

IN BRIEF



Peruvian climber dies on Nepal's Mt. Makalu

KATHMANDU Experienced Peruvian climber Richard Hidalgo was found dead on Wednesday on Mount Makalu, the world's fifth-highest mountain, expedition organisers in Nepal said. The body of the 52-year-old was found in his tent at 6,600 metres by Sherpa guides who went to check after he did not wake up for his trek. AFP



Favreau to produce series on dinosaurs

LOS ANGELES *Jungle Book* director Jon Favreau will produce a dinosaur documentary series for Apple. Mr. Favreau has teamed up with BBC Studios' Natural History Unit for the project titled *Prehistoric Planet*, which will use CGI to tell the story of the last days of the dinosaurs. IANS



Sheeran, Bieber team up for a surprise single

LOS ANGELES Ed Sheeran and Justin Bieber are joining forces for a new track, *I don't care*. The single is scheduled to be dropped on Friday. The singers took to social media to share the news. In an Instagram Story on Tuesday, Mr. Bieber revealed that a new song is on the way "with this guy" and posted some fun pictures of him and Mr. Sheeran. PTI

# Missing piece of Stonehenge returns to U.K.

Cylindrical core had been taken to the U.S. by a man who had worked on a conservation project

REUTERS  
LONDON

A piece of stone drilled from Stonehenge, a mysterious circle of ancient stones in southern England, has been returned to the site 60 years after being removed during archaeological excavations, English Heritage said on Wednesday.

The cylindrical piece, which is 1.08 metres long and has a diameter of 25 mm, was taken from one of the monoliths in 1958 when the cracked stone was strengthened with metal rods.

Robert Phillips, an employee of the diamond cutting firm Van Moppes that carried out the work, kept the extracted stone core and

later took it to the United States when he emigrated there, English Heritage said.

Last year, on the eve of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Mr. Phillips asked that the fragment be returned to the care of English Heritage, a conservation charity which looks after the ancient stones.

"The last thing we ever expected was to get a call from someone in America telling us they had a piece of Stonehenge," said Heather Sebire, English Heritage's curator for Stonehenge.

English Heritage said the missing piece, incongruously pristine amid the weathered stone from where it came, could now help determine the origin of the stone. "Studying the Stonehenge



**Ancient puzzle:** The prehistoric monument of Stonehenge in south west England. ■AFP

core's 'DNA' could tell us more about where those enormous sarsen stones originated," she said.

Radiocarbon dating shows that Stonehenge, a ring of about 4-metre-high standing stones in Wiltshire, southern England, was constructed

4,000-5,000 years ago. There is no definitive answer as to why it was built or what purpose it served, though theories suggest it could have been an astronomical observatory or a religious site.

Thousands of pagans,

druids and revellers still gather at the site to see the sun rise on the summer and winter solstices each year.

Stonehenge's smaller bluestones were brought from the Preseli Hills in south-west Wales but the precise origin of the much larger sarsens is unknown.

A British Academy and Leverhulme Trust project, led by professor David Nash of the University of Brighton, is investigating the chemical composition of the sarsen stones in order to pinpoint their source, English Heritage said.

They believe the rediscovered core presents a unique opportunity to analyse the unweathered interior of a stone.



**Full of joy:** Ahmad Sayed Rahman dances at the International Committee of the Red Cross hospital in Kabul. ■AFP

## A new leg, a new dance

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

With his hands in the air and an infectious grin spreading from ear to ear, a young Afghan boy whirls around a Kabul hospital room on his new prosthetic leg.

The boy, five-year-old Ahmad Sayed Rahman, has captured hearts around the

world after a video of him dancing on his new limb was posted on Twitter.

