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DAILY

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SCAN TO READ & PLAY

Vol. 1 • No. 184 • Tuesday, November 17, 2026 • Washington, USA • 2 Pages

TOP STORY • ASIA

Trump and Modi Share a Quad Table in Manila Before Trump Meets Xi and Putin

The US and India sit together as partners, then Trump heads to China for nuclear talks.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

This week the leaders of the United States and India are in the same city. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, on Monday. President Donald Trump left Maryland the same day and is due in Manila on Tuesday.

Manila is hosting the 49th summit of ASEAN, a group of 11 Southeast Asian countries. Modi is attending the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit, whose members include India, China, the US and Russia. The meeting due to seat him beside Trump is the Quad, a partnership of the US, India, Japan and Australia focused on Indo-Pacific security. The White House says it is the first in-person Quad leaders' summit in two years.

From Manila, Trump flies to Shenzhen, China, for the APEC summit. On Thursday he is due to meet China's President Xi Jinping there, with Russia's President Vladimir Putin joining them. It would be the first meeting ever of the leaders of the US, China and Russia, and it is to focus on nuclear stockpiles.

Hopes are modest. A White House official said no agreement to give up nuclear weapons is expected; the session is a starting point. China has long said the US and Russia must cut their own large arsenals before it will discuss its own, and the last US-Russia nuclear arms treaty expired in February.



Trump is due to meet Modi and other Quad leaders in Manila, then fly to Shenzhen to meet Xi and Putin.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The Quad ties the US and India together as security partners, and talks on nuclear stockpiles concern every family. Trade hangs over the trip too: a 2025 US-China truce that cut some US tariffs on Chinese goods ends in January.

WORLD • CLIMATE

COP31's First Draft Deal Lands, and the Bargaining Gets Harder

Oil producers, big developing economies and India push back as the climate summit enters its last week.

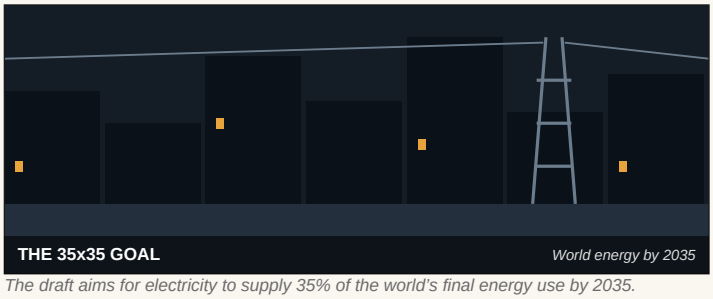
At the yearly UN climate summit, the hardest work comes in the second week. COP31, held in Antalya, Türkiye, began that week on Monday with a pessimistic outlook and an 18-page first draft of its main agreement, known as the cover decision.

The draft tries to hold every option from 45 submissions representing more than 160 governments. It includes a "35x35" target for electricity to supply 35% of the world's final energy use by 2035, a goal for capturing and storing carbon, a call for developed countries to reach net zero by 2030, and $120 billion a year by 2035 to help countries adapt to a hotter climate.

Those numbers already face resistance. The Arab Group and the Like-Minded Developing Countries, a bloc that includes major emerging economies, opposed new targets for particular sectors, and Saudi Arabia rejected any mention of Brazil's roadmap for moving away from fossil fuels. India opposed citing scientific reports from outside the UN process, including a UN Environment Programme report on handling an overshoot of 1.5C of warming. Germany's Heike Henn had doubts too, saying new number goals belong in the next Global Stocktake, due in 2028.

Money divides the room as well. Developing countries want a pledge to triple adaptation finance defined as at least $120 billion a year by 2035, but donors have been reluctant to commit to specifics. Because COP decisions need consensus, every country must accept the final text. Australia's Chris Bowen, who runs the negotiations, said that rule will be tested at the end and that the final text will differ substantially.

Ministers arrive mid-week to bargain, including India's Bhupender Yadav. The US government is absent, but a group of 18 Democratic members of the US House arrived to say they will keep pushing for climate action.



The draft aims for electricity to supply 35% of the world's final energy use by 2035.

CONNECT THE DOTS

History: the 2015 Paris Agreement set the goal of holding warming well below 2C and trying for 1.5C. Every COP since has argued over how to get there, and who should pay.

INDIA • ECONOMY

Fuel and Power Push India’s Wholesale Prices Up 12.29%

Businesses pay more for what they buy in bulk, and shoppers may feel it next.

