News Roundup - October 2, 2026: Floods, Voices, Space

Name Date Class

Reading

1 *Floods across Asia.* Heavy **monsoon** rain caused floods in India, Nepal, and Thailand in late September. In Uttar Pradesh, in northern India, officials said that at least 62 people died, and some reports gave a higher number. Officials in the eastern state of Odisha had to **evacuate** more than 75,000 people. Nepal reported at least 21 deaths between September 24 and 27. It had not yet recovered from floods in August that killed more than 1,400 people. In Thailand, floods have affected 41 provinces since September 16, and at least eight people have died, officials said on September 29. The numbers differ between reports, and they may change.

2 *Trouble on a flight.* On September 30, a FlyDubai flight from Dubai to Tel Aviv was **diverted** to Saudi Arabia after an **alleged** attack in the **cockpit**. Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said that one pilot stabbed the other and tried to crash the plane. Saudi Arabia's first report said that the co-pilot attacked the captain. Both pilots went to hospital. The plane landed safely, and the more than 170 passengers later flew on to Tel Aviv on another plane. FlyDubai has said that it does not know the **motive**. Several countries have started to investigate. The attack is still only alleged, and no court has decided what really happened.

3 *A court and the human voice.* On September 30, a court in Tokyo gave a **ruling** about artificial intelligence. Kenjiro Tsuda, a famous voice actor in Japan, had asked the court to order TikTok to remove videos that used an AI voice that **imitated** his. The court rejected his request because the videos had already been deleted. But it also said that a person's voice, like a person's face, can be protected by law. Reports say that this is the first time a Japanese court has said so. The court did not decide whether the videos broke Tsuda's rights. TikTok argued that the voice was only an ordinary male voice. TikTok has said that it will study the decision.

4 *AI chips in space.* On October 1, a SpaceX rocket **launched** a satellite for Google. It is about the size of a refrigerator, and it carries four computer chips made for artificial intelligence. Google wants to know if these chips can work in **orbit** around Earth, where satellites can use sunlight for power almost all the time. In the future, the company hopes to build data centers in space. On the ground, the chips survived more **radiation** than five years in space would give them. But there is no air in space to cool them, so they can run for only 15 minutes at a time. Google has said the satellite is working as expected. Nobody has shown that large data centers in space can work. Google plans to send two more test satellites in 2027.

5 *A very old peace agreement.* On September 21, Turkey's culture minister announced that **archaeologists** have found a clay **fragment** at Hattusa, the old capital of the Hittite Empire, in what is now Turkey. After about a year of study, experts decided that it belongs to a copy of the Kadesh **treaty**. This peace agreement between the Egyptian king Ramesses II and the Hittite king Hattusili III is more than 3,000 years old, and many people call it the oldest peace treaty that still exists. The fragment has rules about **refugees**, people who escaped from one kingdom to the other. The rules protect them and their homes. Excavations at the site are continuing, and the team hopes to find more pieces.

Vocabulary Matching

Match each word from the reading with its meaning. Write the letter on the line.

1	**monsoon**	_____	**A**	to move people away from a place of danger
2	**evacuate**	_____	**B**	a small piece that has broken off something
3	**diverted**	_____	**C**	a written agreement between two countries
4	**alleged**	_____	**D**	sent a rocket or satellite into space
5	**cockpit**	_____	**E**	copied the way that someone sounds or acts
6	**motive**	_____	**F**	people who leave their home to escape danger
7	**ruling**	_____	**G**	the room at the front of a plane for pilots
8	**imitated**	_____	**H**	sent to a different place from the plan
9	**launched**	_____	**I**	an official decision made by a court
10	**orbit**	_____	**J**	dangerous energy that comes from the sun or space
11	**radiation**	_____	**K**	scientists who dig up and study old objects
12	**archaeologists**	_____	**L**	said to be true, but not proved yet
13	**fragment**	_____	**M**	the reason that makes a person do something
14	**treaty**	_____	**N**	a season of very heavy rain in parts of Asia
15	**refugees**	_____	**O**	the path of an object around a planet

Fill in the Blank

Choose a word from the box to complete each sentence. Use each word once. The words are already in the correct form.

alleged	**archaeologists**	**cockpit**	**diverted**	**evacuate**	**fragment**	**imitated**	**monsoon**	**motive**	**orbit**
radiation	**refugees**	**ruling**	**treaty**						

1 The _____ brings heavy rain to India every summer.

2 Officials had to _____ the village before the river rose.

3 Because of the storm, the plane was _____ to another airport.

4 The _____ thief will appear in court next week.

5 The pilot sat in the _____ at the front of the plane.

6 The detective could not find a _____ for the crime.

7 The judge's _____ surprised everyone in the court.

8 The comedian _____ the president's voice perfectly.

9 The Moon travels in an _____ around the Earth.

10 Sunscreen protects your skin from the sun's _____ .

11 She picked up a _____ of broken glass from the floor.

12 The two countries signed a _____ to end the war.

13 Thousands of _____ crossed the border to find a safe place.

14 _____ found a very old coin in the field.

