Podcast by AT: News

Wed, Nov 25, 2026

Good morning, everyone. I'm Niki, and this is Podcast by AT: News for Wed, Nov 25, 2026. This morning: Punjab's renewed alliance, the Madurai lamp dispute, another US tariff threat, China's Shanghai investigation, and a closer look at early black holes and NYU student choices.

Top news

BJP and Akali Dal reunite for Punjab election

PTI reports that the BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal will contest Punjab's next assembly election together, six years after separating over the farm laws. Amit Shah says the Akali Dal will lead the partnership and receive the chief minister's post if it wins. The parties will jointly contest all 117 constituencies; their division of seats is still to be decided.

https://theprint.in/india/akali-dal-returns-to-nda-after-6-years-to-get-cms-post-if-alliance-wins-in-punjab/3107623/

Madurai lamp dispute moves beyond the festival

The New Indian Express reports that Tamil Nadu authorities lit the Karthigai Deepam at Thirupparankundram's customary shrine on Tuesday, but not at the disputed stone pillar where the Supreme Court had permitted a one-time ceremony. The Madras High Court had also directed compliance despite a pending review petition. Police detained protesters and several BJP leaders. The court's interim arrangement did not decide the competing rights over the site.

https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2026/Nov/24/thirupparankundram-row-deepam-lit-at-usual-spot-as-tvk-govt-defies-sc-order-bjp-warns-of-consequences

Uttar Pradesh alliance talks move to candidates

Hindustan Times reports that Akhilesh Yadav has asked Congress to identify further winnable constituencies beyond the 26 seats discussed in Tuesday's negotiations. He wants the partners to evaluate candidates together rather than treat seats as fixed party quotas. Congress says talks continue and no party-specific number is final. Yesterday's briefing covered Congress's much larger opening request.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/look-beyond-26-seats-akhilesh-tells-congress-pitches-adjustment-over-quota-101795546058855.html

Khalid and Imam bail pleas return to Supreme Court

PTI reports that the Supreme Court is listed to hear Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam's fresh bail petitions today, Wed, Nov 25. The case concerns the alleged larger conspiracy behind the Delhi riots. The two challenge the High Court's refusal of bail and argue that protected witnesses have not been examined. The High Court said it was bound by conditions in the Supreme Court's earlier order.

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/delhi-riots-sc-to-take-up-sharjeel-imam-umar-khalids-bail-pleas-in-uapa-case-on-wednesday-101795520233869.html

Rebel Trinamool MPs answer defection notices

PTI reports that twenty rebel Trinamool Congress MPs have submitted replies to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in proceedings seeking their disqualification. The MPs, who aligned themselves with the NCPI, argue that their move followed constitutional and parliamentary rules. Each submitted a detailed reply on the deadline. Their defence now goes before the Speaker, who must decide the petitions under the anti-defection law.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/rebel-tmc-mps-defend-ncpi-switch-in-replies-to-lok-sabha-speaker/articleshow/136128307.cms

Four children die in Kannauj bus crash

PTI reports that four children were killed when a truck hit a stationary school bus on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Kannauj on Tuesday. The pupils were returning from an excursion. Hindustan Times reports that families from the children's home villages travelled to hospitals and mortuaries after the crash. Dozens were injured; published counts differ. Police are investigating the collision.

https://www.thesamaja.com/en/politics/pti-highlights-top-stories-at-5-pm-24-nov

https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/lucknow-news/kannauj-school-bus-accident-four-families-shattered-dreams-and-a-trip-that-never-ended-101795533457616.html

Markets

India weighs duties on selected rice exports

Reuters reports that India is considering export duties of around twenty percent on certain rice grades whose domestic prices have risen. These include broken rice used by feed producers and some premium non-Basmati varieties in short supply in southern states. Officials say inter-ministerial consultations will precede a decision. Other rice grades remain adequately supplied, according to exporters. No new duty has been announced.

