THE GLOBAL CITIZEN PLUS

SCAN TO READ & PLAY

"The news, connected to what you learn."

Vol. 1 • No. 12 • Tuesday, November 3, 2026 • Washington, USA • 4 Pages

TOP STORY • ASTRONOMY

Two Space Telescopes Find 27 New Icy Worlds Beyond Neptune

Hubble and Webb looked at the same sky together and found small, faint objects that hold clues to how planets formed.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

Think of two friends describing one room, one by its colours and the other by its warmth. That is how this survey worked. Hubble and Webb stared at one patch of sky together, Hubble reading visible light and Webb reading infrared, and they spotted 27 objects no one had catalogued before. These lie beyond Neptune and are called trans-Neptunian objects, or TNOs.

Maths gives a feel for the scale. The smallest is about 3 miles (5 km) across, roughly five times below what the best ground telescopes can detect. Most TNOs are more than 100 million times fainter than the naked eye can see.

History explains two families. Cold TNOs never left home, orbiting where they formed on near-circular paths. Hot TNOs were born between Uranus and Neptune, then scattered outward when the giant planets migrated early on.

One object is so faint that detecting it would be like spotting a small swarm of fireflies on the Moon from Earth.

Colour is the clue. Small TNOs look much like large ones, so their surfaces seem to have changed little since the solar system formed, like a sealed time capsule. TNOs never grew into full planets, so they keep clues about how planets formed.

Two doctoral students led the work. Marielle Eduardo of the University of Victoria led the size study and Anastasia Morgan of Northern Arizona University led the colour study, and both papers appear in The Astronomical Journal.

HOW TWO TELESCOPES FOUND 27 TNOS

1. Hubble and Webb watch the same patch of sky at once
2. Hubble gathers visible light; Webb gathers infrared light
3. Together they find 27 previously unknown TNOs

Hubble and Webb observed together; the team then reported the survey.

WHY THIS MATTERS

TNOs are leftover building blocks, so each new one adds evidence about how planets formed.

WORLD • UKRAINE

A Six-Day Truce Ends, and Talks Are Planned for Next Week

Kyiv and Moscow disagree about what the Oleshky pause was used for, while the US eyes talks in Abu Dhabi.

A truce is a pause, and what a pause allows is often disputed. In Oleshky, in Russian-held Kherson region of Ukraine, a six-day ceasefire took effect on 27 October and officially ended on 1 November at 10:59 PM. It was meant for humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians.

Now both sides are arguing about what the pause was used for. Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces used it to rotate personnel and bring in ammunition, and that Ukraine honoured the terms. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Moscow had no detailed information and that moving troops during a ceasefire could be normal.

Meanwhile, diplomacy is being planned. President Zelensky said technical-level talks among Ukraine, Russia and the United States, with the US mediating, could be held from 6 to 10 November 2026. Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates is the main venue under consideration, with Switzerland also mentioned. Neither the date nor the venue is final.

Leaders are watching the same calendar. Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov said Putin would take a call from Zelensky if Ukraine initiated it. For now, neither a call nor a final date for the technical talks has been announced.

The pause also shows how fragile local deals are. It lasted six days, from 27 October to 1 November, and each side now tells a different story about what it allowed. Whether the proposed talks can build on it depends on the venue and the date, both still undecided.

WHO'S INVOLVED?

Ukraine — Russia — United States

Trilateral means three parties

AFTER THE PAUSE *Oleshky, Kherson region*

Possible talks among Ukraine, Russia and the US, with Abu Dhabi the main venue under consideration.

CONNECT THE DOTS

Geography and civics meet here. The pause was local, in Oleshky, while the proposed talks involve three countries and a venue far away in the United Arab Emirates. Choosing a place that both sides accept is itself part of diplomacy.

INDIA • CYCLONE

Cyclone Murasu Heads for Andhra Pradesh's Southern Coast

A severe cyclonic storm was forecast to cross between Nellore and Narsapur overnight on 2 to 3 November.

Geography decides where a storm does its harm, so start with the map. A severe cyclonic storm called Murasu was expected to cross the southern coast of Andhra Pradesh between Nellore and Narsapur, near Ongole, between 11:30 PM on 2 November and 4 AM on 3 November.

A cyclone's strength is measured in wind. Murasu was expected to bring winds of 100 to 110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph. That is fast enough to damage trees, power lines and weak buildings, which is why coastal states prepare before a storm arrives.

