simplicity, are extremely widespread in plants and have fascinated scientists from Leonardo da Vinci to Charles Darwin.
- Such is the prevalence of Fibonacci spirals in plants today that they are believed to represent an ancient and highly conserved feature, dating back to the earliest stages of plant evolution and persisting in their present forms.

What are Fibonacci spirals?

- Spirals occur frequently in nature and can be seen in plant leaves, animal shells, and even in the double helix of our DNA.
- In most cases, these spirals relate to the Fibonacci sequence – a set of numbers where each is the sum of the two numbers that precede it (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, and so on).
- These patterns are particularly widespread in plants and can even be recognized with the naked eye.
- The discovery of non-Fibonacci spirals in such an early fossil is surprising as they are very rare in living plant species today

THE HINDU

Digital India Act

- The Digital India Act 2023 is a proposed legislation that aims to replace the Information Technology Act 2000 and provide a comprehensive framework for regulating the digital space in India.
- According to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, the Act will cover topics such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), cybercrime, data protection, deep fakes, competition issues among internet platforms, and online safety.
- The Act will also reconsider the

concept of the safe harbor, which is the principle that allows social media platforms to avoid liability for posts made by users.

What are the Key Provisions of the Digital India Act 2023?

- Online safety: The Act would create new laws to protect children from online abuse and exploitation. It would also require social media platforms to take steps to remove harmful content from their platforms.
- Data protection: The Act would create a new data protection framework for India. This framework would give individuals more control over their personal data and would make it more difficult for companies to collect and use data without their consent.
- Cybercrime: The Act would create new laws to combat cybercrime. These laws would make it easier for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute cybercrimes.
- Digital India Authority: The Act would create a new regulatory body, the Digital India Authority. The Authority would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Act and for ensuring that digital technologies are used in a safe and responsible manner.

What are the benefits of the Digital India Act 2023?

- Some of the benefits of the Digital India Act 2023 are:
- It will promote the growth of India's digital economy, which is likely to cross \$1 trillion by 2023.
- It will foster the development and deployment of digital technologies across multiple sectors, such as education, health, agriculture, and e-governance.
- It will address various challenges related to cybersecurity and data privacy, both of which are critical issues in the digital age.

What are the challenges of implementing the Digital India Act 2023?

- Some of the challenges of implementing the Digital India Act 2023 are:
- It may face resistance from some social media platforms and intermediaries who may not agree with the proposed changes in the safe harbor principle and the moderation policies.
- It may require robust infrastructure and skilled manpower to ensure effective enforcement and adjudication of online offenses and disputes.
- It may have to balance the interests

of various stakeholders, such as users, businesses, government, and civil society while ensuring transparency and accountability.

- It may have to deal with the complexities and uncertainties of emerging technologies, such as AI, deepfakes, and distributed ledger technology, and their potential risks and benefits.
- It may have to overcome the challenges of low internet speed and limited Wi-Fi hotspots in some parts of the country.

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