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40450446

Economy and policy

Small-business growth outpaces hired employment

PTI and the National Statistics Office report that India's unincorporated non-farm establishments increased about nineteen percent from a year earlier in the July-to-September quarter, to roughly 9.5 crore. Total employment rose seventeen percent to about fifteen crore, while hired employment grew only five percent. Working owners account for about sixty-two percent of workers. Services led the expansion, and around eight in ten establishments used cashless payments.

https://www.thesamaja.com/en/politics/pti-highlights-top-stories-at-5-pm-24-nov

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2340329&lang=1&reg=22

US prepares another tariff proposal

Reuters reports that Washington is preparing findings from its industrial-overcapacity investigation into sixteen trading partners, including India, China, Japan, Bangladesh and the European Union. New duties could be added to existing tariffs, but proposed rates were not established in the report. Sources say some negotiated country caps may be honoured. The White House and US trade representative did not respond to Reuters' questions about the pending announcement.

https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/trump-administration-set-to-unveil-new-tariffs-after-probeon-excess-factory-capacity-sources-say-5048724

Bangladesh wage protests disrupt garment factories

The Daily Star reports that seventy factories in Gazipur declared holidays as workers blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway demanding higher wages. Separately, fifty factories were closed in Savar and Ashulia, with work stoppages at seven others. The wage-board chairman says owners have offered 15,700 taka a month. The newspaper reports that worker representatives reduced their demand to 25,000 taka. Negotiations remain unresolved.

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/news/garment-workers-block-dhaka-mymensingh-highway-gazipur-25-hours-4331951

https://www.thedailystar.net/news/news/50-garment-factories-closed-savar-ashulia-amid-protests-4331826

Pakistan sets out a gas-market restructuring plan

Dawn reports that Pakistan's petroleum division has sent the prime minister a plan to split its two Sui gas monopolies into six to eight businesses. Transmission and distribution would be separated from gas sales, opening parts of the market to competitors. More than three trillion Pakistani rupees of circular debt would move to a special-purpose vehicle, serviced through consumer tariffs. The proposal still needs authorisation and further legal and regulatory steps.

https://www.dawn.com/news/2046673

Pakistan chooses banks for guaranteed trade finance

Dawn reports that Pakistan has selected Commerzbank, JP Morgan and Standard Chartered for a five-hundred-million-dollar trade-finance facility backed by the World Bank Group's guarantee agency, MIGA. The facility is for one year, renewable twice, and is intended for essential imports and trade-related spending. Nine institutions submitted bids. The finance ministry says it will now work with the banks and MIGA towards executing the transaction.

https://www.dawn.com/news/2046795/govt-selects-consortium-of-3-foreign-banks-for-500m-finance-facility-backed-by-miga

Global markets

Wall Street gives back part of its AI rebound

Reuters and AP report that the Nasdaq fell 1.5 percent on Tuesday and the S&P 500 lost 0.5 percent, while the Dow gained 423 points, or 0.9 percent. Nvidia fell 5.9 percent after Monday's rebound following Jensen Huang's return. Anthropic ended below its IPO price. Healthcare and several retailers rose, so the technology retreat did not extend across the whole market.

https://www.investing.com/news/economy-news/wall-st-futures-dip-as-chip-stocks-cool-after-nvidiafueled-rally-5047567

https://apnews.com/article/stock-markets-ai-earnings-oil-feec0e25b9994b1c86b16329cf770192

Oil rebounds as Hormuz shipping risks persist

Reuters reports that Brent settled at 91.4 dollars a barrel on Tuesday, up 2.3 percent after falling below eighty-nine dollars during the session. US crude rose to about 82.1 dollars. Britain's maritime-security agency says three vessels struck by unidentified projectiles on Monday continued their journeys, with all crew accounted for. Iran separately reported targeting a container ship. The attacks sit alongside evidence of increasing global oil supply.

https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/oil-holds-near-threemonth-low-as-rising-supply-offsets-hormuz-threat-5046916

World

Shanghai party chief faces investigation

AP and Reuters report that Shanghai's Communist Party chief Chen Jining is under investigation for suspected serious violations of discipline and law. Chen is a member of the Politburo, China's senior leadership body. The announcement supplied no details of the suspected conduct. Reuters identifies him as the fourth member of the Politburo formed in the current leadership term to face such action since last year.

https://apnews.com/article/china-probe-shanghai-party-secretary-abdd2572fe5c8276027ea832f4eb606c

https://www.nbcnews.com/world/china/china-probes-shanghai-party-boss-politburos-chen-jining-rcna611061

Yemen prepares to defend Aden

AFP reports that Yemen's military says Houthi fighters are about sixty kilometres from Aden, the seat of the internationally recognised government. Forces have pulled back from areas near the Red Sea to strengthen the city's defences. A military spokesman says they are prepared to repel an assault. The advance follows renewed fighting after the truce unravelled in July. Aden remains under government control.

https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20261124-yemen-army-houthi-attack-aden

Iran reiterates conditions for negotiations

Al-Monitor reports that Iran's parliament speaker says talks with Washington will not resume until Tehran's seven conditions are met. Iran has not published the full list. Officials' recent statements have emphasised sanctions relief and an end to the blockade and hostilities. The statement follows yesterday's warning over the naval blockade, while the shipping incidents and the fighting in Yemen add to the regional confrontation.

