

36 million jobs at stake as tensions rise, says Bahrain business leader

Janahi urges action to protect jobs, trade and economic stability

● **Transport, energy and insurance costs continue to climb amid regional uncertainty.**

● **Investor confidence and global supply chains are increasingly affected by geopolitical developments.**

● **International dialogue and diplomacy remain key to safeguarding economic stability.**

TDT | Manama



Around 36 million jobs worldwide could be at risk by 2027 if geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate,

Bahrain business leader So-nia Mohammed Janahi has warned.

Speaking during the 114th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Janahi said rising regional tensions are increasingly affecting global trade, investment flows, energy

prices and transportation networks, placing growing pressure on economies and labour markets.

Representing Bahrain's private sector and employers at the conference, she said businesses are facing higher operating, energy, transport and insurance costs, along with supply chain disruptions and weaker investor confidence.

Janahi noted that small and medium-sized enterprises are among the hardest hit and require greater support, given their role in driving economic growth and job creation.

She stressed that the security and stability of the Gulf region remain vital to the global economy because of its central role in energy supplies and international trade routes. Maintaining stable maritime corridors and supply chains, she said, is essential for sustaining investor confidence, protecting jobs and

supporting economic growth.

Janahi called for stronger international cooperation, dialogue and diplomacy to address current challenges and help economies adapt to changing conditions.

On the sidelines of the conference, she also chaired the General Discussion Committee on Advancing the Transformative Agenda for Gender Equality in the World of Work. Discussions focused on strengthening women's participation in labour markets and promoting more inclusive workplaces.

Janahi said empowering women economically remains a key pillar of sustainable development and improved labour market productivity.

She concluded by stressing that peace, stability and respect for international law are essential to building a more prosperous future and ensuring sustainable economic growth worldwide.

India growth beats forecasts but Iran war clouds outlook

AFF | Mumbai, India

India's economy grew at a faster pace than expected in the first three months of 2026, official data showed yesterday, even as the Middle East war clouds the outlook for the rest of the year.

Gross domestic product rose 7.8% in the January-March quarter from the same period a year earlier, helped by a robust services sector, according to data from the statistics ministry.

This was down from the 8% recorded in the previous quarter but still above market expectations of 7.3% growth.

"GDP growth has been resilient... despite geopolitical tensions," Teresa John of Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities told AFP, adding that the quarterly figures had also been helped by a solid performance in the industry and construction sectors.

A ministry news release said growth for the 2025-26 fiscal year, which ended in March, came in at 7.7% -- up from 7.1% the previous year.

Friday's reading reaffirms India as the world's fastest growing major economy and will be welcome news for policymakers who face a slate of challenges for the current fiscal year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government started the March quarter on solid footing, with robust GDP growth and



projection of 6.9 percent, even as economists warn that New Delhi may overshoot its budgeted fiscal deficit target for the current year.

Adding to policymakers' woes, foreign investors have offloaded well over \$20 billion in Indian shares so far this year, putting pressure on the Indian rupee, which has been among Asia's worst-performing major currencies in 2026.

Among measures aimed at bolstering the rupee and boosting foreign inflows, the Reserve Bank of India unveiled on Friday amendments that would make it easier for overseas investors to buy stocks and government bonds.

The government also said it would cut capital gains taxes on investments made by foreign institutional investors in government bonds, a move it said would "attract stable long-term foreign capital flows".

the announcement of a framework for a much-delayed interim trade deal with the United States.

That momentum quickly unravelled because of the Middle East conflict and the latest threat of additional US tariffs potentially delaying a pact with Washington.

India's trade minister, Piyush Goyal, said yesterday that he hopes to "execute" the first

tranche of a deal next month, but the effects of the Iran war remain a pressing concern.

New Delhi depends heavily on imports for its oil and gas needs, making it particularly vulnerable to the global energy shock caused by the conflict.

Higher oil prices not only threaten to raise input costs and stoke inflation but also drive up India's import bill, potentially widening the current account

deficit to a 14-year high.

The first casualty, analysts say, would be India's growth trajectory.

Investments and agriculture

"Given the uncertainty around the resolution of the conflict, elevated energy prices for an extended period poses a downside risk to growth in the near term, including muted prospects for investment demand, negative

impact on corporate profitability and dampening consumer sentiments," Aditi Nayar of ratings agency ICRA said in a note.

Nayar added that a weak monsoon forecast and "potential development of El Niño conditions" also have dulled India's agricultural output projections.

India's central bank cut its GDP growth forecast for the 2026-27 financial year to 6.6% on Friday, down from an earlier



India's economy is now worth more than \$4 trillion, making it one of the world's largest economies.