

## IN BRIEF



### China launches Sudan's first satellite

**KHARTOUM**  
Sudan's first satellite for conducting research in military, economic and space technology has been launched by China, the northeast African country's ruling body said. General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who heads Sudan's sovereign council, announced the launch of the satellite at a meeting in Khartoum. **AFP**



### Pakistan fares poorly in Internet freedom: report

**ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistan is among the worst 10 countries in the world for Internet and digital media freedom, according to a report by Freedom House, a watchdog group. Of the 65 countries ranked, Pakistan ranked 9 in terms of curtailed Internet freedom. India scored 55, earning a score of 'partly free'. **PTI**



### The Batman casts Andy Serkis as butler Alfred

**LOS ANGELES**  
Andy Serkis (in picture) and Colin Farrell are in talks to join Matt Reeves' *The Batman*, featuring Robert Pattinson in the title role. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Serkis will play Batman's butler Alfred Pennyworth and Farrell is set to portray the DC villain, The Penguin. The film releases on June 25, 2021. **PTI**

# Films to tell story of Partition of Bengal at proposed museum

Heritage Commission hopes to set up the facility in Kolkata's old Alipore Jail

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOLKATA**

The West Bengal Heritage Commission has drawn up a proposal to set up a museum dedicated to the Partition of Bengal, which led to the migration of millions of refugees.

Headed by noted painter Shuvaprasanna Bhattacharya, the commission has recently submitted a proposal to the State government. The museum is proposed to be housed in the Alipore Jail, which has now been converted into a heritage building. "We have been pondering over the idea to have a compact museum where our future generations would get to know what the Partition was all about and its after-effects...Recently we have submitted a proposal to the state government. And the government is positive about it. Let us see when the project starts," Mr. Bhattacharya said.



**Bursting with history:** A view of the Alipore Jail in a photo taken in August 1965. **THE HINDU ARCHIVES**

The Partition of India in 1947, that led to creation of Pakistan, involved the division of Bengal and Punjab provinces based on district-wise Hindu or Muslim majorities.

The Partition not only led to violence but also recorded one of the largest mass mi-

gration in human history. After the Partition, Bengal was bifurcated into East Bengal and West Bengal. East Bengal became a part of Pakistan. It was renamed East Pakistan in 1956 and later became Bangladesh after the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971.

While elaborating the idea for setting up such a museum, Mr. Bhattacharya said, it was important to document the history of Bengal.

"In the proposed museum, we will have documents, articles, documentaries and films on the Partition which will elaborate the reasons and the after-effects of one of the darkest chapters of the Indian subcontinent," he said.

When asked whether the idea of the Partition Museum had anything to do with the clamour for NRC in West Bengal, as voiced by the BJP, Mr. Shuvaprasanna replied in the negative.

"The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a proposal of a particular party which is in power at the Centre. Parties will come to power and go, and so proposals will also keep changing. But this museum is about documenting the history for our future generations," he said.

# Chinese experts to help in restoration of Notre-Dame

They are skilled at renovating wooden structures

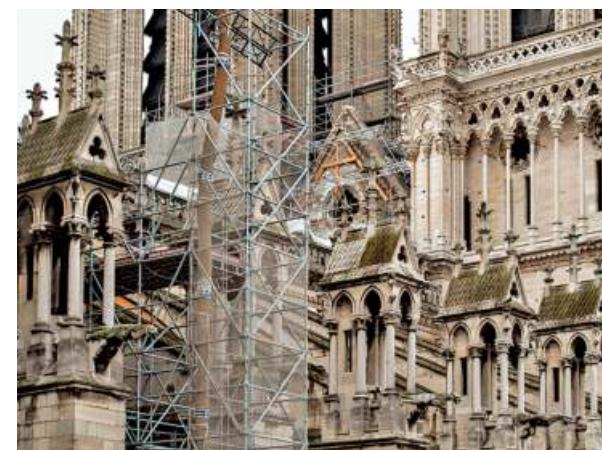
**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING**

Chinese experts will participate in the restoration of France's Notre-Dame cathedral, state media reported on Wednesday, following a meeting between the two countries' heads of state in Beijing.

