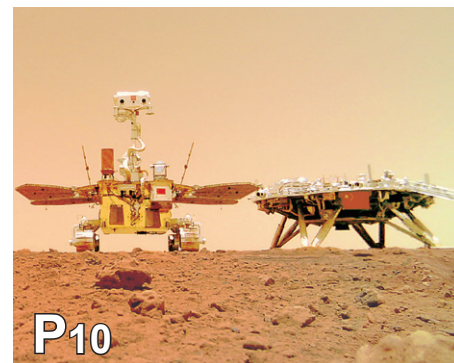


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China's Mars rover *Zhurong*, drew the attention of the public again by ranking first in the annual top 10 list for science advances. Its *in situ* investigation helped scientists unveil the subsurface structure of Martian layers.

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Cover story:

As climate change and water scarcity render more farmlands inhospitable, scientists have found a ray of hope. Researchers from the CAS Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB) and Huazhong Agricultural University have identified a genetic switch in sorghum that allows the plant to thrive in alkaline soils. By tweaking this gene, they enabled other crops like rice, maize and millet to better tolerate salty earth. This discovery cracks the code to cultivating millions of hectares of sodic lands and provides a powerful tool to ensure food security despite environmental challenges.

For more, please turn to page 22.

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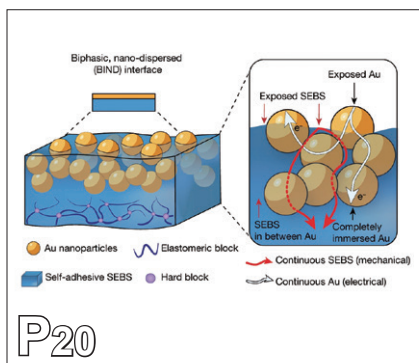
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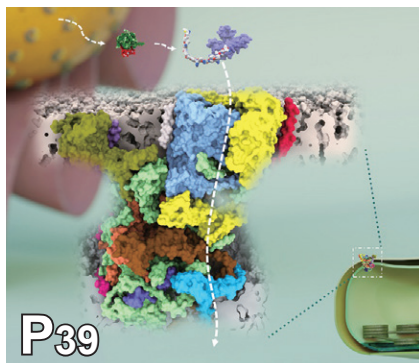
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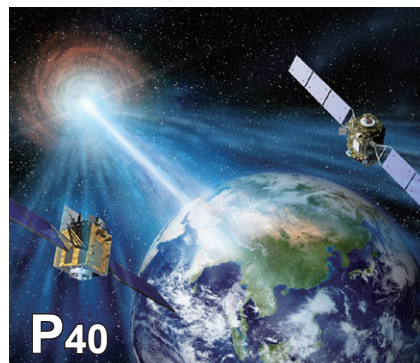
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A new interface that combines an elastic polymer with conductive metal nanoparticles enables Lego-like assembly for robust connections, which may revolutionize stretchable electronics.



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Chloroplasts, where plant cells host their mini solar panels, depend on a group of proteins, called the TOC-TIC complex, to import other proteins from the cytosol.



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Space telescopes *Insight-HXMT* and *GECAM-C* help scientists accurately measure energy released by the brightest Gamma-ray burst ever detected by human beings.

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