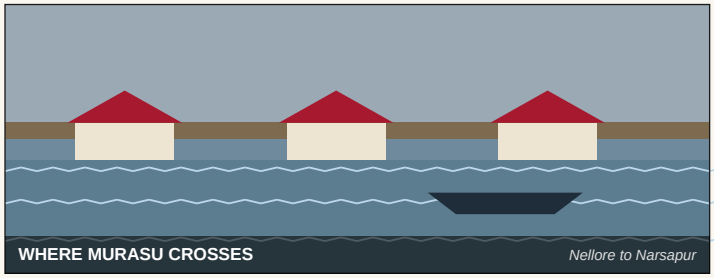
Preparation was already visible in the south. Schools in Chennai, in neighbouring Tamil Nadu, were closed on 2 November. In the north, Delhi-NCR was reported to be spared, a reminder that a cyclone's effects are tied to the coast it approaches.

The storm is a test of how well forecasts turn into action. Reports gave a window of about four and a half hours for the crossing, and the fixed times let districts decide when to move people, close schools and switch off power safely.

Elsewhere in India, the Finance Ministry reported on 1 November that gross GST collections rose nearly 23% from a year earlier to over Rs 2.31 lakh crore in October. GST is a tax on goods and services, and growth was driven by domestic economic activity and higher tax revenue from imports. Finance Minister Sitharaman said the economy shows no fragility and urged confidence.

In New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 at Bharat Mandapam. It runs from 2 to 5 November under the theme Invest. Innovate. Inspire., and is held alongside the 9th ISA Assembly and the 4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen. Country partners include Australia, Denmark, the EU, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Sport brought good news too. On 1 November Ishan Kishan set an Indian record for most T20I runs in a calendar year, with 1,220 runs in 37 innings in 2026, passing Suryakumar Yadav's 1,164 from 2022. PV Sindhu won the Hylo Open women's singles in Saarbrucken, beating Denmark's Line Kjaersfeldt 21-12, 21-14.



Forecast crossing near Ongole, Andhra Pradesh, with winds of 100 to 110 kmph.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Fixed forecast times and wind speeds let officials close schools and move people before a storm arrives.

UNITED STATES • MARKETS

Wall Street Slides as Doubts About AI Spending Grow

The Nasdaq sits almost 8% below its record high from three weeks ago.

Money markets have mood swings, and Friday was a gloomy one. Wall Street shares fell sharply: the S&P; 500 dropped 1.8%, the Dow 1.1% and the Nasdaq 2.9%. The Nasdaq, which is full of technology companies, ended almost 8% below its record high from three weeks earlier.

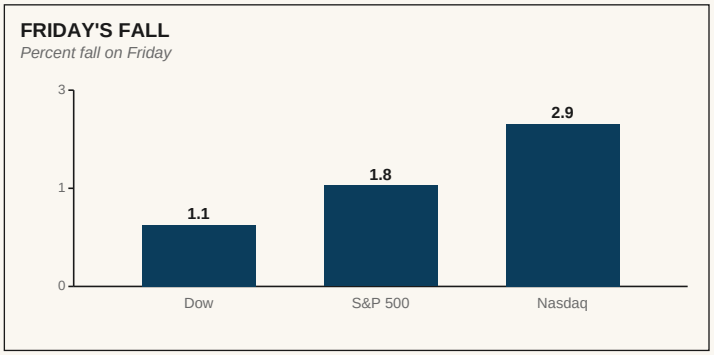
Why technology? Weak quarterly results from Intel, which fell almost 30%, and from Amazon set off the slide. Alphabet had its biggest one-day percentage fall on record, and a measure of chip shares fell 7.2%. Together these reports made investors ask a hard question: will huge spending on artificial intelligence pay off?

Over October as a whole, more than US$2.6 trillion was wiped from the market value of big technology companies, and the Nasdaq fell about 6% for the month. Market value is the price of all of a company's shares added together, so it can fall without anyone selling a product.

There are two sides to the picture. JP Morgan says more than 80% of S&P; 500 companies that have reported beat earnings estimates, but investors remain worried about how AI spending will pay off. Gold, often seen as a safe place to park money, also fell, by 3.5% on Friday, to a one-year low.

More tests are coming. Apple, AMD, Qualcomm and Palantir report results next week, and US elections take place on Tuesday.

