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- ❖ **Policy Shifts in Contemporary Indo–Nepal Relations**
- ❖ **Changing nature of political participation in India**
- ❖ **Role of Library for Community Development**
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Global Impact of West Asia War

Undoubtedly, peace is fundamentally superior to war as it facilitates economic growth, human development, and social stability. All of these are major casualty in the ongoing war in West Asia where United States of America along with Israel has resorted to organised military offensive against Iran since February 28, 2026. The pretext is that Iran has been developing nuclear weapons with tremendous potentials to change the geopolitics of West Asia. Needless to say that war causes destruction of infrastructure which in many cases happens to be the lifeline of most citizens, loss of life of children, women and innocent men, and economic drain of precious resources. Iran has been a victim of all of it. The West Asia conflict has severely affected rest of the world in many ways.

War has led to disruption of global energy supplies; fertilizer supplies; escalation of food, freight and commodity costs. Other impacts include rising inflation; stagflation, damage to energy infrastructure, shipping bottlenecks especially through Strait of Hormuz. This has serious implications for global economic growth. Crude oil has already skyrocketed to about \$120 per barrel. LNG supplies are getting thinner day by day and Asian energy supplies have been hit hardest. The jet fuel prices across Europe have seen massive spikes. Hundreds of oil and gas facilities including oil wells, refineries and pipelines stand damaged on account of ongoing war. The urea fertilizer price has experienced more than 30 to 40% surge including the reduced supply and bottlenecks in supply-line. Consequently, global food prices have also gone up escalating the possibilities of rise in hunger index.

Security situations have also been worsened on account of ongoing war. The maritime trade routes and infrastructure including the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is experiencing the worst impact as most of the trade takes place through shipping lanes on maritime routes. Impact on India is quite obvious as import costs especially for energy and raw materials have gone up significantly. Steel and fertilizer sectors have been worst affected alongside crude oil and natural gas supplies. Overall impact on the demography proving massive as the war has tremendous potentials to push significant number of people below poverty line.

Persian Gulf region where the war is taking place has never been the breadbasket of the world; yet its significance lies in possession of crude oil and natural gas. Most of the trade in resources depends upon petrol, diesel and natural gas. These are lifelines for any country, being key inputs in the production and movement of grains, vegetables and meat etc. Higher fuel prices make land transportation costlier. Scarce supplies of these resources have forced countries like India and Bangladesh to reduce output of fertilizer productions. Even productions in Europe are under strains. The Strait of Hormuz is being controlled by Iran, is the major oil choke point of the world, as most of the crude oil and natural gas passes through this Strait. There is also very limited alternative route available to facilitate the movement of oil and gas.

According to US Energy Information Administration approximately 20 to 21 million barrels per day (mb/d) of total petroleum liquids including nearly 15 mb/d of crude oil pass through the Strait of Hormuz in West Asia. This represents about 20 to 25% of global consumption. Roughly 20% of the global liquefied natural gas (LNG) is shipped through this route. These emanates from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, the UAE and Qatar. War in the region has affected nearly 13 million barrels per day of oil exports, according to the same source.

Growing incidence of global warming with consequent impact on climate change is another issue which will have immediate and long-term impact on the globe. The crop yields were already under the spell of extreme weather conditions; and are now facing extra costs on account of affected supply of crucial inputs; which will incapacitate the middle-class and marginalized sections of society to pay as consumers of these items. Thus, United Nations' World Food Program has rightly warned that a prolonged conflict could lead to record levels of global hunger.

Global impact of war is yet to be deciphered quantitatively and authoritatively. Fact remains, disruption of shipping lanes along Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea has raised freight costs and lengthened transit times for grains, oilseeds and fertilizers.

—BK