

Weekly Update

1. This Nearly 50-Foot Snake Was One of the Largest to Slither the Earth

"The snake is named after the famous king snake Vasuki Indicis, which coils around the neck of the Hindu god Shiva," said Debjit Dutta, a member of the research team at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee. Titanoboa, an extinct giant snake discovered in Colombia, is believed to have lived about 60 million years ago.

Source: Scientific American

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/this-nearly-50-foot-snake-was-one-of-the-largest-to-slither-the-earth/>

2. NOAA confirms 4th global coral bleaching event

Marine corals around the world are losing color and even dying due to an unprecedented heat wave in the oceans. According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the recent heat has fueled the fourth-largest mass bleaching event worldwide. Bleaching occurs when corals turn white due to pressure caused by the water they live in getting too hot.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/noaa-confirms-4th-global-coral-bleaching-event>

3. Older adults have a higher risk of falling. Experts share the best ways to prevent it.

Physiotherapist Sue Wilson says falling can also have psychological effects. "When a person falls, he is afraid of falling and that is why he stays at home," he explains. This is despite the fact that if these people do not change their environment and challenge their abilities, they will be more likely to fall.

Source: Yahoo! life

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/older-adults-higher-risk-falling-120018240.html>

4. Exercise may reduce heart disease risk by changing how the brain reacts to stress

In a new study published, researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital found that people who exercise regularly may be more protected from heart disease, possibly due to reduced stress-related activity in the brain. Maybe that's why people suffering from depression – a type of stress-related mental illness – often feel better when they exercise.

Source: MedicalNewsToday

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/exercise-may-reduce-heart-disease-risk-changing-how-brain-reacts-stress>

5. El Niño ends with uncertainty over cooler future

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology says the Pacific Ocean has cooled "significantly" over the past week. This natural phenomenon, which began last June, brought warm water to the surface of the Pacific Ocean, increasing atmospheric temperatures. The full name of this phenomenon is "El Nino-Southern Oscillation" or "Enso".

Source: **BBCnews**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-68826152.amp>

6. Unveiling the submerged secrets: bumblebee queens' resilience to flooding

"Queen bees with the ability can withstand increases in flooding caused by climate change that threaten their hibernation hives." The findings showed that 81% of queen bees that were submerged in water survived not only for 7 days, but also for 8 weeks after returning to dry conditions.

Source: **The Royal Society**

<https://royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/10.1098/rsbl.2023.0609>

7. 15 Graphs That Explain the State of AI in 2024. The AI Index tracks the generative AI boom, model costs, and responsible AI use

In a report titled "Artificial Intelligence Index", Stanford University says that due to progress over the past few years, artificial intelligence is now ahead of humans in some basic tasks, and new standards will soon be developed to classify the capabilities of artificial intelligence.

Source: **IEEE Spectrum**

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/ai-index-2024>

8. NASA satellite's 'shocking' space junk near-miss was even closer than thought

Recently, an orbital bullet passed humanity's ear at a distance closer than we thought. The growing pressure includes an integrated "space stability strategy", the first part of which was released by NASA on the day of Melroy's speech. NASA's sustainability strategy ultimately includes four domains: Earth, Earth orbit, interstellar space, and deep space.

Source: **Space.Com**

<https://www.space.com/nasa-timed-satellite-russian-space-junk-near-miss-february-2024>

9. In search for alien life, purple may be the new green

Virtual purple bacteria produce detectable biosignatures that provide astronomers with new data sets to power the next generation of telescopes in the search for alien life. In subsequent simulations, they modeled purple bacteria dominating various Earth-sized planets, including ocean worlds, frozen ice shells, and rocky terrestrial regions like Earth.

Source: **Cornell Chronicle**

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2024/04/search-alien-life-purple-may-be-new-green>

10. Half of China's cities are sinking, putting most of the country's urban population at risk

Many of China's old coal fields have also been damaged by over-mining, with authorities often forced to pour concrete into collapsing shafts to strengthen the ground and prevent collapse. The city of Tianjin, located in the north of this country with a population of more than 15 million, is considered one of the most dangerous areas.

Source: LiveScience

<https://www.livescience.com/planet-earth/half-of-chinas-cities-are-sinking-putting-most-of-the-countrys-urban-population-at-risk>