The shares fall comes on the eve of midterm elections, held in the middle of a president's term. On Tuesday 3 November Americans vote, and the results decide who controls Congress for the last two years of Donald Trump's term. Rising gas prices from the Iran war have been a major issue, and the administration pledged $15 billion to farmers to offset diesel and fertilizer costs.



Percent fall in each US index on Friday.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Many families' savings are invested in these shares, so doubts about AI spending can show up in retirement and college funds.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Why might a bad report from one chip company drag down a whole index? Which numbers here are daily moves and which are monthly? What would you need to know to decide whether AI spending will pay off?

SCIENCE & TECH • SPACE

Two NASA Spacecraft Will Use Earth to Slingshot Toward Mars

Each ESCAPADE probe gets a 9-minute engine burn at closest approach, on 7 and 9 November.

Space travel has a trick that sounds like a physics class dare: use a planet to speed up a spaceship. NASA's twin ESCAPADE spacecraft will each fly past Earth in November, combining Earth's gravity with an engine burn to head toward Mars. They will do it back to back.

The timing is precise. Spacecraft 1's closest approach is around 5 a.m. EST on Saturday 7 November, and spacecraft 2's is around 6 a.m. EST on Monday 9 November. At that point each is 600 to 1,100 miles above Earth and about the size of a standard refrigerator.

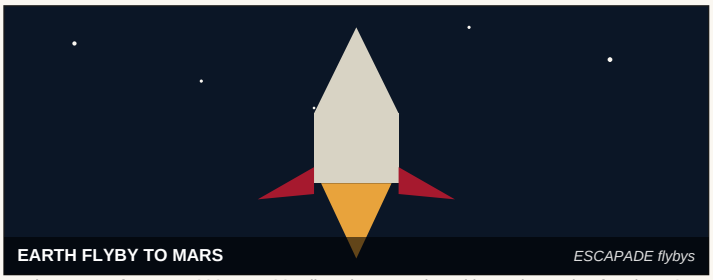
The burn does the real work. Each engine burn lasts about 9 minutes at closest approach and raises speed by more than 1,000 mph, from about 6.3 to 6.7 miles per second. NASA calls the manoeuvre a powered flyby, because gravity and the engine work together.

Why not fly straight to Mars? ESCAPADE launched in November 2025, when Earth and Mars were on opposite sides of the Sun. The spacecraft looped around the Earth-Sun L2 point and returned to Earth to use its gravity once the planets realigned. The burns happen over southern Australia.

After a roughly 10-month cruise, they arrive at Mars on 7 and 9 September 2027. ESCAPADE will be the first multi-spacecraft mission to fly in formation around Mars, studying how the solar wind drives atmospheric loss, which is how the planet's air is stripped away.

There is bonus science too. During the loop, the spacecraft explored a distant part of Earth's magnetotail that no spacecraft had directly studied before, and NASA plans to share the findings later.

Technology news from India offers another kind of speed. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on 1 November, during an inspection at BEML in Bengaluru, that India's first indigenous bullet train design is ready. Manufacturing is progressing, and the first prototype is scheduled to roll out early, with BEML's Bengaluru facilities handling the models and systems of the trainset.



Each spacecraft passes 600 to 1,100 miles above Earth and burns its engine for about 9 minutes.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A flyby plus a burn saves fuel and lets two spacecraft reach Mars together in September 2027.

ECONOMY • OIL

Oil Jumped 14% in October, Then Fell on Hopes for Iran Talks

Brent hit a six-month high before sliding as Iran and Qatar spoke for a third day.

Oil is a number families feel without ever seeing. Brent crude, a widely used world price for oil, rose almost 14% in October and the US benchmark WTI rose 15%. Brent ended the month at its highest level in six months, even though before the war it was near $70 a barrel.

Then prices swung back. On Monday, Iranian and Qatari officials held a third straight day of talks aimed at a deal to end the war, and oil slid. The Associated Press reported that Brent fell about 7.5% to roughly $104.98 a barrel. Another report put it at about $111 on Monday afternoon in Australia, after it had reached $117.64 earlier in the day.

The reasons for the swings are in the geography. Attacks on oil tankers moving through the Strait of Hormuz are raising global energy and shipping costs, and any hint of a deal lowers the fear that adds to the price.

