

A photograph showing two women in the foreground, both wearing blue surgical face masks. The woman on the left is wearing a white puffy jacket and looking down at a smartphone. The woman on the right is wearing a black jacket and adjusting her mask. In the background, a large, traditional Chinese building with multiple tiers and a red roof is visible under a hazy, overcast sky. Other people can be seen walking in the distance.

Today in History

January 3, 2017

▲ **China issued its first-ever nationwide red alert for smog, with air pollution in Beijing and other major cities so bad that flights were delayed and roads closed**

1983: A thunderstorm drowned 100,000 chickens in South Africa after the announcement of a “day of prayer” to end a drought

1993: Russia and the U.S. signed the Start II Treaty, eliminating about two-thirds of their nuclear stockpiles

2009: Bitcoin came into existence with the mining of the Genesis block

2022: Richard Leakey, whose fossil discoveries helped prove that humankind evolved in Africa, died