The boy was caught in the crossfire of a battle in Logar province several years ago. His leg was amputated when he was eight months old. Because he's growing fast, he has needed a new leg every year or so

## India's newest pit viper found in Arunachal

Team of herpetologists hoping to study its diet, breeding pattern and habitat

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

India now has a fifth brown pit viper but with a reddish tinge. A team of herpetologists led by Ashok Captain have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper – a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system – from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

### Rich in ecology

The discovery, published in the March-April volume of the *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, makes the Arunachal pit viper (*Trimeresurus arunachalensis*) the second serpent to have been discovered after the non-venomous crying keelback in the State's Lepa-Rada district in 2018.

The new species also makes Arunachal Pradesh the only Indian state to have



*Trimeresurus arunachalensis*. ■ROHAN PANDIT

a pit viper named after it.

Mr. Captain, who made the discovery with V. Deepak, Rohan Pandit, Bharat Bhatt, and Ramana Athreya said India had four brown pit vipers before the Arunachal Pradesh discovery.

The other four – Malabar, horseshoe, hump-nosed and Himalayan – were discovered 70 years ago. "We

don't know anything of the Arunachal pit viper's natural history as only one male has been found so far. More surveys and sightings of this species would gradually give us an idea of its habits, diet and breeding, whether it lays eggs or bears live young," he told *The Hindu*.

Led by Mr. Athreya, a research team from the Indian

Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, had encountered the snake while conducting biodiversity surveys in Arunachal Pradesh's Eaglenest region. A resident of the area had first shown Mr Pandit the snake in a forest patch near Ramda village.

### DNA analysed

Comparative analyses of DNA sequences by Mr. Deepak and examination of morphological features by Mr. Captain suggested that the snake belonged to a species not described before.

Mr. Bhatt, a scientist of the Arunachal Pradesh forest department, said that the single known specimen of this species makes it currently the rarest pit viper in the world. The specimen was donated to the museum of the State Forest Research Institute in Itanagar.

## Goa's Serendipity Arts Festival announces new set of curators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PANAJI

The fourth edition of the annual Serendipity Arts Festival, with a vision of energising arts production, awareness and practice across South Asia, has announced the line-up of curators for its annual outreach.

The festival is organised by Serendipity Arts Foundation, a not for profit organisation. As a multi-disciplinary arts festival, Serendipity is curated across seven disciplines – craft, music, theatre, dance, culinary arts, visual arts and photography. The dates for the festival are December 15-22, 2019, and will take place in the city.

The curators include Aneesh Pradhan and Sneha Khanwalkar for music, Leela Samson and Mayuri Upadhyaya for dance, Atul Kumar and Arundhati Nag for theatre, Rahul Akerkar and

**We are aiming to host an immersive, experimental and inclusive festival**

SMRITI RAJGARHIA  
Director, SAF

Prahlad Sukhtankar for culinary arts, Rahaab Allana and Ravi Agarwal for photography; Jyotindra Jain and Sudarshan Shetty for visual arts and Pramod KG for crafts.

Additionally, there are also the host of special projects across disciplines that will be curated by HH Art Spaces, St+art India Foundation, Vishal K. Dar, Vidya Shivadas, Anurupa Roy and Nancy Adajania, among others.

"We are aiming at bringing back the magic of art into the mundane realities of life, by making the festival experiential, inclusive, accessible, experimental and educational. It is a peoples'

festival which has been working towards breaking the exclusivity and broaden the footprint of art and culture in the region," said Sunil Kant Munjal, founder, SAF.

SAF intends to and create platforms for creativity and providing the wider public with a unique source of contemporary art and culture.

"We are aiming to host an immersive, experimental and inclusive festival keeping in mind the diaspora of South Asia," Ms. Smriti Rajgarhia, Director, SAF, said.

Some of the institutions that will join the outreach effort as project partners include Institut Français (India), Pro Helvetia, Neemrana Foundation and the British Council. The SAF has recently launched a digital campaign #LookToSee, which urges the public to introspect and observe the finer nuances of life.

## Ode to Nature



**Sons of the soil:** Tiwa tribesmen take part in a dance during the Wanchuwa festival in Karbi Anglong district of Assam on Wednesday. Tiwas pray for a bountiful harvest and protection from agrarian pests during this festival. ■RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Auschwitz museum flays fashion site

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WARSAW

The Auschwitz Memorial and Museum has complained to an e-commerce site that was selling miniskirts, tote bags and other items printed with photos of the former Nazi German death camp where around 1.1 million people were killed during the Second World War.

