

GENERAL AWARENESS

Sri Lanka Blasts

Nearly 290 people killed and not less than 500 hurt in explosions at churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, 21st April 2019. The blasts were reported, including at three churches in Negombo, Batticaloa and Colombo's Kochchikade district during Easter services. The Shangri-La, Kingsbury and Cinnamon Grand hotels and one other, all in the capital, were also targeted.

Pulitzer Prize

New York Times and The Wall Street Journal were awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their separate investigations of President Donald Trump and his family.

The New York Times won the prestigious journalism award for a probe of the Trump family's finances that debunked his claims of self-made wealth and revealed a business empire riddled with tax dodges. The Wall Street Journal won for its coverage of Trump's secret hush money payments to two women during his 2016 presidential campaign who claimed to have had affairs with him. The Associated Press won a Pulitzer for international reporting for its coverage of the war in Yemen.

Reuters was honoured for international reporting for its coverage of atrocities committed against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel won a Pulitzer for its coverage of failings by school and law enforcement officials before and after February 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Suspends LoC trade

The government suspended the LoC (Line of Control) trade in Jammu and Kashmir from 19th April 2019. The decision was taken as the government has been receiving reports that the LoC trade routes are being misused by the Pakistan-based elements for funneling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency. The LoC trade is meant to facilitate the exchange of goods of common use between local populations across the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kartarpur corridor

India and Pakistan held a meeting to discuss various issues related to the speedy completion of the proposed Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab in India to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Narowal on 16th April 2019. Kartarpur is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi, about 4 km from the Dera Baba Nanak.

RCAP

4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) Congress 2019 organized by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) at New Delhi on 15th April 2019.

Inaugurating the Congress the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, asked the town planners to make sustainable solutions such as harvesting solar energy, enhancing green cover and water conservation an essential part of town planning.

Boxing World Cup

India finished with 5 medals in the Boxing World Cup concluded at Cologne, Germany on 13th April 2019. Meena Kumari Maisnam won the gold medal in the 54 kg category. Sakshi Malik (57 kg) and Pwilao Basumatary (64 kg) settled for the silver. Pinki Rani (51 kg) and Parveen (60 kg) won bronze.

Currency chests

RBI comes out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room.

For those situated in hilly/inaccessible places, the strong room/vault area of at least 600 square feet.

The RBI said that the new chests should have a processing capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes per day. It added that for those situated in the hilly/inaccessible places, capacity should be 2.1 lakh pieces of bank notes per day.

World Press Freedom Prize

Journalists Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone (Myanmar) will share this year's UNESCO/ Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize. Both laureates are serving seven-year prison sentences. At the time of their arrest in Yangon on 12th December 2017, they were working for the Reuters news agency, reporting on alleged human rights violations in Myanmar's state of Rakhine.

Mali PM resigns

Mali's Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga and his cabinet resigned on 18th April 2019, following a motion of no confidence in the government over its handling of violence in the centre of the country, according to the presidency.

The government had come under mounting pressure over its handling of violence in the restive Mopti region and especially a massacre on 23rd March 2019 in which 160 people were killed in the village of Ogossagou near the border with Burkina Faso.

MODEL QUESTIONS

- India holds 140th Rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2019 as per the annual Reporters Without Borders analysis. Which country topped in this index?
1) Denmark 2) New Zealand 3) Finland 4) Norway
5) Netherlands
- The first G20 meeting in the Arab world will be held inNovember 2020
1) Iran 2) Iraq 3) Qatar 4) UAE
5) Saudi Arabia
- Indian women cricketer has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup.
1) Smriti Mandhana 2) Harmanpreet Kaur
3) Veda Krishnamurthy 4) Mithali Raj
5) Arundhati Reddy
- World Hemophilia Day observed on..
1) 25th April 2) 1st December 3) 17th April 4) 7th April
5) 24th March
- Kaziranga park located inwhere as the Supreme Court recently banned mining activities along this park.
1) Assam 2) Manipur 3) Meghalaya 4) Arunachal Pradesh
5) Odisha

6. IN – VPN BILAT EX is the Navy Bilateral Exercise of India and
- 1) Malaysia 2) Indonesia 3) Mongolia 4) Vietnam
- 5) Mauritius
7. India has rebuilt Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery in
- 1) Israel 2) Palestine 3) Japan 4) Nepal
- 5) Egypt

Answers: 1-4; 2-5; 3-4; 4-3; 5-1; 6-4; 7-4.

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