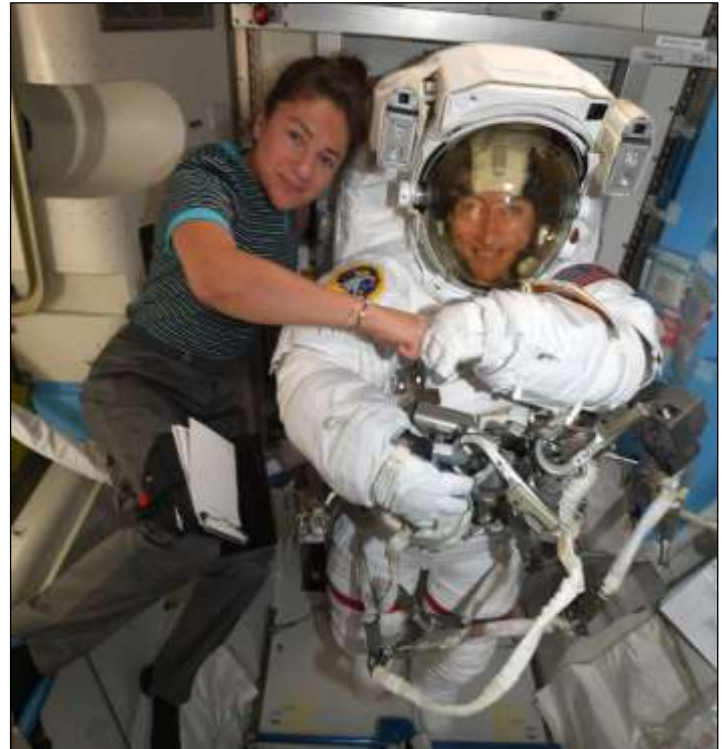




First all-female spacewalk back on

The first all-female spacewalk is back on, six months after it had to be cancelled as they didn't have two medium sized spacesuits ready! Astronauts, Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, will venture out of the International Space Station (ISS) on 21st October to swap old batteries for new ones. The space station uses solar panels to generate power, but the batteries are used when it is in the dark and not getting power from the sun. Both astronauts now have medium-sized spacesuits, one of which was brought to the ISS in June. NASA's deputy chief astronaut, Megan McArthur, says the first-female spacewalk will be a milestone worth celebrating. Christina Koch is on course for another record too. She is more than 200 days into a 300-day mission, which will be the longest-ever spaceflight by a woman.



Pictured: Christina Koch and Jessica Meir preparing for their spacewalk taken from Christina Koch's Twitter page.

Tens of thousands of goats destroy island



Pictured: Typical goats.

Tens of thousands of semi-wild goats are munching so much vegetation on the Greek island of Samothraki that they are leaving mountains barren and residents under the threat of mudslides. Torrential rains two years ago swept away the island's town hall and severed its roads. There were no trees or vegetation left on the steep, goat-eaten hillsides to stop the mudslides caused by the downpour. Goats outnumber the 3,000 human inhabitants by 15 times! Experts, environmental groups, researchers and locals are working together to find a 21st-century way to save the island's ecology and economy, including creating a herd management app.



Free travel for recycling plastic



Pictured: Commuters put plastic bottles into a recycling machine in San Giovanni metro station in Rome taken from the Blue Cool Bottles Twitter page.

At a metro station in Rome, passengers can now get €0.05 credit to spend on their tickets for every plastic bottle they recycle. Under the plastic for tickets scheme, commuters need to download an app onto their mobile phones which records the number of bottles they have fed into the recycling machine. The metro turnstiles can directly read the app from a mobile phone, so those taking part do not need to buy a paper ticket. A standard ticket, which can be used for one metro ride or 100 minutes on all buses, can be bought by recycling 30 bottles! Transport chiefs have said because the public responded so positively to the idea, the plan is to be extended from the three stations currently involved to the whole metro network until July 2020.

Do you think this is a good idea? Where else could we have recycling machines?

Robotic skeleton controlled by brain signals

A paralysed man, called Thibault, has been able to walk using a four-limb robotic system, or exoskeleton, that is commanded by his own brain signals. If a person's spinal cord is damaged or injured, messages to and from the brain don't send properly, and movement can stop. The exoskeleton, which is attached to the ceiling for support, is designed to collect these messages and move how the person wishes to. Two sensors containing 64 electrodes each are placed underneath the skull, over areas of the brain that control movement in the limbs. These sensors collect brain signals from Thibault, software decodes what they mean and then the exoskeleton with 14 joints receives directions so he can move.



Pictured: Thibault walking with the exoskeleton, take from the University of Grenoble Twitter page. The research was conducted at the University.

/ think...



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