

## IN BRIEF


**Prince memoir set for release on October 29**

**NEW YORK**  
The memoir singer Prince was working on at the time of his death is coming out on October 29. Random House confirmed on Monday that *The Beautiful Ones* will combine Prince's unfinished manuscript with rare photos, scrapbooks and lyrics. It will include an introduction by writer Dan Piepenbring, whom Prince had chosen as a collaborator. **AP**


**'AI tool can detect PTSD by analysing voices'**

**NEW YORK**  
Scientists have developed an artificial intelligence tool that can help diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — with 89% accuracy — by analysing patient's voice, a study has found. Researchers said that a PTSD diagnosis is most often determined by clinical interview or a self-report assessment, both inherently prone to biases. **PTI**


**Novel fire extinguisher can be used in space**

**TOKYO**  
Scientists have developed a novel fire extinguisher for use in space environments that sucks in the flame as well as combustion product. The Vacuum Extinguish Method (VEM) is designed by researchers at the Toyohashi University of Technology. **PTI**

# Earth Day: saving the planet may cost \$100 billion per year

Scientists propose a policy to prevent another mass extinction event

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON

Saving the diversity and abundance of life on the earth may cost \$100 billion a year, say scientists who have proposed a policy to prevent another mass extinction event on the planet.

There have been five mass extinctions in the history of the earth. Scientists now estimate that society must urgently come to grips this coming decade to stop the very first human-made biodiversity catastrophe.

"The sixth extinction is on our society's shoulders; it really is," ecologist Greg Asner, of Arizona State University in the U.S., said in a statement on the occasion of Earth day.

Mr. Asner is one of 19 international authors with a bold new science policy proposal to reverse the tide, called "A Global Deal for Na-



**Societal action:** The policy's mission is to save the diversity and abundance of life on earth. **GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO**

ture" (GDN). The policy's mission is to save the diversity and abundance of life on the earth — for the price tag of \$100 billion a year.

**Companion pact**

Societal investment in the GDN plan would, for the first time, integrate and implement climate and nature deals on a global scale to avoid human upheaval and biodiversity loss.

While the 2015 Paris Cli-

mate Agreement was the first major accord to take global action toward climate change policies, the international team of GDN scientists believe a similar companion pact is desperately needed to implement the very first global nature conservation plan to meet these challenges.

"The Global Deal for Nature is a time-bound, science-based plan to save the diversity and abundance

of life on Earth. Achieving the milestones and targets of the Global Deal for Nature is the best gift we can offer to future generations—an environmental reset, a pathway to an Eden 2.0," said Eric Dinerstein, of the U.S.-based nongovernmental organisation Resolve.

The study, published in *Science Advances*, outlines the guiding principles, milestones and targets needed to avoid the extinction threats of a two degrees Celsius warming forecast.

The three overarching goals of the GDN are to protect biodiversity by conserving at least 30% of the earth's surface by 2030; mitigate climate change by conserving the earth's natural carbon storehouses; and reduce major threats. The essence of implementing the plan is to set up protected areas of land as natural ecosystems.

# Canny Japanese shops sell tins of 'Heisei era' air

The country will enter the 'Reiwa' period on May 1 when the new emperor ascends the throne

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

With just days until Japan ushers in a new era with the crowning of a new emperor, one entrepreneurial company is cashing in by selling cans containing "the air of the outgoing era" — a breeze at \$10.

The can filled with "the air of Heisei" — the 30-year reign of current Emperor Akihito — hit the shelves on Monday at the ambitious price of 1,080 yen (\$9.60), with producers hoping to sell as many as 1,000 units.

"Air is free of charge but



**New air:** A can containing the air of the Heisei era. **AFP**

we hope people will enjoy breathing the fresh air of Heisei after the new era comes, or just keep it as a

momento," company president Minoru Inamoto said.

The cans have been produced in the central Japa-

nese village of Henari, which is written using the same characters as those used for "Heisei", he said, adding that the cans can be snapped up at a roadside station and online.

They contain nothing but "the air of the current era" and a five-yen coin, often considered a lucky charm.

Firms around Japan are scrambling to produce memorabilia from the outgoing era before the country enters the "Reiwa" era on May 1 when new emperor Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Gold coins engraved with Heisei are selling like hot cakes at Tokyo department stores, while confectionery makers are bringing back blockbuster sweets popular during the Heisei era.