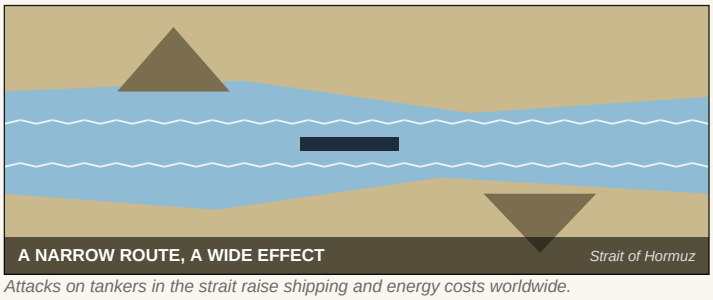
The talks themselves are the main hope. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Sunday that they were ongoing and progressing, and that Tehran is prepared for both defence and diplomacy. No deal has been reported yet, and Qatar is acting as the mediator between the sides.

Producers are not stepping in. OPEC+ kept its December production targets steady on Sunday and is not expected to make further policy changes until next year.

What next? Analyst Tim Waterer said rhetoric around Iran could rise and push Brent toward $120 after the US midterm elections. For households that is the practical question, because rising oil prices tend to feed into the cost of fuel and of moving goods.

Central banks are also acting. Markets widely expected the Reserve Bank of Australia to raise rates on Tuesday by 0.25 percentage points, taking its cash rate to 4.85%, and the Bank of England was tipped to raise to 4.0% on Thursday. Higher rates make loans cost more but are meant to slow rising prices. The US 10-year bond yield stood at 4.93%.

Gold, often a refuge when investors are nervous, fell 3.5% on Friday to a one-year low, a reminder that money moves in many directions at once. Rising gas prices from the war have also been a major issue in the US midterm elections.



Attacks on tankers in the strait raise shipping and energy costs worldwide.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Oil sets the price of fuel and shipping, so swings in Brent reach family budgets far from the Gulf.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Belgium: Prime Minister Bart De Wever offered his government's resignation to King Philippe on Monday after overnight budget talks failed, and the king will consult coalition party chairs from Tuesday.

• Bulgaria: Acting President Iliana Yotova led Sunday's runoff with an estimated 57.4% to 58.2%, and rival Andrey Gyurov conceded.

• United Kingdom: The EU and UK hold a summit on 20 November, and both sides want closer cooperation but differ on how.

• Poland: President Karol Nawrocki entered the Constitutional Tribunal in person to demand the return of its suspended chief judge, while Prime Minister Donald Tusk's government seated new judges.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Trans-Neptunian object
A small icy body that orbits the Sun beyond Neptune. Today: Hubble and Webb found 27 previously unknown trans-Neptunian objects.

Flyby
A pass close to a planet, often to use its gravity. Today: Each ESCAPADE spacecraft will do a powered Earth flyby before heading to Mars.

Deficit
The gap when a government spends more than it takes in. Today: Belgium's 2025 deficit was 5% of GDP, against an EU maximum of 3%.

Benchmark
A standard price used for comparison. Today: Brent is a widely used price for oil, and it rose almost 14% in October.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each of NASA's two ESCAPADE spacecraft is about the size of a standard refrigerator.

EXPLAINER

Why use two telescopes?

Hubble collected visible light and Webb collected infrared light, so using both at once gives a more complete picture than either could alone. This is a bit like reading a map with both a road layer and a terrain layer.

For trans-Neptunian objects the combination matters, because the objects are very faint. The team ran what they call the deepest survey of TNOs to date and found 27 previously unknown ones.

QUIZ

Five questions on this issue

1. How many new trans-Neptunian objects did Hubble and Webb find?

(a) 7 (b) 27 (c) 270

2. Which kind of light did Webb collect?

(a) Infrared (b) Visible (c) X-ray

3. On what date does the first ESCAPADE spacecraft reach closest approach to Earth?

(a) 2 November (b) 7 November (c) 9 September

4. By what share did the Nasdaq fall on Friday?

(a) 1.1% (b) 2.9% (c) 7.2%

5. Which two places are named as possible venues for the proposed Ukraine talks?

(a) Abu Dhabi and Switzerland (b) London and Paris (c) Warsaw and Berlin

Answers. 1 (b), 2 (a), 3 (b), 4 (b), 5 (a).

DISCUSS

DISCUSS

Why might scientists use two telescopes that see different kinds of light instead of one?

A truce is meant to help civilians, yet each side says the other used it for its own purposes. How could outsiders check what happened?

Why do falling technology shares matter to people who do not own any?

“The faintest things are often the ones that tell the oldest stories.” — The Global Citizen Plus

You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.