

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: picture alliance

Donald Trump told Fox News that **America** could provide **Ukraine** with air support in a [post-war security guarantee](#), but ruled out sending soldiers to Ukraine. European countries would play the main role in Ukraine's defence, according to Mr Trump. He also claimed to have "sort of" set up a summit with Mr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, and Vladimir Putin, Russia's president.

Hamas reportedly agreed to a 60-day **ceasefire** deal with **Israel** that includes the release of around half the hostages held by the [militant group](#). Israel has yet to respond to the proposal, which was put forward by Egypt and Qatar. Last week Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said his country would only accept a deal if "all the hostages are released in one go".

AirCanada will begin resuming service after reaching a tentative deal with flight attendants, ending a three-day strike that affected some 500,000 customers. The flight attendants' union said AirCanada will initially pay its members half the normal hourly rate during boarding, which was previously unpaid time. The members, who earlier defied two federal orders to return to work, must still approve the agreement.

The **Office for National Statistics**, Britain's data agency, delayed the release of monthly retail spending numbers due to "quality" issues. July's figures, which were due to be published on Friday, will now be released on September 5th, two weeks later than originally planned. In April Britain's government launched an investigation into the ONS after it [found errors](#) in numbers that underpin its GDP calculations.

OpenAI launched an India-only ChatGPT subscription priced at \$4.60 per month, its cheapest plan yet. The offering, ChatGPT Go, provides expanded access to [its latest model, GPT-5](#), at a lower cost to previous plans. India is OpenAI's second-largest market by users after America. The company's boss, Sam Altman, discussed creating a lower-cost AI ecosystem with India's IT minister earlier this year.

Begoña Gómez, the wife of **Pedro Sánchez**, Spain's prime minister, was charged with embezzling government funds. She is accused of using the money to pay her assistant for help with personal matters. Ms Gómez was previously charged with influence peddling and corruption. She denies any wrongdoing. Mr Sánchez's inner circle has faced [allegations of corruption and bribery](#) in recent months.

The **Labubu** craze caused the profits of **Pop Mart** to rise by nearly 400% year on year in the six months of 2025. The grinning toys have [sold out in stores worldwide](#). Celebrities including Sir David Beckham and Rihanna are fans. The boss of Pop Mart, which makes the dolls, said last month that sales of Labubus will surpass 10m a day from September.

Figure of the day: 75%, the rise in the number of vehicles stolen in Britain in the past decade. The country has become a leading exporter of them. [Read the full story.](#)



Photograph: Reuters

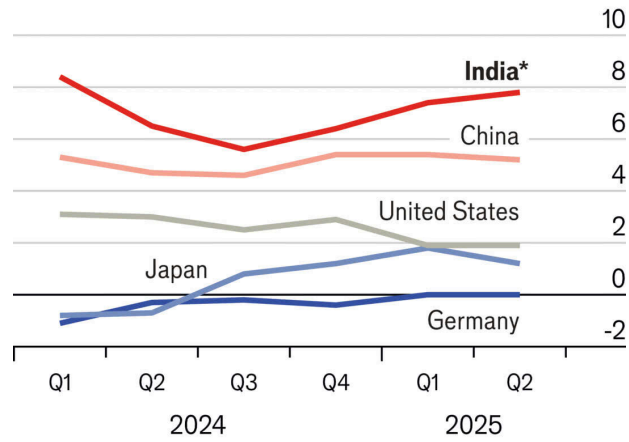
Tariffs and AI loom over India's economy

India's government has long basked in the country's rapid economic growth. The world's fastest-growing big economy expanded by 7.4% year on year in the April-June quarter. Notwithstanding, concern is growing. If America's tariffs on [Indian exports](#) are raised to 50% on August 27th as planned, they could reduce the growth rate by 0.8 percentage points, economists estimate.

Artificial intelligence poses another challenge. On Tuesday trade unions will stage protests outside the offices of Tata Consultancy Services, an IT giant that last month announced more than 12,000 job cuts. TCS insists the layoffs are a response to skill mismatches rather than to the adoption of AI. But workers remain fearful that AI could cause job losses and create competition that would force the IT sector, which [accounts for 7% of India's GDP](#), to sell its services for less. Last week Narendra Modi sought to allay such fears by announcing tax cuts and regulatory reforms to boost economic activity. India's prime minister has long championed economic self-reliance as a virtue. Now that may become a necessity.

The elephant in the room

GDP, % change on a year earlier



*Q2 2025 estimate

Sources: Haver Analytics; Trading Economics



Photograph: Getty Images

BHP digs in

The world's biggest mining company, BHP, reported disappointing results on Tuesday. Full-year earnings plummeted by 26% to \$10.2bn, the lowest level in five years. The Australian firm has suffered from falling iron ore and coal prices, despite trying to [reduce its reliance](#) on them. Its production of copper—demand for which has been boosted by growth in data centres and electric vehicles—accounted for 45% of underlying earnings. In the year to June, BHP dug up more than 2m tonnes of the red metal, a 28% increase on the same period three years earlier.

Meanwhile BHP together with Vale, a Brazilian miner is contesting a £36bn (\$48bn) lawsuit in Britain brought by victims of an environmental disaster that happened in Brazil in 2015. The companies have offered \$1.4bn to settle claims. An effort by BHP to branch out into fertilisers will run \$1.7bn over budget, raising questions about the firm's diversification strategy. Mike Henry, the company's boss, may retire next year. Whoever succeeds him faces quite the task.



Photograph: Alamy

Canada's economy holds up

Economists will be watching for how America's tariffs are affecting [Canada's economy](#) when inflation numbers for July are released on Tuesday. In March Canadian metals and energy were walloped with tariffs. Then, at the start of August, the Trump administration imposed a 35% levy on imports from Canada. But the Canada-US-Mexico free-trade agreement, signed by Donald Trump in 2018 to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, has shielded most Canadian exports flowing southwards from higher levies.

Still, the 50% tariffs on steel and aluminium from Canada have hit. Canadian exports to America plummeted by more than 15% in April alone. Unemployment in Canada has risen slightly in 2025, suggesting that tariffs may be weighing on growth. But the Bank of Canada has kept interest rates steady. That is partly because retaliatory tariffs introduced on American goods could push up inflation, and because strong consumer spending and more domestic travel have done a lot to support the economy.



Photograph: Getty Images

The world's biggest gaming event

On Tuesday night Gamescom kicks off in Cologne, Germany. Think of it as Comic-Con, but with fewer capes and more people showing off their frame rates. Last year the world's biggest [video-games](#) trade fair drew over 320,000 visitors. More than 40m people watched its opening night online. There will be pyrotechnics, celebrity cameos and plenty of xboxes. But Gamescom is also where the industry makes its splashiest announcements.

This year's star is Call of Duty: Black Ops 7, an upcoming shooter game. [Grand Theft Auto VI](#) is expected in 2026. Yet for all the fun and games, the stakes for the industry are high. After booming during the pandemic, the sector has laid off at least 35,000 people. Investment has cratered. Developers will be hoping that blockbusters can help the industry level up.



Illustration: The Economist

Daily quiz

We will serve you a new question each day this week. On Friday your challenge is to give us all five answers and, as important, tell us the connecting theme. Email your responses (and include mention of your home city and country) by 1700 BST on Friday to [\[email protected\]](#). We'll pick randomly from those with the right answers and crown three winners on Saturday.

Tuesday: What word for happiness also means “the raising of someone to an important position”?

Monday: String beans, garden peas and okra are found in what kind of natural container?

Most of the successful people I've known are the ones who do more listening than talking.

Bernard Baruch