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Subject The Morning: Trump vs. science

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Good morning. Pete Hegseth's personal phone number created national security risks, analysts say. Trump criticized Putin. Israel is using A.I. in the war in Gaza.

More news is below. But first, we cover the Trump administration's cuts to scientific research.

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Inside a lab at the Harvard School of Public Health. Cody O'Loughlin for The New York Times

Trump vs. science

By [Alan Burdick](#)

I'm an editor and occasional reporter of health and science news.

Late yesterday, Sethuraman Panchanathan, whom President Trump hired to run the National Science Foundation five years ago, [has quit](#). He didn't say why, but it was clear enough: Last weekend, Trump cut more than 400 active research awards from the N.S.F., and he is pressing Congress to halve the agency's \$9 billion budget.

The Trump administration has targeted the American scientific enterprise, an engine of research and innovation that has thrummed for decades. It has slashed or frozen budgets at the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NASA. It has fired or defunded thousands of researchers.

The chaos is confusing: Isn't science a force for good? Hasn't it contained disease? Won't it help us in the competition with China? Doesn't it attract the kind of immigrants the president says he wants? In this edition of the newsletter, we break out our microscope to make sense of the turmoil.

An investment

American research thrives under a patronage system that funnels