



NEED OF INDIA: A STABLE WEST ASIA

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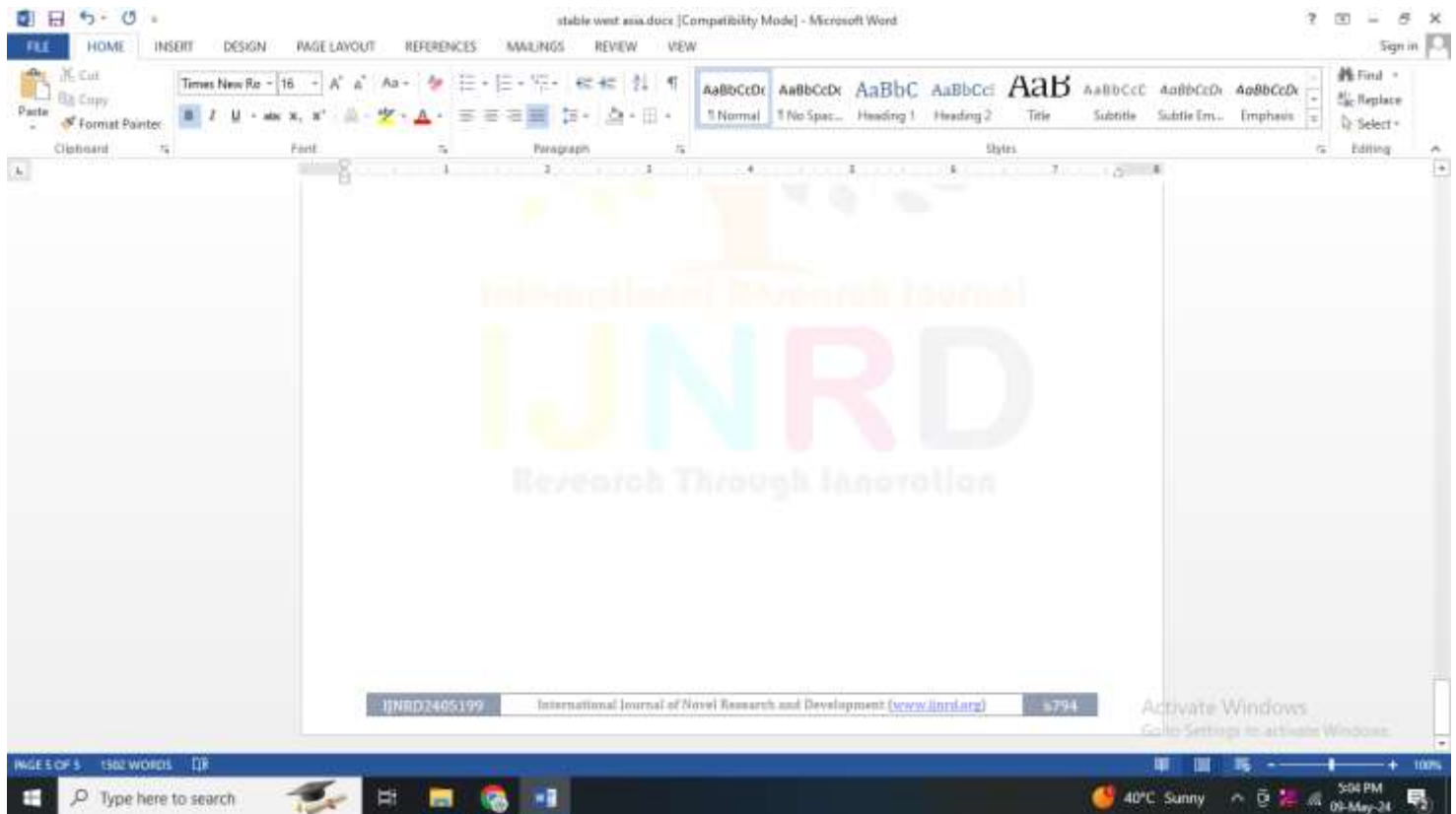
Abstract: A concatenation in different degrees happening in the region of west Asia has caused concerns for the country. India has the aim for *VIKSIT BHARAT@2047*, a developed nation and the world at present is in the phase of chaos and has an absence of strong global leadership. Development in this era of dependency requires peace and stability in the world, which seems to be in danger with the increasing conflicts.

Key words: West Asia, Viksit Bharat@2047, IMEC, conflict, Israel- Hamas, Israel-Iran, diplomatic negotiation, G-20.

Introduction:

India will complete 100 years of its independence in the year 2047, for which it has the vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*. India stands at the cusp of technological transformation and the road to a developed nation in this era is through economic development. India shares ties with west Asia since millennia but unlike the *look east policy* there was for a long time, lack of a cogent and comprehensive policy outlook towards the west. This region is a part of India's extended neighbourhood and the need of peace and stability in the area and the surrounding is of vital strategic interest of India. Currently west Asia seems to resemble a time bomb and the situation is turning critical. The "rule based international order" basically a creation of the west, is quintessentially dead. As the west seems to weaken, alongside the rise of China, India has emerged as the fifth economic power in the world and stands at number four with respect to the military supremacy. India in this era where new alliance pattern have emerged, none of which are capable and sufficient to sustain a peaceful global order, has opted for the multi alignment. The nation is working in the line of

making economic cooperation, strategic alliances, emerging as a face for the south world nations keeping the national interests of the country at top. With the arising conflicts, though the “shooting wars” are limited to a few pockets, the large of the world which is important for the gas, oil and other resources for the world remains in chaos. India as an emerging economy is one of the greatest importer of these resources and the rising stability brings an extra burden on the pages to turn towards development.



