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DAILY

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TOP STORY • ASIA

More Oil, Same Tariffs, No Ukraine: What the Shenzhen Summit Means at Home

Their first meeting touched fuel and farm trade, not Ukraine.

Written and fact-checked by AI · News Pebbles

For the first time ever, the leaders of the United States, China and Russia met as a trio. Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin met for about an hour and a half on Thursday in Shenzhen, a Chinese city hosting the APEC summit.

Their short joint statement warned that "there can be no winners in a nuclear war," and pledged more oil and gas. That pledge touches family budgets, because crude oil prices feed into what families pay for petrol, diesel, cooking gas and bus fares. Yet it gave no amounts and no timetable, and Hamad Hussain of Capital Economics called it "political noise."

Brent crude, a world price for oil, fell to $90.33 a barrel on Friday, heading for a third straight weekly drop. Prices fell mainly because shipments through the Strait of Hormuz have returned to about pre-war levels, raising expectations of a supply surplus.

Trade, the other cost families watch, stayed frozen. In the 2025 US-China trade war, tariffs climbed above 100%. The truce agreed in Busan still ends on 10 January 2027, and Trump said he would ask China to "do some more" for American farmers.

One subject never made it into the statement: the war in Ukraine. Neither Ukraine nor any European government was in the room. Putin ruled out direct talks with Ukraine after a Ukrainian strike on the Kerch Bridge to Crimea. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky had called it a "huge mistake" for big powers to decide about smaller nations without them.



Shenzhen in southern China hosted the first three-way meeting of the US, Chinese and Russian leaders. Ukraine was not at the table.

WHY THIS MATTERS

A falling price can ease pressure on household budgets over time, in the US and India alike. For US farmers and shoppers, 10 January is the date to watch.

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WORLD • EUROPE

A Night of Strikes on Ukraine Spills Over Into Poland

Power, heat and water fail in Ukraine, and stray Russian weapons fall inside a NATO country.

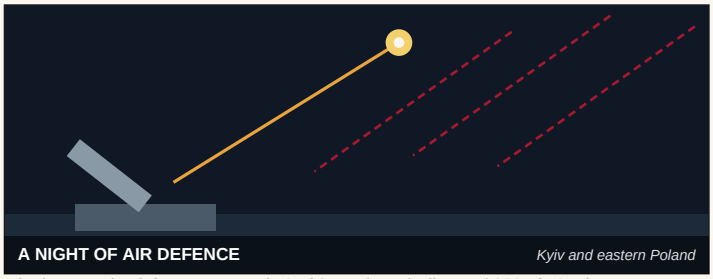
While the leaders in Shenzhen left Ukraine out of their statement, Ukraine spent the following night under attack. Ukraine's Air Force counted 404 attack drones and 84 cruise missiles sent by Russia, and Zelensky added 27 ballistic missiles to that tally. Most were stopped: Ukraine says 380 drones, 79 cruise missiles and 3 ballistic missiles were shot down or suppressed. Still, Ukraine's prime minister reported at least nine deaths.

For ordinary people, the worst damage was to the things a home runs on. Electricity, heating and running water failed in places, and three of Kyiv's bridges were hit. An energy official said one target was what they called Europe's largest electrical substation. Zelensky said Russia sent its missiles in waves 20 to 30 minutes apart, which he said was meant to slow firefighters and repair crews.

Why this night? Three days earlier, on 17 November, Ukraine struck the Crimean Bridge, and Putin promised a reply "far more painful."

Some of the weapons did not stop at Ukraine's border. In eastern Poland, a Kh-101 cruise missile fell near the village of Nowy Lipowiec, roughly 60 km inside the country, and a second missile and a jet-powered drone came down elsewhere. Nobody was hurt. But Poland belongs to the EU and to NATO, the Western military alliance, so Russian weapons on its soil raise fears the war could spread.

Poland's leader, Donald Tusk, called the strikes a Russian "provocation" and met his security chiefs. NATO's head, Mark Rutte, condemned "grave violations" of Polish airspace and was due in Warsaw on Saturday. Poland has seen this before: a Kh-101 also crashed there on 30 July.



Ukraine says its defences stopped 79 of 84 cruise missiles and 380 of 404 drones; some weapons fell in Poland.

CONNECT THE DOTS

History: in Berlin on Thursday, Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz recalled the Yalta Conference of February 1945, where Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met. "At Yalta, Europe was divided up," he said, vowing it would not happen again.

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INDIA • WEATHER

Cyclone Akvan Hits Odisha Weaker Than Feared After 3.72 Lakh Move to Safety

The storm turned north and lost strength, but heavy rain and cancelled trains linger.