Henari is seeing an influx of merchants selling everything from chocolate to polo shirts and alcohol bearing the name.

Businesses targeting the new era are also picking up, launching Reiwa-labelled goods like stickers, smartphone covers, t-shirts, pins and commemorative bottles of the Japanese tippie sake.

## The Hindu book sale on Book Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Celebrate World Book Day with *The Hindu* Group this week. Starting Tuesday for six days, over 90 special publications of the group on a wide range of topics, including sports, science, music, literature, and arts and culture, will be available at discounts of up to 40%.

The books, 47 English titles and 43 Tamil titles, can be purchased from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at *The Hindu's* corporate office at Anna Salai in Chennai and at all its regional and branch offices. Readers can pick up 10 titles in the shrine series and five for children in the age group of 5-12 years.

Readers can also avail this offer online by visiting [www.thehindu.com/publications](http://www.thehindu.com/publications) and [www.tamil.thehindu.com/publications](http://www.tamil.thehindu.com/publications) for those in Tamil. For bulk orders and enquiries, readers can write to [bookstore@thehindu.co.in](mailto:bookstore@thehindu.co.in).

## Climate change protesters chart a new course

Some of London's streets re-open



Pedestrians walk by the tents of climate change activists at Marble Arch in London on Monday. **AFP**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Some of London's busiest streets re-opened on Monday for the first time in a week as climate change protesters regrouped and plotted a new course after police made over 1,000 arrests.

The so-called Extinction Rebellion took over the heart of the U.K. capital in a bid to focus global attention on rising temperatures and sea levels caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The grassroots group was established last year in Britain by academics and has used social media to become one of the fastest-growing environmental movements in the world.

But it abandoned four of the five main protests sites over the weekend in response to a more forceful police approach and an outcry from local businesses that claimed a heavy loss in sales.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan also warned Sunday that protests were starting to overstretch the police and limiting their ability to respond to daily crime. "It simply isn't right to put Londoners' safety at risk like this," Mr. Khan said.

Extinction Rebellion organisers retreated to Marble

Arch — a monument on the edge of Hyde Park that allows limited protests to continue without disrupting traffic.

The site has been sanctioned by the police.

**Phase two**

The group said that its seven-day campaign has helped it raise nearly \$3,90,000 and gain 30,000 new members.

The police said they had made 1,065 arrests and charged 53 people since the first protests took over a bridge and renowned London intersections such as Piccadilly and Oxford Circus.

The campaign has no formal leaders and its plan of action remains unclear.

Some of the organisers said that they wanted formal talks with the London Mayor and the U.K. government. Their list of demands includes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to a net level of zero by 2025 and a halt to biodiversity loss.

The group wants the government to "create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice".

"A proposal has been circulated for entering a 'negotiations' phase," it said.

# Homeless activists outside Notre-Dame seek 'a roof too'

Call to remember the poor after \$1 bn pledge for Cathedral

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS

Dozens of public housing advocates protested outside the gutted Notre Dame in Paris on Monday to demand that France's poorest be remembered after donors pledged \$1 billion to rebuild the cathedral and its destroyed roof.

Around 50 people from a French homeless association gathered with placards reading "1 billion in 24 hours." They chanted slogans directed at Bernard Arnault, the CEO of luxury group LVMH, who last week pledged €200 million (\$226 million). Some chanted "Notre Dame needs a roof, we need a roof too!"

Paris police monitored the peaceful protest on the



A woman holding a poster that reads in French: "One billion for Notre Dame! Zero for homeless". **AP**

central Paris island on which Notre Dame is located but didn't intervene, and the protest dispersed after several hours.

In addition to Mr. Arnault's pledge, another billionaire, Francois Pinault, and his son pledged €100 million for the reconstruc-

tion effort from their holding company Artemis, which owns the Christie's auction house and is the main shareholder in Gucci.

After Easter Mass on Sunday, Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit said authorities ought to "make a place for the poor."

## Little monks



Boys with shaved heads leaving after a service to celebrate Lord Buddha's upcoming 2,563th birthday on May 12, at the Jogye Temple in Seoul, South Korea, on Monday. **AP**

## Dog owners likely to meet exercise goals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

Dog owners are estimated to be four times more likely than their peers to meet recommended physical activity guidelines, according to a study that highlights the role that dogs may have in helping to keep humans healthy.

