

The Horizon Newsletter

April 2019

Trump's Reaction to the Mueller Report

By: Shrihan Dadi

The full Mueller report on Mr. Trump and his “involvements” with Russia was recently released. The report details information about America expected full details about the investigation and the Democrats were looking to find dirt that they could use on Mr. Trump. Their current evidence rests on Trump's history of Russian contacts, abuse/assertion of power, and hush payments. However, Mr. Trump himself seemed to have no anxiety at all, even pleading that he was “having a good day.” In fact, Mueller himself stated that he couldn't find any possible obstruction of justice by Mr. Trump, stating that “no criminal conduct occurred.” Mueller's team knew that the Trump campaign would benefit from Russian help but found that the campaign didn't take the wrong steps to do so. Attorney General Barr was the first to receive the report, but he decided to make the report public after pleas from Congress. As a matter of fact, Congress can continue to investigate Trump with the sole intent to protect the administration of power. In conclusion, Trump's reaction to the report was somewhat expected, given his initial reaction before when the full report wasn't made public.



Dinosaurs Were Wiped Out by a Catastrophic Failure of Natural Events but Could the Same Happen to us?

By: Arya Bharti

The modern leading theory that palaeontologists have about the extinction of the dinosaurs is that a meteor around 6 miles in length hit somewhere off the coast of the Yucatán Peninsula in the Gulf of Mexico. Today, there's even a town named after it: Chicxulub. The meteor raised up dust and ash into our atmosphere, blocking out the sun for over a decade. Without the sun, food chains slowly died out as herbivores starved without plants. Carnivores soon found themselves in the same situation and over 75 percent of species at the time died out. This mass extinction is now known as the K-T (Kreide Tertiary) event, one of the five biggest mass extinctions the world has ever seen. But the meteor wasn't the only thing that led to the dinosaurs' downfall. Around the



same time as the K-T event, volcanoes in modern day Asia, specifically India, were spewing out over a million cubic kilometres of lava. Together, rising levels of sulphur and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which changed the climate and caused global acid rain.

Meanwhile, a slowing of undersea tectonic activity led to one of the most rapid periods of falling sea levels in the history of the planet, devastating coastal ecosystems. This was a species that had ruled the earth for over 100 million years, but we've only been here for 200,000 years. We are already choking ourselves by polluting and littering where ever we go. Carbon dioxide levels are already on the rise, melting the polar ice caps making storms more powerful than ever before. Together we can still help save humanity before it's too late.

Cobra Kai

By: Sumant Anantha

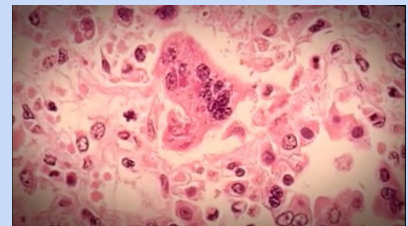
After Karate Kid (1984) was released, a sequel was created; it was hosted on YouTube Red. The name of the sequel is Cobra Kai. The series revolves around the antagonist from karate kid. In this case, the antagonist from back then is the protagonist. The first season was released on YouTube Red on May 2nd 2018 and the second season was released on April 24th 2019. Both of the seasons are magnificent in plot and acting. The show received 100% on Rotten Tomatoes and 8.9 on IMDb.



US Measles Outbreak

By: Pavitra Madala

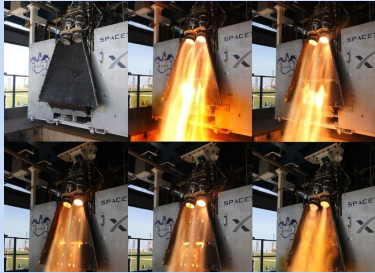
Just four months into the year, 626 cases of measles have been reported in the United States, with New York having the highest number of cases. That is 42 less than the record of 667 cases in 2014, which is the highest number after the US declared the elimination of measles in 2000. According to officials, the outbreak originated in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood in October when an unvaccinated child became infected while visiting Israel. There have been almost 4000 cases of measles in Israel since March 2018, and the number continues to grow. Gradually, other unvaccinated people have gotten measles while visiting other countries as well. According to the World Health Organization, Ukraine has reported 72000 cases of measles in the past year, which the highest number of any country. Measles is an endemic in many countries. It is brought into the country when an unvaccinated person enters the country from a place the virus is transmitted.



