Podcast by AT: News

Sat, Nov 28, 2026

Good morning, everyone. I'm Niki, and this is Podcast by AT: News for Sat, Nov 28, 2026. This morning: the Cabinet's delimitation proposal, court decisions, a market reversal, and the week's developments in China, trade and climate.

Top news

Cabinet clears revised delimitation and women’s quota proposal

ThePrint and PTI report that the Cabinet has cleared a fresh bill linking women's reservation to a uniform fifty-percent increase in Lok Sabha seats across states. The proposal would preserve states' existing proportions for twenty-five years. Delimitation redraws constituency boundaries; an earlier constitutional amendment failed in April. Parliament's special sittings begin on Mon, Nov 30. Opposition floor leaders meet today to coordinate their response.

https://theprint.in/politics/cabinet-clears-delimitation-proposal-linking-it-to-33-womens-quota-ahead-of-parliament-sittings/3110797/

https://theprint.in/india/explained-what-is-delimitation-why-is-the-bill-pending-and-what-is-the-debate-about/3111307/

Supreme Court orders Madurai lamp lighting and suspends trustees

PTI reports that the Supreme Court ordered the ceremonial lamp to be lit at Madurai's disputed Deepathoon pillar today. It suspended the Subramaniaswamy temple's trustees and transferred security of the temple and Thiruparankundram hill to the CRPF. The bench issued contempt notices over non-compliance with its earlier order and summoned Tamil Nadu's chief secretary. This is the outcome of the hearing previewed yesterday.

https://www.ptinews.com/story/national/karthigai-deepam-row-sc-blasts-tamil-nadu-govt-directs-lamp-lighting-at-deepathoon-saturday/4299836

Gavai challenges judicial appointment practices

The Wire and PTI report that former chief justice B R Gavai has written to President Droupadi Murmu alleging disregard for diversity and merit in judicial appointments and transfers. He says recent recommendations favour one community while excluding marginalised groups and others. Gavai, who previously defended the collegium system, asks the President to intervene. The criticism is his assessment, not a judicial finding.

https://thewire.in/law/former-cji-b-r-gavai-flags-lack-of-diversity-in-collegium-appointments-in-letter-to-president

https://theprint.in/india/ex-cji-gavai-voices-dissent-writes-to-prez-on-low-representation-of-scs-sts-obcs-minorities-in-higher-judiciary/3110942/

Police rescue foreign nationals from alleged cyberfraud confinement

Reuters reports that Delhi Police rescued ninety-two Indonesians and seventy-two Malaysians from an alleged cyberfraud operation near the capital. Police say they were promised lucrative jobs, then confined and forced to run fake investment schemes. The police statement records one arrest and the recovery of a hundred and seventy-four passports, alongside phones and computers. Investigators are examining the wider trafficking network.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/asia/india-police-rescue-indonesians-malaysians-cyber-fraud-6587301

https://delhipolice.mha.gov.in/Images/newpressrelease/20483_26%2011%2026%20CRIME%20BRANCH%20ISC%20HUMAN%20TRAFFICKING.pdf

Court orders action over alleged public-land record forgery

PTI reports that the Allahabad High Court has directed action over alleged forged revenue entries involving public land in Sultanpur. The Lucknow bench questioned why officials had not initiated criminal proceedings despite an inquiry finding apparent forgery. It ordered the collector to report on public land and eviction cases. The petitioner was also fined ten thousand rupees for concealing his own encroachment.

https://theprint.in/india/hc-questions-up-govts-claim-of-zero-tolerance-towards-corruption/3111397/

Markets

Indian benchmarks fall while smaller shares hold up

PTI reports that the Sensex fell nine hundred and eighty-nine points to eighty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-nine on Friday. The Nifty lost two hundred and seventy-seven points to twenty-five thousand six hundred and seven. NSE data show information technology down one point nine percent and banks down zero point eight percent, while mid-caps gained zero point one percent and small-caps zero point six percent.

https://www.rediff.com/business/report/indian-stock-markets-snap-rally-sensex-tanks-989-points-on-profit-booking-global-oil-concerns/20261127.htm

https://nsearchives.nseindia.com/content/indices/ind_close_all_27112026.csv

Economy and policy

Tata Sons board meeting can proceed

PTI reports that the Bombay High Court refused urgent relief to the two Tata Trusts challenging N Chandrasekaran's reappointment. Monday's Tata Sons board meeting can proceed, but its decisions remain subject to the court's final orders. The trusts had sought to stop the meeting or prevent Chandrasekaran from voting. This advances yesterday's report of their lawsuits; the merits remain unresolved.

https://www.ptinews.com/story/business/no-hc-relief-to-tata-trusts-on-plea-against-chandrasekaran-reappointment-nov-30-board-meet-on/4299782

Goyal says US trade agreement is nearing completion

PTI reports that commerce minister Piyush Goyal says the India-US trade agreement is nearing completion, with the process and roadmap taking shape. His comments follow Washington's proposal for tariffs of up to twenty-five percent on India, with a seventeen-percent cap contemplated if an agreement is reached. No signed deal was announced. The proposed tariff framework gives the negotiations immediate commercial significance.

