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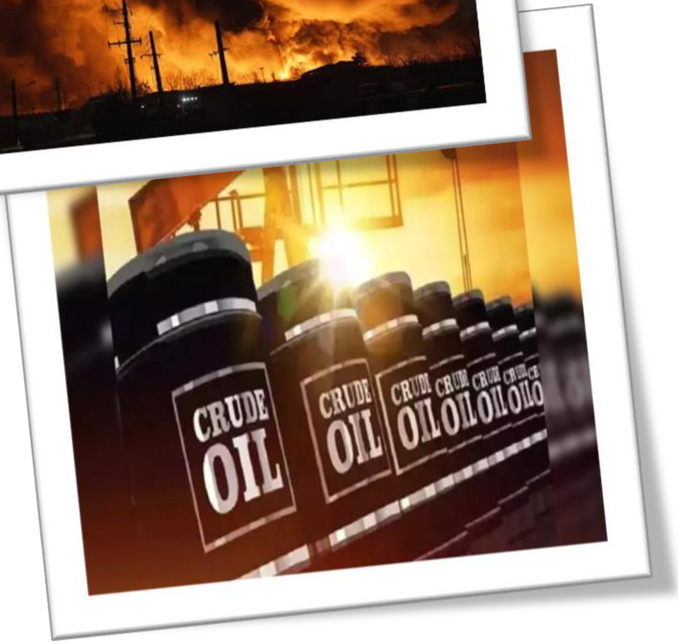
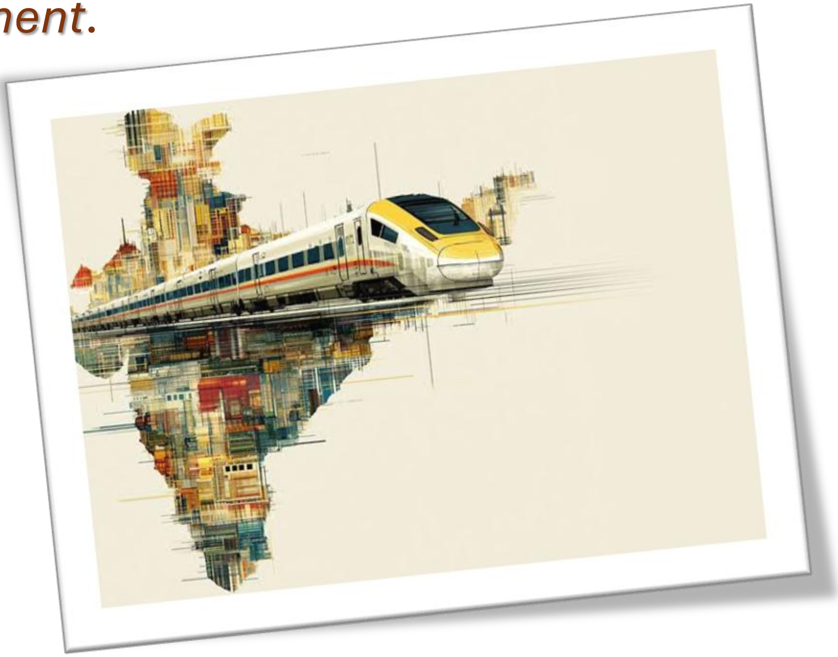
MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT TRIGGERS GLOBAL OIL PRICE SURGE

Escalating conflict in the Middle East, particularly involving Iran, Israel, and the United States, led to a sharp increase in global oil prices and renewed concerns about the world economy. As the Middle East is one of the world's largest oil-producing regions, fears of supply disruptions pushed international crude oil prices higher. Rising oil prices increased transportation and production costs, adding inflationary pressure across many countries. The uncertainty also affected global financial markets, with investors turning to safer assets such as gold and U.S. Treasury securities. Oil-importing nations, including India, faced the risk of higher import bills, increased fuel prices, and pressure on trade balances. Economists warned that prolonged geopolitical tensions could weaken global economic growth by increasing business costs, reducing consumer spending, and disrupting international trade. This event highlighted the strong link between geopolitical stability, energy security, and the health of the global economy.



INDIA POWERS AHEAD: JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE & GROWTH LEAD

The Union Cabinet approved the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme to boost job creation, particularly in the manufacturing sector, by providing financial incentives to employers and first-time employees. In a major push to infrastructure, the government also approved four railway projects worth approximately ₹11,169 crore under the PM Gati Shakti initiative to strengthen freight transportation, improve connectivity, and support economic development.



On the trade front, India's total exports of goods and services recorded a 4.5% year-on-year increase in July 2025, driven mainly by strong performance in the services sector despite global trade uncertainties. The Ministry of Finance's Monthly Economic Review highlighted that domestic demand remained resilient, inflation stayed under control and both industrial and services sectors continued to support overall growth. Global agencies also remained optimistic about India. The OECD maintained India's GDP growth forecast at 6.3% for FY 2025–26, reaffirming its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies. At the same time, the government reported continued progress under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, with sustained investments and employment generation in electronics, manufacturing, and other priority sectors.

ASSAM ASSEMBLY APPROVES BILLS TO STRENGTHEN THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The Assam Assembly passed several bills aimed at creating a more business-friendly regulatory environment in the state. These bills are expected to make it easier for businesses to operate by simplifying government procedures. They also empower the state government to introduce measures such as setting up a single-window task force for faster approval of proposals and reducing the compliance burden on commercial establishments, making the overall business process more efficient. Assembly passed the Assam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) Bill, 2026, recognizing the MSME sector as a key driver of employment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth in the state. The Bill replaces the 2020 Act and aims to ensure faster processing of approvals for MSMEs, according to Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises Minister .

The new MSME Bill replaces the 2020 Act with the aim of making it easier for businesses to start and operate by speeding up approvals and simplifying regulations. The Assembly also passed amendments to reduce unnecessary paperwork, encourage digital services and self-certification, and create a more business-friendly environment while ensuring the welfare and safety of workers. It also approved the formation of a Single Window Task Force and a dedicated online portal for quicker approval of industrial projects. In addition, changes were made to six existing laws to reduce regulatory hurdles, attract more investment, and support business growth in Assam.

SOUTHEAST GUWAHATI TO GET MAJOR WATER SUPPLY BOOST

The government has announced a major drinking water initiative for the city with the Southeast Guwahati Water Supply Project. It aims at improving urban infrastructure. The project will cover 66,000 homes and provide safe drinking water to 3.5 lakh people. The work is targeted for completion by May 2029 and is expected to ease water scarcity in the rapidly growing areas of Southeast Guwahati while supporting the city's long-term urban development goals.

GUWAHATI TO GET PLANNED SATELLITE TOWNSHIPS

In a big step toward decongesting the city, the Assam government has approved the Guwahati Satellite City Development Authority Bill. The move paves the way for planned satellite townships around Guwahati with a focus on modern infrastructure, affordable housing, and scientific urban planning. The new townships are expected to ease pressure on the main city, create organized residential hubs, and improve connectivity and civic amenities for the growing population.

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