India and changing political order in West Asia

What is the issue?

- India’s West Asia relations are no longer viewed through the Israel-Palestine prism.
- Other concerns like the Iran question are on the centre stage now.

What are the recent developments?

- Modi’s recent visit to Israel is suggested to be not based on the traditional Indian strategic thinking in West Asia which centred on Israel-Palestine issue.
- Since Iran's nuclear deal with Obama's US administration, insecurities among Tehran’s rivals has increased.
- The changing security landscape in the West Asia region is now largely pertaining to Iran.
- A new political order in West Asia is emerging, led assertively by Saudi Arabia that regards Iran as the existential threat.
- Essentially, Arab leaders can today live with their allies operating with the Israelis, but not with the Iranians.
- Iranian leadership is fully aware of these shifting dynamics.

What lies before India?
India, on its part, looks to the region for its constantly expanding natural gas and crude oil thirst.

Despite the recent changes, ties between India and Iran will not cease any time soon, but run on an independent track including the ongoing development of Chabahar Port.

India now needs a concrete regional strategy beyond tactical visits.

Source: The Hindu