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December 10, 2019

Topic:- Religious Tourism

News:- Month on, only 16K devotees visit Kartarpur via a corridor

Context: -A month after it was dedicated to the public, the much-hyped Kartarpur corridor paints a gloomy picture as the number of devotees who have crossed over is a lowly 16,000 against the intended target of 1.5 lakh,

Reasons:-

- The main reason, among the several weighing on the minds of the prospective pilgrims, is the 'X-factor'. This phrase is uttered several times a day in and around the corridor by officials who discuss the reasons for the low turnout.
- In the local parlance, 'X-factor' is the fear among youth that the US, European and other countries, including Australia and New Zealand, may refuse visas if

they visit Pakistan.

- A visit to several IELTS centres revealed the 'X-factor' was all-pervasive.
- The genesis of the fear lies in the fact that the passport details are uploaded into the immigration software at the Indian and Pakistan integrated check posts (ICPs).
- "The details so uploaded in the software are just for verification basis. Moreover, other countries refuse entry only if a passport is repeatedly stamped with Pakistani visas. It is wrong to say a country will refuse entry following a visit to Kartarpur through the dedicated corridor," said an officer at the ICP.
- Youth feel that "if they travel to a country which harbours terror camps and terrorists", then visa rejection is sure to hit them.

High cost another factor

- A middle-class family requires anything between Rs 10,000-15,000 for the trip. But, visits to the Golden Temple and Sultanpur Lodhi are free. So better go to Amritsar than Kartarpur. – Kulbir Kaur, a devotee.

(Source:- The Tribune)

Topic:- Historical Places

News:-118-yr-old Raghuvar Bhawan in a shambles(a state of total disorder).

Context:-The construction of a boundary wall of the 118-year-old protected monument Raghuvar Bhawan has begun.

Where is this monument located?

- Fazilka district.

About the building:-

- The building was constructed by local philanthropist Seth Sundar Mal Bansal in 1901 in the memory of his only son Raghuvar who had died in the prime of his youth. Sundar Mal and his family members died in the 1940s and none came forward to take care of the building.
- Historian Lachhman Dost, who spearheaded the agitation to get the heritage status for the building four years ago, said the Improvement Trust, after an initiative of Fazilka Deputy Commissioner Manpreet Singh and chairman Ashwani Sethi, proposed to construct a 4,900-foot wall around four canals and 18 marlas of land around the building to prevent free access to the building which is in a shambles.

(Source:- The Tribune)

Topic:- Award

News:-Kapurthala Jail Supdt awarded.

Context:- Kapurthala Jail Superintendent Surinder Pal Khanna was among eight jail officials across the country who were given the “Tinka-Tinka Award” for “innovative work in prison” at a function held in Lucknow on Sunday.

His innovative work:-

- He started the OoAT Centre in jail, where addicted inmates can be hospitalised. He personally counsels the inmates to help them overcome addictions. In order to engage the inmates physically, socially and spiritually, which helps inmates to deal with addictions, he organised yoga camps, medical camps, sports activities, nukkad natak, all which spread awareness about addictions.

(Source:- The Tribune)

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