THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

"The day's news, for everyone at the table."

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

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TOP STORY • INDIA

Cyclone Murasu Batters India's East Coast and Damages Crops

Thousands of people stayed in shelters while the storm crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Cyclone Murasu, a huge spinning storm, crossed the coast of Andhra Pradesh in India near the city of Ongole at around 1 am on Tuesday 3 November. Winds reached 100 to 110 kilometres an hour. It uprooted trees, toppled electricity poles and flooded low-lying areas.

More than 30,000 hectares of crops were damaged across 15 districts. Paddy, cotton and maize suffered most. Many people had already moved to safety: The Tribune reported 10,805 people in cyclone shelters, and 14 NDRF rescue teams were sent to the state.

No deaths were reported when the Tribune wrote, but a later live blog said at least two people had died. It was the second cyclone to hit the region in a week.



Murasu crossed the coast near Ongole around 1 am on 3 November.

WHY IT MATTERS

Early warnings and shelters help families stay safe, and damaged crops show how a storm can hurt farmers' work as well as their homes.

WORLD • IRAN

Iran and Qatar Keep Talking About Ending the War as Oil Prices Dip

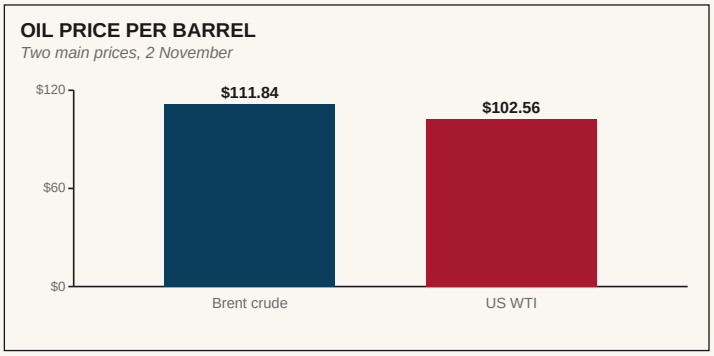
Officials met for a third day on Sunday 1 November, and fuel prices slipped on hopes for peace.

Iran and Qatar held talks for a third day in a row on Sunday 1 November, aiming to end the war between Iran and the United States and Israel. Iran's foreign minister said the talks were "ongoing and progressing."

Oil is the link to family budgets. Attacks on tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz are raising energy and shipping costs around the world. On Monday 2 November, Brent crude, a main world price, fell $1.59 to $111.84 a barrel as people hoped for peace.

Brent had ended October at its highest level in six months. One analyst said it could near $120 a barrel if angry words about Iran return.

OPEC+, a group of oil-producing countries, kept its December production targets unchanged on Sunday. Morning Star reported that Iran's rulers saw the American midterm results as a rebuke of President Trump, while Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei dismissed the idea of a major change in US policy toward Iran.



WTI is the main US price.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Geography meets money at the Strait of Hormuz: ships carrying oil pass through it.

UNITED STATES • ELECTIONS

Democrats Win Control of Congress in the Midterm Elections

A few close races were still being counted on Wednesday.

Democrats were projected to win both chambers of Congress, the lawmakers who write the country's laws. CNBC projected at least 250 of the House's 435 seats for Democrats. In the Senate, 51 seats are needed for control, and Democrats were on track for at least 54.

Alaska and Mississippi had not been called by Wednesday midday. Democrats also flipped five governorships: Texas, Georgia, Ohio, Iowa and Nevada.

House control brings subpoena power, which can demand documents in investigations. President Trump said he will use his veto, the power to block a bill, as needed.

WHY IT MATTERS

Which party controls Congress shapes which laws can pass.

Also in United States

• Georgia: Keisha Lance Bottoms would be the first Black woman governor of any state, CBS reported.

• Local votes: About two dozen of 41 data-center measures passed to restrict them, CNBC said.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Space: NASA's Swift Observatory was expected to re-enter the atmosphere on 4 November.

• Ukraine: Kyiv residents lost running water for more than 16 hours after attacks.

TALK ABOUT IT

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Families moved to shelters before the cyclone. What would you pack if you had to leave home quickly?

The storm damaged crops. How might that change what a farmer's family does next?

Why might it matter that many people take part in choosing leaders?

INDIA • ELECTIONS

Election Commission Defends Its Voter-List Check in Supreme Court

The commission filed a 248-page reply and asked the court to dismiss the petitions.

India keeps lists, called electoral rolls, of the people allowed to vote. The Election Commission, which runs the country's elections, is rechecking those lists in a process it calls a Special Intensive Revision, or SIR. Some people disagree with how it is being done, so they went to the Supreme Court.

In reply, the commission handed the court 248 pages. It says it followed the Constitution, using Article 324, and that all three of its commissioners agreed on its three SIR orders. It wants the court to throw out the complaints, which it calls misconceived.

The complaints are also aimed at Gyanesh Kumar, who leads the commission. The people who brought them want 14 decisions about the rechecking undone, and a special team to investigate. The commission answered that under Article 324(5) its leader can be removed only in the way a Supreme Court judge is.

Next, the judges decide. A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant was due to hear the case. WION reported that, after the commission filed its sworn statement on 26 October, the court gave one petitioner, Rakesh Kumar Singh, 10 days to respond.

WHY IT MATTERS

Voter lists decide who can vote, so courts check that the way they are updated is lawful and fair.

SPORTS CORNER

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No match results were confirmed in time for this issue.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Whether Alaska and Mississippi, the last uncalled Senate races, are decided.

• Whether the Iran and Qatar talks lead to a deal to end the war, and what happens to oil prices.

"A storm passes, but neighbours who help each other stay." — The Editor

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.