On India's east coast, a storm from the Bay of Bengal came ashore on Friday morning. Cyclone Akvan crossed the south Odisha coast near Gopalpur, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, with winds gusting up to 90 km per hour.

It arrived weaker, earlier and farther north than first forecast. The IMD had expected a very severe cyclonic storm to land in Andhra Pradesh around midday; instead Akvan changed course and weakened before landfall. Over land it faded into a deep depression, because a cyclone runs on warm, moist ocean air, and land cuts off that fuel.

Odisha did not wait to see. The state moved about 3.72 lakh people, or 372,000, to nearly 10,000 shelters, including 4,470 pregnant women; 1,450 have since given birth, and mothers and newborns are safe. Officials report no deaths or major damage so far.

Rain is the danger now, with red alerts in parts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and around 45 trains cancelled.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Odisha moved people before the storm's path was certain. Families on the east coast still face rain and travel delays.

Also in India

• Tokyo: India and Japan agreed to cooperate on chips and critical minerals; Japan's forces will train with missiles in India.

• Space: ISRO aims to launch Gaganyaan's first uncrewed test flight in December, carrying a half-humanoid robot named Vyommitra.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

• Climate: At COP31 in Turkey, a new nine-page draft deal dropped any explicit mention of fossil fuels, and talks were expected to run into Saturday.

• California: An atmospheric river storm broke a 1918 daily rain record in San Francisco and caused mudslides near Los Angeles.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Words that unlock today's news

Trilateral
Involving three sides or countries. Today: Trump, Xi and Putin held their first trilateral meeting in Shenzhen.

Landfall
The moment a storm moves from the sea onto land. Today: Cyclone Akvan made landfall near Gopalpur in Odisha.

Provocation
An action meant to anger or test someone. Today: Poland's Donald Tusk called the missiles that fell in Poland a Russian provocation.

Symbolic
Meant to show a view rather than to change anything directly. Today: the Senate's Iran war resolution would have been largely symbolic even if it passed.

DID YOU KNOW?

In May 1980, China declared Shenzhen, then a fishing village next to Hong Kong, a special economic zone.

UNITED STATES • CONGRESS

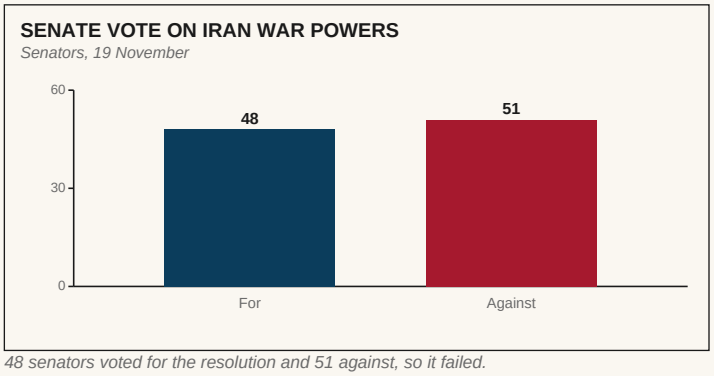
Senators Say No, 48-51, to Bringing US Troops Home From the Iran War

Three Republicans broke ranks, but the pullout failed; the next clash is over the war's $48.3 billion bill.

Can Congress order US troops home from a war the president is fighting? The Senate tried on Thursday and fell short. By 48 votes to 51, senators rejected a measure telling the president to pull American forces out of the fighting with Iran, which began in late February. The House approved the same measure in September.

The result cut across party lines. Three Republicans, Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski and Rand Paul, backed the pullout, and Democrat John Fetterman opposed it. Even passing would have changed little in practice: this type of measure never goes to the president, so it could not become law.

For families, the bigger question may be the bill. By 13 November the war had cost at least $48.3 billion, and lawmakers face an 11 December deadline to fund the government or risk a shutdown. Some Democrats want to use that bill to cut off war money; others would wait until January, when their party controls Congress.



48 senators voted for the resolution and 51 against, so it failed.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Wars are paid for with public money, so December's funding deadline is where Congress could act next.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Should a vote that cannot become law still matter? What else could Congress do?

SPORTS CORNER

HOCKEY: INDIA'S WOMEN WIN IN BHOPAL

Defending champions India came from a goal down to beat Malaysia 4-1 at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, the first international hockey tournament held in Bhopal. Debutant **Puja Sahoo** scored and was Player of the Match.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

• Warsaw, Saturday: NATO's Mark Rutte is expected in Poland after Russian missiles fell there.

• Antalya: whether COP31's final deal names fossil fuels.

"There can be no winners in a nuclear war." — US-China-Russia joint statement

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