

## Living with snakes

JOHANNESBURG, May 29: South African carpenter Peter Snyman 24 came out of his snake-filled cage on Sunday night after pushing his own world record of living with poisonous snakes from 36 days to 50, reports AFP.

"Thank goodness it's over and if anyone knows what I have been through they will never try it", the elated but tired Mr. Snyman said.

For the 50 days in Harted Bee Sports Private Zoo 37 miles north of here, he had shared a glass cage of 2.5 metres by three metres with six Black Mambas — reputed to be among the most venomous snakes in the world — six Egyptian Cobras, six Puffadders and six snakes from the Boomslang family. Against the venom of the latter there is no absolutely effective known antidote.

## 150-yr-old paper discovered

TOKYO, May 29: Chinese archaeologists have found three pieces of paper, which mark date back to between 73 and 49 BC, about 150 years earlier than the world's first discovery of paper, Peking's official Hsinhua News Agency reported, says ENA.

Hsinhua said formerly it was established that Cai Lun of the Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25-220) invented paper in AD 105.

Paper of the Western Han dynasty 20 BC to AD 24) also had been discovered in Lop Noor in Xinjiang (Sinkiang), in Gansu (Kansu) province before and after the founding of New China in 1949, the agency said.

The biggest piece of paper among pieces found recently in Fufeng country, Shaanxi (Shensi) province, measures 8 by 7.2 centimeters.

It said the papers were discovered last December by archaeological workers inspecting a hoard of items found by peasants working on a major farmland improvement project in Fufeng country.

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