https://theprint.in/economy/india-us-trade-deal-is-close-to-culmination-goyal/3110488/

RBI chief points to unused trade preferences

PTI and the RBI report that governor Sanjay Malhotra says only twenty to thirty percent of eligible Indian exports use free-trade-agreement preferences, compared with sixty to seventy percent for partner countries' exports to India. He urges firms to invest in standards and certification. He also rejected extending small-business bad-loan recognition from ninety to a hundred and eighty days, instead urging better-matched repayment terms.

https://theprint.in/economy/partner-countries-utilising-fta-benefits-better-than-indian-exporters-rbi-guv/3110749/

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_SpeechesView.aspx?Id=1593

Bangladesh caps banks' cash foreign-currency selling rates

The Daily Star reports that Bangladesh Bank has told banks not to sell cash foreign currency above their bills-for-collection selling rate. Banks had been charging more for cash than that reference rate. The directive applies through authorised dealer branches. Travellers, students and patients buying currency are among those affected; a bank treasury official says limited cash supplies could make compliance difficult.

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/bb-caps-cash-foreign-currency-selling-rate-4334156

Pakistan trims petrol price again

Dawn reports that Pakistan cut petrol by one Pakistani rupee a litre on Friday, to three hundred and twelve, while keeping high-speed diesel at three hundred and forty-six. The notified prices run through Mon, Nov 30. Refineries are contributing to a temporary levy-relief arrangement. The latest reduction follows Wednesday's cuts, amid near-daily pricing adjustments during the Middle East conflict.

https://www.dawn.com/news/2047500

Sri Lankan rupee facility backs longer-term infrastructure lending

Daily FT and the World Bank report a six-year, fixed-rate Sri Lankan rupee borrowing line between the IFC and HSBC, equivalent to five million dollars. Together with other local-currency funding, it supports a ten-million-dollar, ten-year rupee loan to a renewable-energy company. Lending in the currency the business earns reduces exchange-rate exposure. The facility is the IFC's first borrowing line in Sri Lanka.

https://www.ft.lk/front-page/World-Bank-Group-expands-local-currency-financing-in-Asia-with-first-Sri-Lankan-rupee-facility/44-800650

https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2026/11/26/world-bank-group-expands-local-currency-financing-in-asia-with-first-sri-lankan-ru

Global markets

Wall Street rebounds into the weekend

Reuters reports that the Dow gained five hundred and ninety-two points on Friday, the S&P five hundred rose one point six percent and the Nasdaq two point three percent. Semiconductor shares climbed four point seven percent. Nvidia ended zero point eight percent higher after a volatile week. AP puts the S&P's weekly gain at five point six percent, following the previous week's sharp technology-led selloff.

https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/wall-st-futures-surge-as-investors-return-from-holiday-5053052

https://apnews.com/article/wall-street-stocks-dow-nasdaq-04dab6079cf7f3dfe7285a3cc1f240a2

Oil records a weekly gain despite Friday's retreat

Reuters reports that Brent settled at ninety-five point four dollars a barrel on Friday, down one point two percent, but gained about three percent for the week. American crude settled at eighty-three point one dollars. Supply risks followed attacks on tankers and Saudi infrastructure. Saudi Arabia says a projectile hit the Jazan refinery, killing a worker and temporarily halting some operations.

https://www.investing.com/news/commodities-news/brent-trades-near-months-high-as-mideast-conflict-threatens-supply-5052810

Tokyo inflation shows a split beneath the headline

Reuters reports that Tokyo's consumer inflation excluding fresh food rose to two point nine percent in November, from two point six percent in October. The measure excluding both fresh food and fuel eased to two point five percent. Tokyo's preliminary figures are an early indicator of national trends. The data arrive ahead of the Bank of Japan's December policy meeting, after a policymaker argued for faster action yesterday.

https://www.investing.com/news/economic-indicators/core-inflation-in-japans-capital-accelerates-in-november-5052767

https://www.stat.go.jp/data/cpi/sokuhou/tsuki/index-t.htm

World

New Zealand’s final count leaves coalition talks unresolved

RNZ reports that New Zealand's final election count leaves Christopher Luxon needing the centrist Opportunity Party. Official results give his National Party forty seats, ACT thirteen and New Zealand First twelve, a combined sixty-five in a hundred-and-thirty-seat parliament. Opportunity has seven. Its leader Qiulae Wong will negotiate with National first but rejects Winston Peters remaining foreign minister. Luxon says talks will be challenging.

https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/politics_election-2026/2829864/election-2026-final-results-wong-won-t-rule-out-sending-voters-back-to-polls-luxon-says-challenging-talks-coming

https://elections.nz/assets/pagecomponent-file-files/Attachment-C-Preliminary-and-official-result-comparison.pdf

Spain votes amid housing and migration divisions

Reuters reports that Spain votes on Sunday after Pedro Sanchez called an early election following parliament's rejection of his housing measures. His Socialists face the conservative People's Party and far-right Vox. Housing costs, migration and taxes divide the campaigns. Polls suggest a right-wing coalition could replace the Socialist-led minority government. The result will determine who can assemble a parliamentary majority.