The museum in Poland learned about the products offered on Australian e-commerce site Redbubble from people who saw them online, spokesman Bartosz Bartyzel said on Wednesday.

The items that caused offence were created by various makers and carried black-and-white post-war images of Auschwitz and the railway tracks leading into the Birkenau extermination camp and its gas chambers.

# Real spies, not James Bond, take spotlight at museum of espionage

Stories of deception and tragedy, intelligence coups and surprises are told through exhibits such as bugging devices, a lipstick pistol and a murderous umbrella

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

James Bond's shiny silver sports car with its JB007 rotating license plate is the first thing visitors see when they step into the new and improved International Spy Museum that opens on Sunday in Washington. After that, it's as if the history of Hollywood's famous private eye vanishes in invisible ink, while the stories of real-life spies and modern-day espionage take centre stage.

The old, cramped museum focused on human collection of intelligence. The new one also offers a window into covert operations, counterterrorism, intelligence analysis, cyber espionage, intelligence failures and even highly debated legal



An umbrella similar to the one the KGB used to kill dissident Georgi Markov; a shoe with a chamber for a bugging device and a lipstick pistol on show at the spy museum. ■AFP

and ethical issues, such as waterboarding.

"We're not playing it safe as a museum," Vince Houghton, the museum's curator and historian, said during a

sneak-peak tour of the \$162 million, nonprofit museum.

"We don't get money from the government. We need to maintain our independence because there are a lot of sto-



ries we need to tell." Real intelligence officers tend to be tight-lipped, but at the museum, visitors can watch videos starring current or former intelligence officers

talking about their jobs. The top psychologist at the CIA talks about how trust and fear affect relationships between intelligence assets and their handlers. A former deputy CIA director discusses how spooks assessed the intelligence that led to the raid of a compound where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011 in Pakistan.

There's an exhibit featuring Morten Storm, a Danish man turned Islamic radical. He later became disenchanted with Islam and went to work for Danish intelligence as a double agent, providing information about wanted terror suspects. His life in the shadows became public in 2012. "We went to the undisclosed location where he's

hiding from al-Qaeda and recorded him actually telling his own story surrounded by artefacts from his own life," Mr. Houghton said.

There are stories of deception and tragedy, intelligence coups and surprises, too.

Everybody knows that 007 was "Bond. James Bond". Fewer people know that America's first spymaster was President George Washington, a.k.a. Agent 711.

Both sides spied during the Revolutionary War during the 1770s, but at the end, the head of British intelligence operations Major George Beckwith stated, "Washington did not beat us militarily, he simply outspied us."

Washington helped coordinate intelligence opera-

tions during the war and the museum has a letter he wrote creating the first U.S. intelligence agency.

"It's the Magna Carta for American intelligence," Mr. Houghton said of his favourite artefact. "It's the founding document and we have it. It's as cool as it gets."

### 10,000 artefacts

The old museum, which closed in 2018, had about 3,000 artefacts and could display about 600 of them at a time. The new spy museum has 10,000 artefacts, including more than 5,000 items donated by H. Keith Melton, a Florida businessman who spent years criss-crossing the globe to find and buy them. The roughly 1,000 spycraft artefacts that can be seen

when the new museum opens include: the ice-climbing axe used in the bloody assassination of Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky; a chunk of Gary Powers' U2 spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960; the handcuffs used to arrest John Anthony Walker Jr., a former Navy chief warrant officer convicted of spying for the Soviet Union from 1968 to 1985 and a large piece of a tunnel that penetrated East Germany so that the U.S. and allies could tap Soviet and East German communications. Visitors spy skills are tested throughout the tour and at the end they can find out if they're better suited to be an intelligence officer in the field, for example, or an analyst at CIA headquarters.