THE BREAKFAST TABLE

DAILY

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

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

Vol. 1 • No. 29 • Wednesday, November 18, 2026 • Washington, USA • 2 Pages

TOP STORY • ASIA

Four Countries Team Up to Keep Supplies Flowing

The Quad met in Manila and made deals on the materials inside batteries.

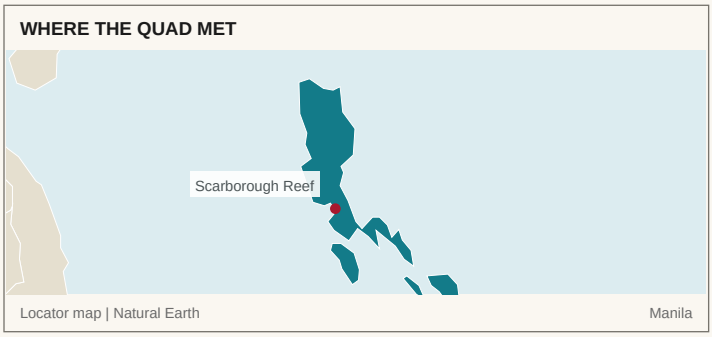
Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Inside every phone battery are small amounts of materials such as lithium and cobalt. Electric cars need them too. These are called critical minerals: modern devices can't do without them, but they can be hard to get.

That is why four leaders met in Manila, in the Philippines, on Tuesday: Donald Trump of the United States, Narendra Modi of India, Sanae Takaichi of Japan and Anthony Albanese of Australia. Their group is called the Quad.

Trump announced new deals on critical minerals. He said they would stop "coercion by any single foreign supplier." Coercion means forcing someone to do something. He did not name the minerals, who signed, or China, which dominates the world's supply of rare earths.

The leaders also agreed that their patrol planes will fly together over the sea in 2027, and they will spend more than $85 million to help the region use trusted AI.



The leaders met in Manila on Tuesday.

WHY IT MATTERS

Batteries in our phones and cars depend on these materials, so the four leaders want supplies that no single supplier can squeeze.

WORLD • SPACE

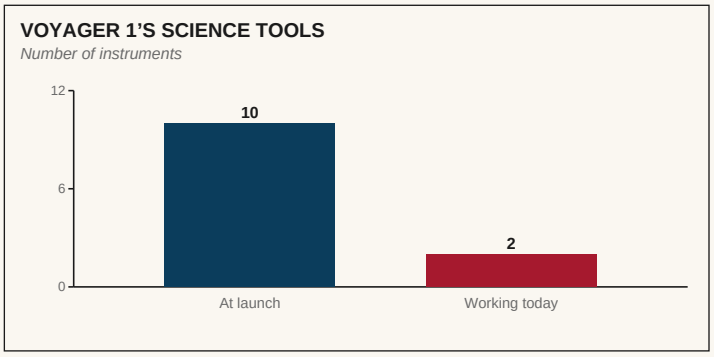
A Message to Voyager 1 Now Takes a Whole Day

The spacecraft launched in 1977 reaches one light-day from Earth today.

In one day, light travels about 25.89 billion kilometres, a distance called a light-day. Today, NASA's Voyager 1 becomes the first spacecraft to get that far from Earth.

That means a radio message sent from Earth needs a full 24 hours to reach it, and its reply needs another 24 hours to come back. Voyager 1 was launched in 1977 to fly past Jupiter and Saturn, and it is still sending data from beyond the planets. It speeds along at about 17 kilometres every second.

Its power is slowly fading, so engineers have switched off parts to save energy. Of the 10 science instruments it launched with, only 2 still work, and the team thinks it has enough power to keep going until about the early 2030s. NASA's telescopes in Canberra, California and Madrid keep track of it. On Tuesday evening, NASA invited people to flash lights in Morse code after sunset to celebrate.



It launched with 10 instruments in 1977; 2 still work today.

CONNECT THE DOTS

History: Voyager 1 was launched in 1977 and crossed into interstellar space, the region beyond the planets, in August 2012. It has kept collecting data ever since.

UNITED STATES • TRAVEL

After Planes Stopped, America Pauses a Computer Upgrade

Air traffic control is changing how it fixes its equipment.

Last Friday, flights across America were stopped for nearly five hours. The trouble began when a new router, a box that links computers together, was installed at a site in El Dorado, Arkansas.

After that router went in, the system was flooded with about 1,000 attempts to connect every four to five seconds. That knocked out radio and radar in 17 of the country’s 22 regional air traffic control centres. The full cause is still being studied.

On Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration said it is pausing new router installs. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the agency may need to rethink when it does upgrades, because this work was done in the daytime.

WHY IT MATTERS

When one box can stop flights everywhere, it shows why careful testing matters before families pack for a trip.

Also in United States

• Duffy has asked Congress for $50 billion to upgrade the ageing air traffic system.

• Chuck Schumer says he has the votes to stay leader of Senate Democrats before a vote on 1 December.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Thailand: Its prime minister and Trump signed a trade statement; Trump says Thailand will buy about $2.6 billion more in American farm goods.

• Delhi: The air improved enough on Tuesday for the city to lift its toughest pollution rules.

TALK ABOUT IT

TALK ABOUT IT

What things in our home need a battery, and what would change if those batteries were hard to get?

If you could send Voyager 1 a message that took a whole day to arrive, what would you say?

What would our family pack if we had to leave home for a few days before a storm?

INDIA • WEATHER

Families on India’s East Coast Get Ready for Cyclone Akvan

A strong storm should reach Andhra Pradesh around noon on Friday.

A cyclone is a giant spinning storm that grows over warm sea. Cyclone Akvan is over the Bay of Bengal, and India’s weather office, the IMD, expects it to keep growing stronger before it reaches land. Late on Monday, it was about 670 km from the port city of Visakhapatnam.

The IMD says it should cross the coast of Andhra Pradesh, between Nellore and Tuni, around noon on Friday. Winds could blow at 120 to 130 km an hour, with gusts up to 145, and heavy rain is expected in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Families are already acting on the warnings. Odisha has started moving people out of risky areas, and fishermen have been told to stay off the sea until Friday. The IMD has warned of extensive damage in coastal parts of Andhra Pradesh. The storm’s name, Akvan, was suggested by Iran, one of 13 countries that share a list of storm names.

WHY IT MATTERS

Warnings days ahead give families time to pack, move and stay safe, which is how storms do less harm.

SPORTS CORNER

CRICKET: DHONI HANGS UP HIS IPL BAT

MS Dhoni, 45, has retired as a player in the IPL. He played **272** matches for Chennai Super Kings and led them to five titles, the joint-most by any IPL captain. From 2027 he will be the team’s mentor, helping the next generation of players.

TOMORROW'S WATCHLIST

• Thursday: Trump is due to meet China’s Xi Jinping and Russia’s Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen, China.

• Friday: Cyclone Akvan is expected to reach the Andhra Pradesh coast around noon.

“Some messages take a whole day to arrive. Some friendships take years to build.”

Keep exploring. See you tomorrow.