**CONTENTS**

4 SEPTEMBER 2015 • VOLUME 349 • ISSUE 6252

---

**NEWS**

**IN BRIEF**

1030 Roundup of the week's news

**IN DEPTH**

1032 MANTLE PLUMES SEEN RISING FROM EARTH’S CORE
Fat tubes of hot rock could alter views of how the planet cooled. 
*By E. Hand*

1033 Ocean robots listen for earthquake echoes
*By E. Hand*

1034 HOW FARM LIFE PREVENTS ASTHMA
Lung reaction to bacteria may explain protection for farm children, bolstering hygiene hypothesis. 
*By J. Kaiser*

---

**INSIGHTS**

**FEATURES: SCIENCE IN IRAN**

1038 UNSANCTIONED SCIENCE
Despite penury and isolation, Iran’s scientists have pursued an ambitious agenda. If sanctions end, research will blossom. 
*By R. Stone*

1042 An eye on the sky
*By R. Stone*

---

1044 SAVING IRAN’S GREAT SALT LAKE
With ecosystems and agriculture at stake, stopping Lake Urmia from turning to salt desert is the country’s top environmental priority. 
*By R. Stone*

1046 Fragile ecosystems under pressure
*By R. Stone*

---

SEE ALSO

*EDITORIAL P. 1029*  
*SLIDESHOW*

---

**NEWS**

**IN BRIEF**

1030 Roundup of the week's news

**IN DEPTH**

1032 MANTLE PLUMES SEEN RISING FROM EARTH’S CORE
Fat tubes of hot rock could alter views of how the planet cooled. 
*By E. Hand*

1033 Ocean robots listen for earthquake echoes
*By E. Hand*

1034 HOW FARM LIFE PREVENTS ASTHMA
Lung reaction to bacteria may explain protection for farm children, bolstering hygiene hypothesis. 
*By J. Kaiser*

---

**INSIGHTS**

**FEATURES: SCIENCE IN IRAN**

1038 UNSANCTIONED SCIENCE
Despite penury and isolation, Iran’s scientists have pursued an ambitious agenda. If sanctions end, research will blossom. 
*By R. Stone*

1042 An eye on the sky
*By R. Stone*

---

1044 SAVING IRAN’S GREAT SALT LAKE
With ecosystems and agriculture at stake, stopping Lake Urmia from turning to salt desert is the country’s top environmental priority. 
*By R. Stone*

1046 Fragile ecosystems under pressure
*By R. Stone*

---

SEE ALSO

*EDITORIAL P. 1029*  
*SLIDESHOW*

---

**FEATURES: SCIENCE IN IRAN**

1038 UNSANCTIONED SCIENCE
Despite penury and isolation, Iran’s scientists have pursued an ambitious agenda. If sanctions end, research will blossom. 
*By R. Stone*

1042 An eye on the sky
*By R. Stone*

---

1044 SAVING IRAN’S GREAT SALT LAKE
With ecosystems and agriculture at stake, stopping Lake Urmia from turning to salt desert is the country’s top environmental priority. 
*By R. Stone*

1046 Fragile ecosystems under pressure
*By R. Stone*

---

SEE ALSO

*EDITORIAL P. 1029*  
*SLIDESHOW*