India and changing political order in West Asia

What is the issue?

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

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- 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.
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- Since Iran's nuclear deal with Obama's US administration, insecurities among Tehran’s rivals has increased.
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- The changing security landscape in the West Asia region is now largely pertaining to Iran.
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- A new political order in West Asia is emerging, led assertively by Saudi Arabia that regards Iran as the existential threat.
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- Essentially, Arab leaders can today live with their allies operating with the Israelis, but not with the Iranians.
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- Iranian leadership is fully aware of these shifting dynamics.
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What lies before India?

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- India, on its part, looks to the region for its constantly expanding natural gas and crude oil thirst.
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- 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.
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- India now needs a concrete regional strategy beyond tactical visits.
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Source: The Hindu

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