The 850-year-old cathedral, which was scarred in April after a fire tore through its roof and toppled its spire, was the most visited historic monument in Europe.

Since the blaze, which took 400 fire-fighters to control, Chinese and French authorities have been in touch about cooperating on restoration efforts, reported official news agency Xinhua.

"China has a great deal of experience in renovating ancient buildings affected by fire, especially ones made of wood," said Chai Xiaoming, director of the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage, in an interview with state-run *China Daily*.



**Standing tall:** Protection nets and scaffolding at the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, six months after the blaze. **AFP**

"This means we could offer suggestions on how to approach the renovation of the oak-framed roof on Notre-Dame Cathedral," he said.

Citing a document signed by the two countries during President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Beijing, Xinhua said Chinese experts will work with French teams in on-site restoration with-

out elaborating. "China and France will collaborate on the theme and model and select Chinese expert candidates for the cooperative restoration work in 2020," it said. It is only at the end of 2020 that a complete check will allow architects to work out how to restore the cathedral — and reconstruction may start in 2021.

# 'Goodness and humour' celebrated as *Sesame Street* turns 50

Over the years, the educational show has become a children's favourite

**ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NEW YORK**

Fifty years ago, beloved entertainer Carol Burnett appeared on the very first broadcast of a quirky TV programme that featured a bunch of furry puppets.

Blink and you might miss it, but Ms. Burnett followed a cartoon about a witch called Wanda, which was loaded with words beginning with the letter w.

"Wow, Wanda the Witch is weird," Ms. Burnett com-

mented. And then poof she was gone.

**First episode**  
That show was *Sesame Street* and Ms. Burnett was instantly hooked. She would return to the show multiple times, including visits to demonstrate to pre-school viewers where her nose was and to smooch a rubber duckie.

"I was a big fan. I would have done anything they wanted me to do," she said. "I loved being exposed to all



Grover, a muppet character for *Sesame Street*. **AP**

that goodness and humour."

This first episode of *Sesame Street* aired in 1969. It was a turbulent time in America, rocked by the Viet-

nam War and raw from the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King the year before.

Enter "Sesame Street" creators Joan Ganz Cooney and Lloyd Morrisett, who worked with Harvard University developmental psychologist Gerald Lesser to build the show's unique approach to teaching that now reaches 120 million children. Legendary puppeteer Jim Henson supplied the critters.

"It wasn't about if kids were learning from TV, it was about what they were learning from TV," said Steve Youngwood, the chief operating officer of Sesame Work-

shop. "If they could harness that power to teach them the alphabet and their numbers as opposed to the words to beer commercials, you may be able to make a really big difference."

### Diversity is key

Over the years, *Sesame Street* has had many firsts. It became the first children's programme to feature someone with Down Syndrome. It's had puppets with HIV and in foster care, invited children in wheelchairs, dealt with topics like jailed parents, homelessness and women's rights.

It introduced the bilingual Rosita the first Latina Muppet in 1991. Julia, a 4-year-old Muppet with autism came in 2017 and this year has offered help for kids whose parents are dealing with addiction and recovery. So important is the show that PETA recently asked for the creation of a vegan Muppet.

Before each season, educators and creators gather to align the curriculum with the latest thinking.

In the past, for example, narrative stories were broken up into little chunks because the thinking at the time was that kids couldn't

follow a long story. That turns out not to be true, and "Sesame Street" now delivers 10-minute narratives.

Sesame Workshop has also pared down episodes from an hour to 30 minutes, and the show is now shot on 4K, with the creators knowing that many children are watching on tablets or phones.

"We are a mirror to society here even though we're dealing with birds and chickens and monsters," said Matt Vogel, the puppeteer who portrays Big Bird and the Count and who grew up watching the show.