



Leaning Tower of Pisa 'now leaning less'!

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is known worldwide for its precarious tilt!

Engineers have been at work for about two decades to stop the famed Tuscan bell tower from leaning more. Now, it's stabilising and straightening – just a bit.

The tower's foundations were built on soft subsoil which had difficulty supporting the tower's weight (14,500 ton). When the second storey was started the lean became noticeable and only got worse as construction continued.

The tower's Surveillance Group, which monitors restoration work, said the landmark is "stable and very slowly reducing its lean."

The 57m medieval monument has been straightened by 4cm over the past two decades, the team said.

Nunziante Squeglia, a professor of geotechnics at the University of Pisa who works with the surveillance team, added: "What counts the most is the stability of the bell tower, which is better than expected."

Back in 1990, the tourist favourite was closed to the public for the first time in 800 years amid fears it could be on the verge of toppling. At the time, it was tilting by 4.5m!



Pictured: The leaning tower of Pisa.

NASA's InSight spacecraft successfully lands on Mars and sends back a picture of itself!



Pictured: InSight takes a 'selfie' on the surface of Mars using a camera on its robotic arm. Taken from NASAInSight Twitter page.

InSight, which stands for Interior Exploration Using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, will help scientists understand what is happening around the core of Mars.

The craft completed an epic journey by navigating temperatures of 1,500C (hot enough to melt steel!) to gently land at walking pace on the Red Planet, touching down in an area known as Elysium Planitia. InSight had a six-minute window in which to decelerate from just under 13,000mph to 5mph, using its parachute and 12 retro-rockets, landing entirely based on autonomous and pre-programmed systems.

The spacecraft took the snap of the Red planet using a camera fixed on its robotic arm.

The rocky surface of Mars can be clearly seen with the InSight rover in the foreground.

It had touched down after seven months and more than 300 million miles and at a cost of a billion dollars.



Army divers face off with sharks during tank clean-up!



Pictured: Divers cleaning an aquarium window.

Ten soldiers from the 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment at Woodbridge, near Suffolk, squeezed into their wetsuits to clean the ocean tank at Great Yarmouth's Sea Life Centre. A 300kg sea turtle, blacktip reef shark and guitarfish were just three types of sea creatures joined by army divers as they spruced up the tank while practising their diving skills. They are used to swimming in Mediterranean waters, carrying out assignments such as removing underwater obstructions and working with explosives. Cpl Ryan Wood, said "It was really good to be able to dive with all the sea creatures. It is not something we usually do, so it was a brilliant experience. The dive was a great way to practice our skills, particularly our buoyancy, as we weren't just walking along the bottom of the tanks. It is great to be able to help out a business in the local community and hopefully they are pleased with the job we have done."

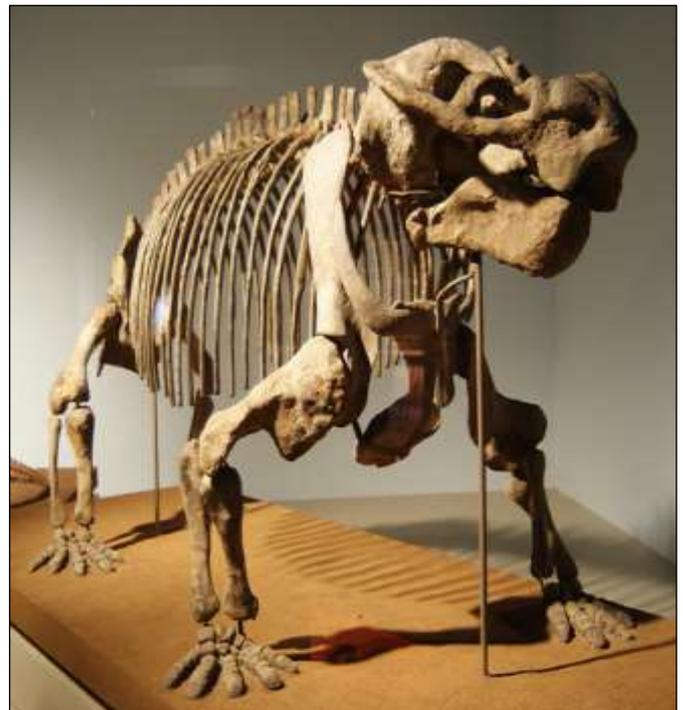
Fossil of huge "mammal-like" reptile discovered!

The remains of the *Lisowicia bojani*, the fossil of a giant, plant eating mammal-like reptile, resembling a cross between a turtle and a rhino, has been discovered at a prehistoric graveyard in the remote village of Lisowice, southern Poland.

The newly discovered 4.5 metre long, 2.7 metre tall, 9-ton therapsid, lived 210 million years ago. This amazing creature stood as tall as an elephant and is thought to be largest terrestrial animal in the Triassic that wasn't a dinosaur. In a recent paper published to Science, a team from Uppsala University in Sweden and the Polish Academy of Sciences revealed the discovery of a new species of dicynodonts.

The findings has been hailed a "once in a lifetime discovery."

The animal could even shed light on how the dinosaurs, that were just beginning to take over the planet, got so massive.



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Pictured: An example of a Dicynodont. An Aulacephalodon is an extinct genus of medium-sized dicynodont, that lived during Permian period,
