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Meanwhile, Indian investments in Iran, including the Shahid Beheshti complex at Chabahar and the Farzad B gas field, have languished for years, reflecting the severe constraints on doing business with Iran.

However, according to Harsh V. Pant, “India’s tilt towards Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE is not a riskfree move. Iran continues to exercise much influence in West Asia and can help shape events in Afghanistan by shoring up the Taliban against the US. Moreover, Iran’s Chabahar port represents a strategic investment for India which hopes to use the facility to connect with the International NorthSouth Transit Corridor (INSTC) that extends to Central Asia and to bypass Pakistan en route to Afghanistan.”

Yet considering the geo-political currents in the region, India's Act West Policy is possibly the biggest success story of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government despite many intrinsic challenges and competing geopolitical interests.

6. What is India’s vision of new world order? How India’s vision is relevant in present times?

The term ‘New World Order’ has been bandied by many triumphant powers in history to enforce their hegemonic writ on the world through political, ideological, militaristic, economic, legislative and diplomatic means. The term first came into prominence after World War I, when US President Woodrow Wilson used its variant (“new order of the world”) while proposing the formation of the first global political organisation, the League of Nations, in order to “end all wars” and consolidate the victories of his European allies in the name of collective security and democracy.

The Western globalised order is today facing a serious crisis with the rise of China, Russia and India on the international stage, and in the wake of several setbacks such as the Great Recession of 2008, trade wars initiated by Trump administration, unraveling of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Brexit vote.

In fact, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has announced a major shift in international system: “The Western, liberal model of society is dying, and a new world order (led by Russia, China and India) is taking its place.” Although democratic India embraced economic liberalisation in the post-Cold War era and improved relations with Western countries, particularly the US, it never fully aligned itself with the neo-liberal globalised order.