World Is in Disarray:

Starting from the Russia- Ukraine conflicts, Armenia- Azerbaijan dispute and now the Hamas attack on Israel which has resulted in the vesting of frustration on the citizens of Gaza, virtually approximating to genocide. All centers of these conflicts have neither the desire nor the understanding to try and end these conflicts they are involved in. The situation in west Asia is turning critical. Israel is acting like a “wounded tiger” and now confronts a direct threat from Iran. In this situation of instability in the region of west Asia, U.S and China are using proxies to try and achieve their objectives. Even as the global power politics on observation seems to loose all meaning, the world is witnessing all the new set of alliances which make little sense. The world is in disarray with an absence of a global leadership and this

situation makes the condition for the countries present below the Brandt Line more difficult to work in cooperation.

Challenges in west Asia:

West Asia traditionally is the name given to the Fertile Crescent or Mesopotamia, the Levant, the Nile delta and the adjacent regions of Iran, Arabia and Anatolia. The region is seeing more conflicts since the start of the 20th century. The factors of conflicts in the region are: (a) Western Imperialism (b) Nationalism (c) Religious and Sectarian differences (d) Migration of Jews to Arab territory (e) Creation of state of Israel (f) Islamic revolution of Iran.

Israel-Hamas conflict: The direct military confrontation between the two has snowballed into regional security crisis. The ongoing conflict which is chiefly in and around Gaza strip began with surprise attack of Hamas on southern Israel from Gaza strip. Hamas said its attack was in response to the continued operation of expansion in the land of Palestine by Israel. In reiteration whatever Israel is doing is developing humanitarian crisis in the Gaza strip.

Israel-Palestinian conflict: This conflict has its origins in the rise of Zionism and the arrival of Jewish settlement to Ottoman Palestine. This disturbing conflict about land and self determination has been a major reason for the drawback in development of area

Israel-Iran conflict: The two have had a long proxy war, and Iran backs Palestinian groups such as Hamas, Israel in turn has supported Iranian rebels. This proxy conflict escalated to a short period of direct conflict in April 2024. Tensions were heightened from 14th -18th April with continued war arguments in Israel for retaliation of Iran's attack. On 19 of April Israel attacked against Iran at 3 targets but did not claim responsibility for any attack.

The seeds of conflict in the West Asian region were sown long before most of the nations in the region became independent.

Stand of India on these conflicts:

India finds itself caught in a tight spot over the new escalating conflicts in this region. India holds strategic ties with Israel, in the fields from defense to technology,

these ties have now more up scaled since NDA government came to power. Iran on the other hand is one of the main exporters of oil to India. India while does not recognize Hamas to be a terrorist organization, the recent attacks on Israel by it have been considered as terrorist attacks. Indian Prime Minister's tweet regarding it as a "terrorist attack", can be stated as a clear message on India's stand against terrorism. While India stands with Israel against terrorist attacks, it has also raised its voice regarding the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza.

Importance of west Asia for India:

The region of West Asia holds great importance for India. (a)The region including the Gulf, West Asia and North Africa contribute major share in India's energy needs. (b) Diaspora and remittances: The large Indian community present in the region plays a valuable role in contribution to the progress and development of both India and the countries of the region. The community also plays significant impact on India's economy by inward remittances and holds a major importance in the sector. (c) Trade: The region also forms as one of the largest trading partner for India. (d) Investment: India has major investments in the region in the field of railways, ports, roads, airports and industries corridors and parks.

Concept of India Middle East Europe economic corridor (IMEC):

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed during the 2023 G- 20 New Delhi summit by government of India, UAE, USA, S. Arabia, France, Germany, Italy and European Union. IMEC is a planned economic corridor that aims to strengthen economic development; it is seen as a counter to China's Belt& Road Initiative (BRI). This route is proposed from India to Europe through UAE, S.Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Greece, which will hold great importance in the plan of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Impact on India of the conflicts in west Asia:

India is the third largest crude oil importer in the world. The continued conflicts in the West Asian region, which holds the highest oil reserves in the world, will hold consequences of surge in the oil prices. The increase in the oil prices will have negative impact on India's fiscal and current account deficits. Conflicts and instability in the region of West Asia is preventing India from pursuing the IMEC

project. The project of IMEC includes countries like Israel, Jordan which cannot contribute in the cooperation project and economic development, when these remain involved in the ongoing conflicts. This will not only hamper the economic and connectivity vision of India under Viksit Bharat @2047 but also the strategic step of countering against China can fail to become a reality if the instability pursues in the extended neighbourhood of India.

Conclusion:

It seems highly unlikely that the conflicts in the region are soon coming to an end. Requirement is to bring all the parties to the negotiating table in order to diplomatically solve the conflicts. Initiatives such as West Asia Peace Plan are self serving at best, neglecting, one party and benefiting the other. India stands at a global stage with the idea of diplomatic negotiations, which will profit the world and India. It surely is “not an era of war”, “economy” and “technology” are the main “drivers” and “spoilers” in today’s world. India withholds the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 in order to make the world’s largest democracy holds the power to reshape the future world order. Viksit Bharat can be decoded to mean as the young and dynamic superpower in the making but for that we need a stable and peaceful extended neighbourhood.

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