



OUR ENVIRONMENT

A cherry tree that blossoms all year round



Nishina Otome

Threatened with the disappearance of its culturally iconic cherry blossoms, Japanese scientists have used heavy ion beams to create a new breed of tree named the Nishina Otome, that blooms throughout the year. Unlike conventional breeds, the tree does not require a period of cold weather to trigger growth

in the spring. As a result, it can bloom in all four seasons when indoors and in the spring and autumn when planted outdoors.

Are mobile phones wiping out our bees?

Scientists claim radiation from handsets are to be blamed for mysterious 'colony collapse' of bees. The theory is that radiation from mobile phones interferes with bees' navigation systems, preventing the famously home loving species from finding their way back to their hives. Improbable as it may seem, there is now evidence to back this up. German research has long shown that bee behaviour changes near power lines.



NOTICE



Radio frequency fields beyond this point may exceed the FCC general public exposure limit. Obey all posted signs and site guidelines for working in radio frequency environments.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission rules on radio frequency emissions of 47 CFR 1.1307(b)

Corals and algae in Indian Ocean may survive future global warming

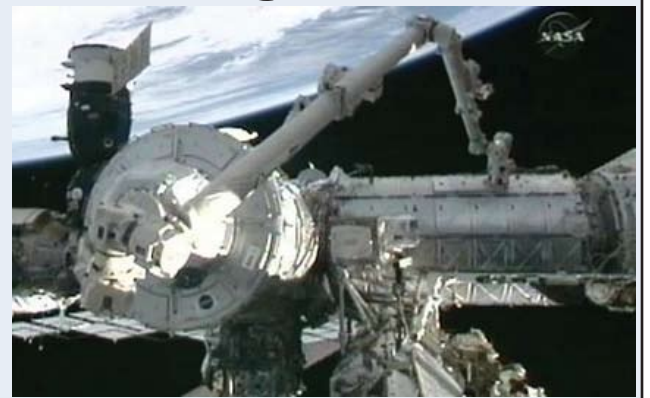


A team of scientists has discovered a diversity of corals harboring unusual species of symbiotic algae in the warm waters of the Andaman Sea in the north-eastern Indian Ocean, which spells hope of resilience to future global warming. Corals are colonies of tiny animals that derive nutrients and energy from golden-brown, photosynthetic algae that live inside the corals' cells.

SCIENCE AND SPACE

New viewing room built in space

Astronauts have built a brand new lookout room on the International Space Station. It means that everyone on board can get amazing views of Earth and the stars. All the gear needed for the Tranquility observation room was brought up by astronauts on the American space shuttle Endeavour. It was a difficult job as they had to struggle with some jammed bolts and a pipe leaking dangerous toxic liquid.



NASA launches probe to study sun

NASA has launched a probe to study the sun and its dynamic behaviour in greater detail than ever before. A rocket 'Atlas V' carrying the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) was launched from Florida's Atlantic Coast. The SDO is the first of its kind spacecraft designed to study the sun.

Picture of the Week

Dark Shuttle Approaching
Credit: Expedition 22 Crew, NASA



Oldest stars found outside Milky Way

European Southern Observatory astronomers have uncovered the oldest stars in our galactic neighborhood thanks to a massive telescope installed in Chile. ESO's Very Large Telescope measures 8.2 meters in diameter and is installed in the Atacama Desert. According to cosmologists, primitive stars, also called "extremely metal-poor stars," formed shortly after the Big Bang, around 13.7 billion years ago.

