

**International News**

**U.S. strikes in Syria kill 472 civilians in a month: monitor**

Casualties were in Deir Ezzor & Raqqa, two IS strongholds  
 U.S.-led coalition air strikes on two Syrian provinces targeting jihadists have killed 472 civilians over the past month, a monitor said Friday, more than double a previous 30-day toll.  
 The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the period between May 23 and June 23 saw the highest civilian death toll in coalition raids for a single month since they began on September 23, 2014.  
 Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said 222 civilians, including 84 children, were killed in the largely Islamic State group-held province of Deir Ezzor.  
 Another 250 civilians, including 53 children, were killed in Raqa province, where U.S.-backed forces are trying to oust IS jihadists from their bastion Raqa city.

*pedant*

**a person who overemphasizes rules or minor details**

*profound*

**very great or intense; thoughtful**

**Business News**

**Indiabulls Real Estate surges 6.6%**

Shares of Indiabulls Real Estate surged almost 7% on Friday. The company is planning to raise up to Rs. 500 crore through the issue of non-convertible debentures on private placement basis.  
 The stock jumped 6.6% to close at Rs. 204.45 on the BSE.  
 On the volume front, 63.35 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and more than 5 crore shares changed hands on the NSE during the day. The promoters had on Thursday sold 3.3 crore shares of the firm for Rs. 662.83 crore through open market transactions.

*inchoate*

**undeveloped, beginning**

*lathargic*

**lazy, sluggish**

**National News**

**'Brexit is an opportunity for Netherlands-India ties'**

Amsterdam aspires to be India's biggest partner in Europe  
 Netherlands is aspiring to emerge as India's biggest partner in Europe following the Brexit-related changes taking place in Europe. Ambassador of the Netherlands Alphonsus Stoelinga said that during the working visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 27, both countries will conclude two deals on water and cultural relations and firm up cooperation for multilateral diplomacy.  
 "There were a lot of questions over the EU's (European Union) future after Brexit. But now the EU is relatively better and the Eurosceptics are under control. Prime Minister Modi will have a personal experience that post-Brexit Europe is good for India-Netherlands ties," said Mr. Stoelinga, explaining that India is the fastest-growing member among the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries and the Dutch remain highly interested in increasing investments into India.

*deride*

**make fun of; insult**

*abberant*

**aberrant**