

The world in brief

Catch up quickly on the global stories that matter



Photograph: AFP via Getty Images

Donald Trump said **America** would [help guarantee Ukraine's](#) security if a peace deal was agreed with **Russia**, though Europe would be “a first line of defence”. Mr Trump met Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine's president, and other European leaders on Monday, having met Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, in Alaska on Friday. Both Mr Trump and Mr Zelensky said they hoped the talks would pave the way for a trilateral meeting with Mr Putin.

SoftBank, a Japanese investment powerhouse, agreed to invest \$2bn in **Intel**, a struggling American chipmaker. The deal follows reports last week that Mr Trump is [considering an investment](#) in Intel on behalf of America's government. SoftBank has expanded its American footprint this year. It is financing a big part of the government's \$500bn “[Stargate](#)” [project](#) and has agreed to buy an electric-vehicle plant in Ohio.

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”.

Air Canada and the union representing 10,000 striking flight attendants held their first talks in nearly a week. Members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees walked out on Saturday after contract talks failed and defied an order from Canada's labour board to return to work. The union is seeking higher pay for "ground time", i.e. periods when planes are not in the air.

Germany said **America** must lower tariffs on cars before a trade deal with the European Union can be finalised. The EU and America [agreed to a framework deal in late July](#), but many details remain unclear. The proposal would reduce America's duties on car imports from Europe from 25% to 15%. The German car industry estimates even those lower tariffs could cost the sector billions of euros annually.

Novo Nordisk will slash the monthly price of Ozempic, a diabetes jab, from \$1,000 to \$499 for **Americans** who buy it without health insurance. The Danish pharmaceutical company has already cut the price of Wegovy, a weight-loss drug that far more people buy without a prescription. Mr Trump has [demanded](#) that drugmakers lower prices for Americans and raise them for Europeans.

Thailand will allow foreign visitors to convert **cryptocurrencies** into baht, its national currency. The country's authorities want to boost tourism, as foreign arrivals have recently slumped. (On Monday the country lowered its forecast for 2025 by a tenth, to 33m visitors.) The crypto scheme will initially run as an 18-month pilot with conversions capped at 550,000 baht (\$17,000).

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

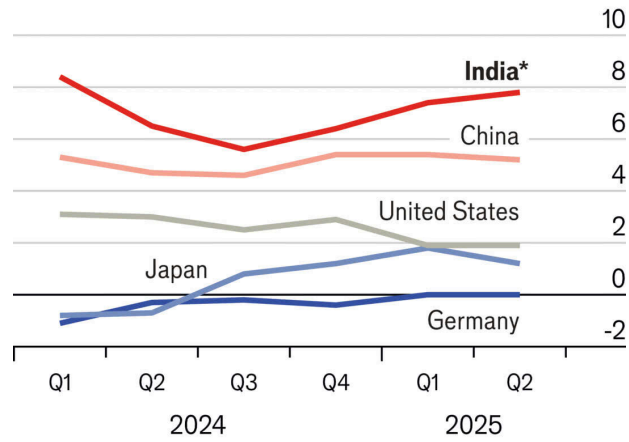
Tariffs and AI loom over India's economy

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 of 50% on [Indian exports](#) take effect as planned on August 27th, 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