Before goods reach a shop shelf, businesses buy fuel, metals and grain in bulk. The Wholesale Price Index, or WPI, tracks those prices. Data released on Monday showed wholesale inflation reached 12.29% in October, up from 11.39% in September.

Forbes India called it a series high, the highest since the index began using 2022-23 as its base year. Most of the jump came from energy: fuel and power inflation rose to 32.84% from 25.85%. Economist Madan Sabnavis of Bank of Baroda pointed to a low base, higher crude oil prices and strong demand for power during heat waves. Food was calmer, easing to 8.58%.

What reaches families may come next. Sabnavis said the increases will push companies to raise their prices; so far they have passed on only a limited part. The ratings firm ICRA expects October to be the peak, with about 11.6% in November.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Wholesale prices are an early warning for shop prices. If companies pass on more of these costs, Indian household budgets will feel it.

Also in India

• Elephants: An RTI reply shows more than 1,760 elephants died from electrocution, trains, poaching and poison since 2009-10.

• Manila: Modi is due to mark the start of work to rebuild the Philippines’ oldest Sikh gurdwara, founded in 1929.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• South China Sea: ASEAN and China failed to finish a code of conduct for the sea at their Manila meetings, though about 80% of a draft is tentatively agreed.

• US Senate: Chris Van Hollen said he is “the underdog” but can beat Chuck Schumer in Senate Democrats’ secret-ballot vote for leader, which Axios puts on 1 December.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Stockpile
A large supply of something kept for future use. Today: the Shenzhen meeting is to focus on nuclear stockpiles.

Consensus
Agreement by every member of a group. Today: COP31 decisions need consensus, so every country must accept the final text.

Wholesale
Selling goods in large amounts, usually to businesses rather than shoppers. Today: India’s wholesale inflation reached 12.29% in October.

Ground stop
An order that keeps planes from taking off. Today: the FAA halted departures across the US for more than four hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Quad grew out of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, when the US, India, Japan and Australia worked together on relief.

UNITED STATES • TRAVEL

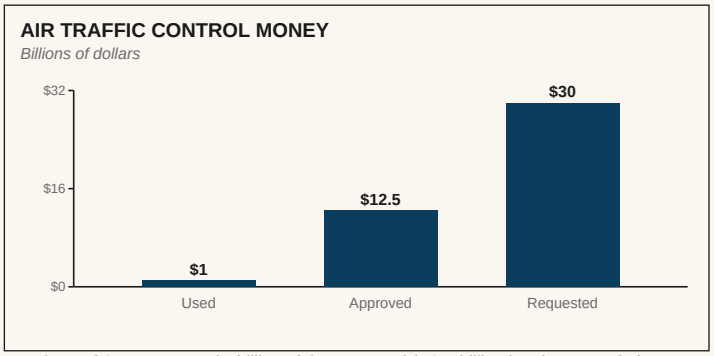
One Faulty Router Grounded US Flights; Now Comes a $30 Billion Request

Air travel is nearly normal again, and the argument has moved to money.

Air traffic controllers rely on a communications network to talk to pilots. At 3:36 p.m. Eastern time on Friday it became unstable, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ordered a nationwide ground stop, halting departures for more than four hours. About 3,500 flights were in the air; all landed safely. FlightAware counted about 9,159 flights cancelled on Friday.

The cause was small. A contractor replacing a router at a remote site in El Dorado, Arkansas, set off the trouble: the new router flooded other routers with about 1,000 log-on attempts every four to five seconds, overloading the system. Officials found no sign of a cyberattack.

Now the fight is over money. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said the $12.5 billion Congress approved is not enough, and the administration raised its request to $30 billion. Two members of Congress replied that only $1 billion of the $12.5 billion has been used.



Members of Congress say $1 billion of the approved $12.5 billion has been used; the request is now $30 billion.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Families flying to see relatives, across the US or on to India, depend on this network. Congress must now decide how much to spend, and how fast.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

How could a single router stop a whole country’s flights? Should Congress add money before the first $12.5 billion is spent?

SPORTS CORNER

CRICKET: LAST-BALL TITLE FOR INDIA’S UNDER-19s

India beat defending champions Pakistan by one wicket in the Under-19 Asia Cup final in Oman, chasing 337. Needing 3 off the final ball, **Mohit Ulva (49 not out)** hit a four to win India’s ninth title.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

• Shenzhen, Thursday: whether Trump, Xi and Putin agree even to keep talking about shrinking nuclear stockpiles.

• Antalya: ministers, including India’s Bhupender Yadav, arrive mid-week to bargain over COP31’s draft.

“An important platform for dialogue on regional and global challenges.” — Narendra Modi, on the East Asia Summit

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