It is recommended that adults should do at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week.

Dog owners walk more frequently and for longer periods than non-dog owners, according to the study published in *Scientific Reports*. The effects of dog ownership on physical activity levels in the current study in U.K. are greater than those reported in previous studies of North American and Australian populations.

# Finland's hobbyhorse girls embark on a joyride

The pastime is now celebrated as a national sport, with championships held every summer

ELLEN BARRY  
DMITRY KOSTYUKOV  
HELSINKI

A dozen girls waited in line in a Helsinki arena for the dressage competition, ready to show off their riding skills, their faces masks of concentration.

The judge put them through their paces — walk, trot, canter — and then asked them for a three-step reinback, that classic test of a dressage horse's training and obedience. The judge looked on gravely, occasionally taking notes.

If anyone thought it strange that the girls were riding sticks, no one let on. The make-believe world of the hobbyhorse girls extended as far as the eye could see.

A veterinarian lectured girls on hobbyhorse vaccina-



A girl competes during a hobbyhorse competition in Helsinki on March 16, 2019. **NYT**

tion schedules, saying "check that the eyes are clear and there is no nasal discharge."

Among those listening was Fanny Oikarinen, 11, who lives in a village north of Helsinki, Finland's capital. Fanny is serious, with long

red hair and a tiny silver stud in her nose. Fifth grade has brought the dizzying social stratification of adolescent girls, the sudden and vital importance of being cute and popular. Fanny said she does not see much point in this.

"The normal things, that normal girls like, they don't feel like my things," she said. But she is at home in the world of hobbyhorses, where boys and grown-ups have no place.

Fanny and her friend, Maisa Wallius, are training for summertime competitions.

**When the craze began**

It is impossible to say exactly when the Finnish hobbyhorse craze began, because it spread for years under the radar before adults became aware of it.

In 2012, a filmmaker, Selma Vilhunen, stumbled across internet discussion boards used by hobbyhorse enthusiasts and was enraptured.

Teenage girls had invented a form of hobbyhorse

dressage, in which the rider's lower body pranced and galloped like a horse, while her upper body remained erect and motionless like a rider. This evolved into an elaborate network of coaches and students and competitions, but it was discussed only online, for the most part.

"It was like a secret society," Ms. Vilhunen said.

One of the girls she sought out as a guide to the hobbyhorse scene was Alisa Aarniomaki, a celebrity in the online world for her hand-sewn hobbyhorses and riding videos, but she was apprehensive about letting her classmates know about it. When she was 12, some friends happened to spot her practicing in the woods near her school, and teased her

for playing a child's game.

"It didn't fit with their idea of a 12-year-old girl," she said. "They said I would never get a boyfriend."

When Ms. Vilhunen's documentary film, *Hobbyhorse Revolution*, was released in 2017, it captured its subjects in long spells of raucous joy. This was important to the filmmaker, who has made adolescent girls the focus of much of her work.

The hobbyhorse pastime is now celebrated as a national sport, with national championships held every summer and Aarniomaki as its unofficial spokeswoman.

Aarniomaki has been invited to give demonstrations in Sweden, Russia and the Netherlands, all places where the hobby is taking off. **NY TIMES**

## Scientists use EU satellite to spot Aegean sea litter

They can help with the clean-up

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LESBOS ISLAND

In an experiment to detect marine litter using satellites, a team of Greek University students deposited wall-sized PVC frames on the surface of Aegean sea.

The team gathered some 2,000 plastic bottles and lashed them to the frames. Other targets were crafted with plastic bags, as these are even harder to spot in the water and usually constitute the deadliest threat to Aegean marine life such as dolphins, turtles and seals.

"We knew that the European satellite system passes at regular intervals with a spatial resolution of 10 metres," said project supervisor Konstantinos Topuz-

elis, an assistant professor at the University of the Aegean.

In theory, then, the satellites should be able to detect the floating rafts of plastic the team pushed out to sea.

The results of the experiment — "Satellite Testing and Drone Mapping for Marine Plastics on the Aegean Sea" — will be presented at a European Space Agency symposium in Milan in May.

"Marine litter is a global problem that affects all the oceans of the world," Mr. Topuzelis said.

"The advantage is that we are using existing tools," which brings down costs and makes it easier to scale up, said Dimitris Papageorgiou, among the 60 students working on the project.