Comprehension Questions

Answer in your notebook or discuss with a partner. Questions 10 to 12 are IELTS-style.

1 Which three countries had floods in late September, and what caused the floods?

2 What did officials do in Odisha, and how many people did this affect?

3 Why does the writer say that the numbers about the floods may change?

4 According to the reading, what happened on the FlyDubai flight, and where did it land?

5 Why is the word “alleged” important in the story about the flight?

6 What did the Tokyo court decide about Kenjiro Tsuda's request, and what else did it say?

7 Why do the chips on the Google satellite run for only 15 minutes at a time?

8 What is the Kadesh treaty, and what was found in Turkey?

9 Which of the five stories do you think is the most important? Give two reasons.

IELTS-Style Questions

10 **True, False, or Not Given:** *“The Tokyo court decided that the videos on TikTok broke Kenjiro Tsuda's rights.”* Explain your answer using evidence from the reading.

11 **Yes, No, or Not Given:** *“The writer believes that the attack on the flight has been proved.”* Explain your answer using evidence from the reading.

12 **Author's purpose:** Why does the writer give a date for each story, such as September 21 or October 1? Is the aim to show when each event was reported, to prove that the stories are connected, or to explain the history of each place?

True or False

Circle T (true) or F (false) according to the reading. Write a correction for each false statement on the dotted line.

1 **T / F** Officials in Thailand said that floods have affected 41 provinces.

2 **T / F** The reading says that Nepal had no floods earlier in 2026.

3 **T / F** The FlyDubai flight was traveling from Dubai to Tel Aviv.

4 **T / F** The reading says that a court has already decided what happened on the flight.

5 **T / F** The Tokyo court said that a person's voice can be protected by law.

6 **T / F** The court decided that the videos broke Tsuda's rights.

7 **T / F** The Google satellite is about the size of a refrigerator.

8 **T / F** The satellite's chips can run all day without stopping.

9 **T / F** The clay fragment was found at Hattusa in Turkey.

10 **T / F** The Kadesh treaty is a peace agreement between Egypt and Greece.

Discussion Questions

Talk with a partner or in a small group. The questions move from personal to more abstract.

1 How do you usually get your news: from websites, social media, television, or friends?
2 Which of the five stories was the most interesting to you? Why?
3 Have you ever been in a very big rain storm or a flood? What happened?
4 What would you take with you if officials told you to evacuate your home?
5 Have you ever had a flight that was diverted, delayed, or canceled? How did you feel?
6 Why do news reports use words such as “alleged” or “according to officials”? Do you think this is a good habit?
7 Would you be upset if someone used an AI copy of your voice? What if it was a famous person's voice?
8 Should a person's voice, face, and writing style be protected by law in the same way? Explain your view.
9 Would you like to visit an archaeological site such as Hattusa? What would you want to see there?
10 A peace treaty from more than 3,000 years ago can still teach us something. What do you think it can teach us?
11 Google wants to run AI chips in space with sunlight. Is this a good use of money and energy? Why or why not?
12 Floods are a big risk in many parts of the world. Who should pay to protect people: governments, companies, or families?
13 News about disasters can make people feel sad or afraid. How can you stay informed without feeling worse?
14 Many news stories come from a few big countries and companies. How can readers find news from more places?

Language Focus: Present Perfect for Recent News

We form the present perfect with have or has and a past participle. News writers use it for something that happened recently and still matters now, or for a situation that began in the past and continues.

In the reading:

- “…floods **have affected** 41 provinces since September 16…”
- “FlyDubai **has said** that it does not know the motive.”
- “…archaeologists **have found** a clay fragment at Hattusa…”

Practice: Use the present perfect to rewrite this sentence as news: *“SpaceX launched a satellite this morning.”*

Activities and speed challenge
englishbridges.com/lessons/news-roundup-2026-10-02-b1

Notes