




**23 October 2024**

**National and International News**

<p><b>Important Species in news: Hornets</b></p> 	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hornets can tolerate alcohol better than any other animal on Earth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hornets are a <b>breed of social wasps</b>, living in large, highly organized colonies.</li> <li>• They are a <b>group of 20 species occurring naturally only in Asia, Europe, and Africa, with one species introduced to North America.</b></li> <li>• Hornets belong to the <b>insect family Vespidae</b>. This family contains each species of hornets as well as wasps such as <b>yellow jackets, paper wasps, potter wasps, and pollen wasps.</b></li> <li>• Hornets release more venom per sting than any other stinging insect.</li> <li>• One species, the <b>northern giant hornet, or Asian giant hornet (V. mandarinia), which is native to Asia, is the largest known wasp species in the world.</b></li> <li>• <b>Diet:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hornets are known to have a rich diet of sugar and protein, among other things.</li> <li>○ They prey on other insects, including honeybees and social wasps, and chew them into a paste as food for their larvae.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Reports &amp; Indices: World Economic Outlook</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently, the World Economic Outlook was released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency, founded at the <b>Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.</b></li> <li>• It was established in the aftermath of the <b>Great Depression of the 1930s.</b></li> <li>• The main objectives of the IMF include <b>supporting global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating international trade, promoting high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reducing poverty.</b></li> <li>• It also lends to countries with balance-of-payments difficulties, and provides technical assistance and training to help countries improve economic management.</li> <li>• IMF funds are often conditional on recipients making</li> </ul>



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	<p>reforms to increase their growth potential and financial stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is currently composed of <b>190</b> member countries.</li> <li>• The IMF is headquartered in <b>Washington, DC</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kartarpur Corridor</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India and Pakistan agreed to extend their agreement for another five years to manage the Kartarpur Corridor, enabling pilgrims from India to visit the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara.</li> <li>• Either party <b>can terminate the agreement at any time by giving notice of one month to the other party</b> of its intention to terminate this agreement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Often dubbed as the “<b>Road to Peace</b>”, it <b>connects the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara in the Narowal district of Pakistan with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in the Gurdaspur district in India’s Punjab province</b>.</li> <li>• The corridor was built to commemorate the <b>550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev</b>, founder of Sikhism on 12th November 2019.</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> On the bank of river Ravi in Pakistan. It is about four km from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine, and about 120 km northeast of Lahore.</li> <li>• It is <b>one of the holiest places for Sikhs</b> where Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji settled and preached for the last 18 years of his life until his death in 1539.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discuss:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>About Guru Nanak Dev:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He was the <b>first of the 10 Sikh Gurus and the founder of Sikhism</b> in the 15th century.</li> <li>○ A Gurdwara was built at his birthplace in the city now known as <b>Nankana Sahib</b> which is located in the Punjab province of Pakistan.</li> <li>○ <b>Guru Nanak Jayanti</b> - It is also known as Gurburab, is the most important festival for the followers of the religion of Sikhism.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>S4</b></p>	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), known as S4*, was launched at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam.</li> <li>• This submarine is larger and more advanced than the first one, INS Arihant (S2).</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The S4* is equipped with the <b>advanced K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)</b>, which has</li> </ul>



	<p>a range of <b>3,500 km</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The K-4 provides <b>stand-off capability, allowing for the launch of nuclear weapons while submerged in Indian waters.</b></li> <li>• This capability will remain until the development and deployment of a 5,000 km range SLBM.</li> </ul> <p><b>Learn more about:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Arihant Class SSBNs (S2):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ India's <b>first indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)</b> designed and developed under the ATV program.</li> <li>○ Launched in 2009 and commissioned in 2016 features a double-hull with advanced sensors, periscopes, and various weapon systems.</li> <li>○ <b>Power:</b> 1 CLWR-B1 Compact Light-water reactor of 83 MW.</li> <li>○ <b>Speed:</b> 24 knots (submerged) and 15 knots (on the surface).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>INS Arighat (S3):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is an <b>upgraded variant of the Arihant-class submarine.</b> It is the <b>second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine</b> being built by India under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.</li> <li>○ It can <b>accommodate more K4 missiles than S2.</b></li> <li>○ It is ready and undergoing advanced sea trials, and will be commissioned soon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Air Pollution	<p><b>Why in news?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air pollution in Delhi remains classified as 'very poor.'</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pollution</b> is defined as the addition or excessive addition of certain materials to the physical environment thereby making it less fit or unfit for living. These materials are called <b>pollutants</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Air pollution</b> is the presence of substances in the atmosphere that are <b>harmful to the health of humans and other living beings, or cause damage to the climate or to materials.</b></li> <li>• In 2006 the World Health Organization issued new <b>Air Quality Guidelines.</b> They aim to reduce air pollution-related deaths by <b>15 percent</b> a year.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is the National Air Quality Index?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched in 2014 with outline 'One Number – <b>One Color -One Description</b>' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.</li> <li>• The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants,</li> </ul>

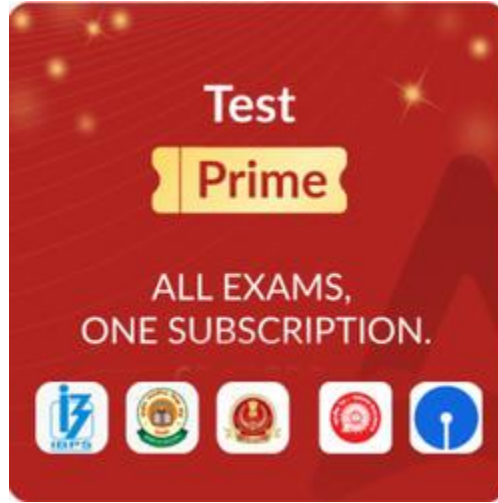


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	<p>namely: <b>Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O3), Ammonia (NH3), and Lead (Pb).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AQI has <b>six categories</b> of air quality. These are: <b>Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.</b></li> </ul>
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