



The Horizon Newsletter

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Hospitals in Delhi out of Oxygen

By: Shrihan Dadi

The COVID-19 situation in India has gotten dire. As of now, there are nearly 16 million cases in India. People are dying by the masses because of a lack of oxygen and full capacity in hospitals. This situation is perhaps no more prevalent than in Delhi. Six hospitals in Delhi have run out of oxygen. Other hospitals are not doing much better: they only have a few hours worth of oxygen left, and over 99% of all ICU beds are full.

Even with some of the best healthcare facilities and systems, Delhi has been crippled by the COVID-19 crisis. A lot of devastation has happened because of the onset of a new coronavirus variant. Viruses mutate because (like all other organisms) they have to evolve to survive in a rapidly changing environment. This mutation, in particular, is known to proliferate (spread) a lot faster, causing scientists to suspect it as the reason for mass deaths in India.

Speaking of mass deaths, in Delhi, hospitals are not the only institutions running out of space. Crematoriums have resorted to mass cremations in parking lots because they cannot accommodate the rapid influx of deaths.

The government is attempting to identify which cities have the greatest need for oxygen and transport oxygen canisters around the country, but if help does not come soon for cities like Delhi, the situation will only worsen.

State vs Chauvin: A trial to go down in history

The murder of George Floyd remains a highly controversial topic within the United States and beyond. His death is largely seen as a rallying cry for those supporting civil rights, and a possible threat against those who oppose it. In his death, he left behind a nation divided, in chaos, and doubting its own integrity. Riots broke out across cities within the United States with widespread looting and violence, some even account of reports of street fighting and police brutality.

Some have even questioned the meaning of America's idea of "equality, for if in a nation, a race of a person has a dramatic factor on how they are treated, then how would such a nation hold "equality". After the National Guard was called in to restore order across major cities, a trial was held where the four police officers involved in his death were tried. Derek Chauvin, the man who kneeled on Floyd's neck, was held in a separate trial. After 10 hours of deliberation, the jury handed down the guilty verdict, sending Chauvin to prison for up to 40 years.

While such an event would be highly controversial on it's own, it has the unfortunate luck of being overshadowed by the COVID-19 Crisis, a much deadlier and far more pressing issue. Nevertheless, State vs Chauvin will be a monumental event and it's repercussions will be immense, upholding America's promise of equality regardless of social and political factors, this is a case that will not be forgotten soon and children in future generations may even find themselves studying it.

What's changed with Greenhouses gases?

By: Arya Bharti

For most of the earth's life greenhouse gases played an important role in keeping the planet habitable and warm. It was these very gasses that allowed life to emerge on our planet however for the past few centuries greenhouse gases have been at the forefront of media headlines forecasting impending doom. So what changed? The simple answer is Humanity, to be more specific, the way humanity generates energy. For the better part of the past 2 centuries humanity has used wonder energy sources such as coal and oil to power an unpresidential time of ingenuity and modernization. The problem with this is that coal and other fossil fuels release huge amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Excess amounts of greenhouse gasses warm the atmosphere and earth beyond the needed amount which can cause "shifting weather patterns that threaten food production or rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding. The impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale". Climate change is now the most likely cause of extinction for humanity in the next century. Humanity has begun to take steps to solve this problem such as the Paris agreement and the Kyoto protocol.