

Here are some important events from around the world, with a particular focus on English-speaking countries.

June:

- Just Stop Oil protesters vandalised Stonehenge by spraying the megaliths with orange cornflour powder paint.
- California wildfires.
- The UK held a **general election** on 4th July, with the **Labour Party** winning. Keir Starmer became the new Prime Minister.

July:

- An assassination attempt was made on Donald Trump.
- In *Trump v. United States*, the Supreme Court ruled in a 6–3 decision that **former presidents are entitled to absolute immunity from prosecution** for official acts that rely on core constitutional powers.
 - The UK became the first country in Europe to **allow the sale of lab-grown meat**.
 - Three girls were killed and ten others, eight children and two adults, were injured in a **mass stabbing** at a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga event in Southport. Police issued a warning after **misinformation over the identity of the perpetrator spread online** and was reposted by high-profile figures. Riots broke out.

September:

- French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Michel Barnier, known for leading the EU's Brexit negotiations, as the new Prime Minister, indicating a shift to the right following an inconclusive parliamentary election.
- China conducted a rare **test of an intercontinental ballistic missile** into international waters, marking its first such launch in over 40 years and raising regional tensions.
- The EU Adopted measures to **restrict PFAS**, commonly known as "**forever chemicals**," due to their persistence in the environment.
- The first **commercial spacewalk** was conducted
- California governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill which **prohibits the replacement of actors with artificial intelligence** under state law
- The European Union published the **Right to Repair Directive**, mandating manufacturers to facilitate product repairs, thereby promoting sustainability and reducing waste.
- Southern California faced multiple major **wildfires** that led to widespread evacuations and property damage.
- The UK government awarded nine **offshore wind farm contracts**.
- NPR asked **whether eating less beef could save the Colorado River**:
<https://www.npr.org/2024/09/09/nx-s1-5002090/colorado-river-water-climate-change-beef>
- The Guardian noted **the return of the bluefin tuna**:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/sep/27/bluefin-tuna-uk-waters-fishing-industry-government>

October:

- Claudia Sheinbaum Prado was inaugurated as **Mexico's first female and Jewish president**, marking a historic moment for the nation.
- The World Health Assembly convened in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss global health matters and direct policies for **international health collaborations**.
- Dubai hosted the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28)**, providing a platform for nations to collaborate on climate actions and agreements.
- KFF compared the **health policies of the two US presidential candidates**:

<https://www.kff.org/compare-2024-candidates-health-care-policy/>

-It was confirmed that the sale of **disposable vapes will be banned** in England and Wales from June 2025.

November:

-Donald Trump was **elected as the 47th President of the United States**, with JD Vance as Vice President, in a significant victory for the Republican Party.

-The American cancer society described **where cannabis is legal in the USA**:

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/treatment-types/complementary-and-integrative-medicine/marijuana-and-cancer/is-cannabis-legal.html>

-The BBC analysed **the cost of King Charles' 2023 coronation**:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c04lyddv2p5o>

-**The Guardian announced that all 80 of its accounts on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) would stop posting content**, due to the social media site's role in spreading far-right conspiracy theories and racism

-MPs voted 330 to 275 in favour of **allowing assisted dying in England and Wales**.

December:

-Brian Thompson, **CEO of UnitedHealth, was shot dead in Midtown Manhattan**, highlighting ongoing debates over healthcare policies and corporate practices.

-**The al-Assad regime in Syria collapsed** after 11 years of civil war, with armed rebels taking Damascus and prompting the return of approximately 200,000 refugees.

January:

-Donald Trump was **inaugurated** as the 47th President of the United States.

-Nobel prize winners warned about **a global hunger crisis in 2025**:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jan/14/nobel-world-food-prize-laureates-global-hunger-open-letter-food-production>

-The issue of **hunger in the UK** was analysed by The Big Issue:

<https://www.bigissue.com/opinion/hope-end-food-banks-2025/>

-The Guardian looked at the problem of **overtourism**:

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2025/jan/25/no-neighbours-overtourism-residents-spain-portugal-visitor>

-New York City enacted a **congestion charge** for vehicles entering Lower and Midtown Manhattan below 60th Street, becoming the first city in the United States to do so.

-As one of his final acts, **President Biden banned new oil and gas drilling** along the majority of American coastlines.

-Wildfires in California.

-**Mark Zuckerberg announced that Meta would remove fact-checkers for Facebook, Instagram, and Threads.**

-Trump issued roughly **1,500 pardons and six commutations to people charged in connection to the January 6 United States Capitol attack.**

-Trump signed an executive order declaring the northernmost portion of the Gulf of Mexico to be the **"Gulf of America"**.

-**US withdrawal from the Paris agreement.**

-**Floods in the UK.**

-A record £410 million in government **funding for fusion power** was announced in the UK.

-UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves confirmed that the government was backing **a third runway for Heathrow Airport**, during a major speech on economic growth.

February:

- Germany held **federal elections** following the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition, amid economic challenges and recent security concerns.
- The BBC investigated **Elon Musk's role in the new US government**:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1dg95dyxygo>.
- Tariffs were applied to goods entering the USA from Canada and Mexico.**
- Google Calendar confirmed it has removed Black History Month, Pride Month and other cultural events from its service**, saying the holidays were "not sustainable" for Google's new business model which is rolling back an emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- The USA applied tariffs to the EU.**
- The Trump administration **banned NASA scientists and United States government officials from attending the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change conference.**
- Keir Starmer committed to **boosting the UK's defence spending** from 2.3% to 2.5% of GDP by 2027.

March:

- Israel launched widespread aerial bombardments on the Gaza Strip**, ending a ceasefire and resulting in significant casualties.
- Nationwide **protests erupted across Turkey** following the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu on charges of corruption and terrorism.
- The Arctic experienced its **lowest recorded winter sea ice extent**, signaling significant climate change impacts and raising concerns about accelerated melting during the summer months.
- The UK government revised its 2025 **economic growth forecast** down to 1%, attributing the slowdown to global uncertainties and trade tensions, particularly new tariffs imposed by the U.S. - Treasury Chief Rachel Reeves announced measures to address a £14 billion shortfall, including **curbing tax avoidance and reducing government expenditures.**
- Global financial markets and the U.S. dollar suffered their worst monthly losses** since 2022, driven by fears of new tariffs announced by President Donald Trump.
- Following a **prolonged drought, Spain experienced intense rainfall**, leading to devastating floods that displaced hundreds and caused significant damage.
- The Arctic experienced its lowest recorded winter sea ice extent**, signaling significant climate change impacts.
- Carolina **wildfires.**
- Trump ordered an **expansion of tree cutting across national forests and other public lands.**
- Mass **layoffs of Federal workers** in the USA.
- A jury in North Dakota found that **Greenpeace must pay hundreds of millions of dollars to pipeline company Energy Transfer.**
- Editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, Jeffrey Goldberg, reveals that **members of President Trump's cabinet inadvertently shared Yemen strike plans with him in a Signal group chat.**
- Columbia University **agreed to Trump's demands to change its policy on protests** to avoid Federal funding cuts.