https://www.reuters.com/3fec1b0a85a0/world/europe/spains-snap-election-why-it-matters-who-might-win-2026-11-26/

Funding cuts close protection spaces for displaced women

Reuters and UNHCR report that a hundred and seventy-one safe spaces for displaced women and girls closed last year across fourteen country operations, with further closures this year. Two hundred and three remained open in the agency's survey. The centres provide psychological, medical and legal support. UNHCR says its gender-based-violence programmes were less than one-third funded last year, weakening access to protection.

https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2026/11/funding-cuts-force-mass-closures-shelters-refugee-women-un-says

https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-warns-funding-cuts-are-leaving-refugee-women-and-girls-greater-risk

China deep dive

Shanghai’s investigation disrupts a route to the top

Reuters reports that Tuesday's investigation of Shanghai party chief Chen Jining has opened a major leadership vacancy ahead of next year's Communist Party congress. Shanghai's party secretary outranks its mayor; eight of its ten most recent party chiefs reached the Politburo Standing Committee. Chen is the fourth member of the Politburo formed in twenty twenty-two to face such action since last year. No detailed allegations have been published.

https://www.investing.com/news/world-news/downfall-of-shanghai-party-chief-opens-route-to-pinnacle-of-politics-5053263

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

Industrial profits improve, but the recovery remains divided

Reuters and China's statistics bureau report that industrial profits rose twenty point one percent in October from a year earlier, accelerating from fourteen point four percent in September. First-ten-month profits rose sixteen percent. Electronics manufacturing profits doubled, while carmaking profits fell twenty-six percent. Weak household demand and property strains remain constraints. The split adds detail to last Saturday's discussion of weak domestic demand and unchanged lending benchmarks.

https://www.investing.com/news/economic-indicators/chinas-industrial-firms-post-faster-profit-growth-as-recovery-remains-uneven-5052818

https://www.stats.gov.cn/sj/zxfb/202611/t20261127_1965949.html

Minerals and aircraft business continue alongside tariff threats

Reuters and China's commerce ministry report that Beijing extended the suspension of selected US-bound mineral export restrictions through Wed, Jan 27. Separately, Xiamen Airlines agreed to buy fifty Boeing seven-thirty-seven Max eight aircraft. China Southern's exchange filing confirms deliveries from twenty thirty-one to twenty thirty-four, subject to approvals. The catalogue value is seven point four billion dollars; the undisclosed actual price is lower.

https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/china-southern-airlines-unit-to-buy-50-boeing-7378-aircraft-5047529

https://www.mofcom.gov.cn/zcfb/blgg/gg/2026/art/2026/art_fc4036b0e6b046e0a84c5579ce09e5b0.html

https://www1.hkexnews.hk/listedco/listconews/sehk/2026/1124/2026112401223.pdf?pubDate=20261124

Care policy responds to an ageing population

Reuters reports that Monday's Chinese blueprint targets seventy-percent community eldercare coverage and renovation of around two thousand public nursing homes by twenty thirty. Childcare enrolment for under-threes is to rise six percentage points from last year's level. Kindergartens may expand into younger-age care, and employers are encouraged to provide workplace childcare. Financing includes public funds, local-government bonds and commercial credit.

https://www.channelnewsasia.com/east-asia/china-2030-targets-older-people-childcare-support-6573991

Weekly themes

Trade pressure spreads through supply chains

Reuters' weekly analysis finds Washington's new tariff proposals targeting not only Chinese goods but the routes through which China trades with other economies. Its reports on Vietnam and the European Union repeatedly focus on Chinese supply chains. The Daily Star reports that Bangladesh's garment exporters fear weaker American demand even when competitors face similar duties. Goyal's deal optimism and China's continuing aircraft purchases show negotiations and commercial ties running alongside those barriers.

https://www.investing.com/news/economy-news/analysistrumps-new-tariffs-aim-to-prise-global-trade-from-chinas-grip-5053032

https://www.thedailystar.net/business/global-economy/news/us-tariff-clouds-bangladesh-garment-outlook-4334176

AI’s market rebound leaves the investment question open

Reuters' weekly market account shows investors alternating between buying battered AI shares and questioning heavy borrowing and returns on data-centre spending. Jensen Huang's return to Nvidia helped Monday's rally; further swings followed before Friday's rebound. The week's recovery reverses part of the preceding selloff, rather than settling the underlying investment debate. India's Friday decline also contrasts with the American technology rebound.

https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/wall-st-futures-surge-as-investors-return-from-holiday-5053052

Climate talks end without their overarching pact

Carbon Brief and UN News report that COP thirty-one ended on Sunday without consensus on the Antalya pact, after last Saturday's deadlock. Disputes concerned fossil fuels and finance. Some narrower decisions survived, including procedural work on a just-transition mechanism and support after climate disasters. Around eighty countries backed a separate goal for electricity to supply thirty-five percent of final energy use by twenty thirty-five. That coalition pledge sits outside the failed pact.

https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop31-key-outcomes-agreed-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-antalya

https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/11/1168855

That's your Saturday briefing. Thank you for joining us. Have a good weekend, everyone, and goodbye.