SpaceX Spacecraft Undergoes “anomaly” Says Scientists

By: Harvik Kolla

A SpaceX Dragon spacecraft suffered a problem during a test launch by what the



company said was an “anomaly” during tests of its engines on April 20. This setback has delayed the company’s plan to fly a test flight later this year. The problem happened during testing of the SuperDraco thrusters used as part of the launch system for the Dragon spacecraft. These thrusters use nitrogen tetroxide and hydrazine propellants. Each thruster is capable of producing about 16,000 pounds of force of thrust. SpaceX did not disclose what Dragon

vehicle this happened to, though it is safe to say it was most likely the spacecraft that flew the successful Demo-1 mission in March. SpaceX planned to fly that spacecraft again in an in-flight test. That test was expected to take place this summer before this anomaly. Now it is postponed to after the fall. This will revolutionize the way spacecraft are made and galaxies are explored.

Samsung Galaxy Fold: More Waiting Time

By: Harvik Kolla

Samsung will not launch its innovative and expensive Galaxy Fold on schedule. The company confirmed that the \$1,980 device will not be released to stores on Friday the 26 as planned due to reports of the device breaking for some early users. The company also reportedly postponed launch events in Hong Kong and Shanghai over the weekend. Last week, reviewers such as Unbox Therapy and Marques Brownlee, experienced issues with the 4.6-inch phone, which opens up into a 7.3-inch mini- tablet, such as broken hinges and screens after the protection was removed. Samsung stated the following “ We pledge to strengthen the display protection and "enhance the guidance on care and use of the display including the protective layer so that our customers get the most out of their Galaxy Fold." The Samsung Galaxy Fold is not just another expensive smartphone, it changes the efficiency and compatibility of the modern day smartphone. This is a major step in technology as it allows a smartphone to turn into a tablet making it a vital component of our busy daily lives.



Ban On Baby Gene Editing

By: Sruthi Anne

Many researchers want a temporary 5-year ban on the gene editing of babies. “We call for a global moratorium” on changing the genes in sperm, eggs or embryos “to make genetically modified children,” says the researchers. These researchers are coming from 7 different nation and are presented their proposal in the March 14 *Nature*. First, they argue that editing may not be safe enough yet. Another great worry is that changes to the sperm, eggs and embryos can be later inherited by the children of the treated patients. The proposed ban would last 5 years to give time for public education and debates. This would give time for scientists and researchers



to discover more on gene editing. Some researchers have previously called making gene-edited babies “irresponsible.” A 2017 report commissioned by the U.S. National Academies of Sciences and Medicine, as international conferences on human genome editing, concluded that heritable

gene editing is not ready for clinical use and should wait until the technology develops and there is public consent on allowing it. Still, those concerns didn’t stop Chinese scientist Jiankui He from editing DNA in embryos that resulted in the birth of two baby girls last year. Another woman was reportedly pregnant with a gene-edited baby at the time of He’s announcement in November. Russ Altman, a bioengineer and geneticist at Stanford University, says it may be easier now to get a ban to stick after He’s neglect. “It will be harder to find a harbor of safety” for researchers who violate the ban, Altman says. “Now a ban will have a bigger weight of scientific credibility, and would be more likely to be obeyed.”

The Paris Agreement

By: Amuktha Dasari

The Paris Agreement is a contract between all the countries in the United Nations to take up the common cause of combating climate change and adapting to its effects, along with aiding less developed countries to make these changes as well. The main goal of the Paris Accords is to combat the global climate change by responding and keeping a global temperature rise this century below 2 degrees Celsius. It also aims to increase countries' ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, with the economy, infrastructure and technology. The Paris Agreement has many elements that work together to combat the rising global temperature, but it is especially important to educate the public on climate change and its effects, as these are the people who will be affected by it. In addition, providing financial support to developing countries will balance the mitigation and adaptation aspects of the agreement, and allow companies who already have a leg up to help the others. Lastly, by assessing each countries' current improvements, we can see

what we can do better to combat specific warming, as well as make sure every country is upholding their end of the agreement. The current administration wishes to withdraw from the Paris Accords, arguing in favor of a nationalistic

sovereignty and strengthening our sole economy. The United States is the world's second largest polluter, so pulling out from the deal to pursue our own economic interests and ignore the ecological impacts could result in the reversal of everything the Accords stood for. Many other political leaders provide outspoken opposition to the decision. Under the accords, the US was supposed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions significantly and commit up to 3 billion dollars in aid. Although backing out of the deal may seem good to save that much money in the short term, the long term repercussions will lead to more money lost, as well as a less healthy planet.