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2026/11/iran-insists-7-demands-hormuz-crisis-deepens-irgc-targets-tankers

Gavi secures conditional access to Ebola vaccine

Reuters and Gavi report an agreement with the Serum Institute of India for up to 1.5 million doses of an experimental vaccine against the Bundibugyo species of Ebola. Supply depends on successful trials, regulatory approvals and recommendations for use. The candidate was developed with Oxford. Gavi says the current outbreak has killed more than 5,700 people, overwhelmingly in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/international/4011410-reuters-world-news-summary

https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-signs-agreement-serum-institute-india-secure-rapid-access-bundibugyo-vaccines

Japan recruits auto suppliers into defence production

Reuters reports that Japan is helping car-parts makers enter defence supply chains as its automotive industry faces Chinese competition. The procurement agency is matching suppliers with arms manufacturers and offering development funding. Electric-motor maker Aster now supplies drones built by Anduril. Large carmakers remain more cautious: Toyota says it will not enter defence, while Honda says it has no specific plans to do so.

https://english.kyodonews.net/articles/-/92439

Sooryavanshi reaches double century in fifty-two balls

BBC Sport reports that fifteen-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored 204 from 53 balls for India A against the UAE in Doha. He reached two hundred in fifty-two deliveries, breaking the List A record. His twenty-eight sixes also set a senior men's innings record. India A won by seven wickets and qualified for the semi-finals. Rajasthan Royals' account confirms the innings and the record fifty-two-ball double century.

https://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/articles/c6y9709xx4qwo

https://www.rajasthanroyals.com/latest-news/vaibhav-sooryavanshi-fastest-100-200-list-a-cricket-record-india-a-vs-uae

Astronomy

Euclid finds an earlier quasar

The European Space Agency reports that Euclid has identified a quasar seen just 630 million years after the Big Bang, forty million years earlier than its previous record. A quasar is a bright galactic core powered by a feeding black hole. Webb observations put this one's black hole at about 360 million solar masses. Its relatively slow present feeding rate suggests much faster growth earlier, putting pressure on models of early black-hole formation.

https://www.esa.int/articles/about-us/directorates/science/euclid/euclid-breaks-own-quasar-record-by-40-million-years

Supernova dust preserves a dying star's structure

ESA and Webb researchers say their observations support the idea that layers inside the star behind Cassiopeia A mixed shortly before it exploded. Webb mapped dust clumps with different compositions: silica in one region, carbon in another, and magnesium silicates in material shed before the explosion. The findings support a shell-merger scenario, possibly in the final hours. Dust in the remnant can therefore help reconstruct the original star's internal structure.

https://esawebb.org/news/weic2624/

Pakistani astronaut prepares for Tiangong flight

PTI and China's crewed-space agency report that Muhammad Zeeshan Ali will join Tang Hongbo and Wu Yi on Shenzhou twenty-four. Launch is scheduled today, Wed, Nov 25, at 5:48am Indian time. Ali would be the first foreign astronaut to visit Tiangong. He is assigned a short mission before returning with the outgoing crew. The new spacecraft is planned to use a three-and-a-half-hour rendezvous after entering orbit.

https://theprint.in/world/pakistans-zeeshan-ali-set-to-become-first-foreign-astronaut-to-visit-chinas-space-station/3107620/

https://www.cmse.gov.cn/xwzx/202611/t20261124_57876.html

NYU

London demand drives study-abroad capacity debate

Washington Square News reports that NYU faculty are proposing short international trips attached to New York-based courses as demand strains popular study-abroad sites, including London. The university says spring applications rose thirty percent from autumn, and over ninety-nine percent of students received one of their top three choices. Faculty are asking whether staffing and course resources are keeping pace.

https://nyunews.com/news/2026/11/23/contract-faculty-short-term-study-abroad/

Students help set Tandon classroom AI rules

Washington Square News adds student experience to the Tandon AI guide covered last Wednesday. In two Responsible AI course sections, 225 students voted on assignment rules and overwhelmingly rejected unrestricted AI use for written work. Sixty percent of graduate students supported spot checks. The guide recommends red, yellow and green categories, decided through faculty-student discussion. It remains guidance rather than official university policy, with rules specific to each assignment.

https://nyunews.com/news/2026/11/24/tandon-ai-policy-use-guide/

That's your Wednesday briefing. Thank you for listening. Have a good day, everyone, and goodbye.