

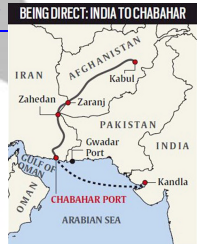


No US Sanctions on Chabahar Port

Why in News

Recently, the External Minister of India replied in the [Parliament](#) that the [US sanctions on Iran](#) have no bearing on [India's Chabahar port project](#) and the port is functioning well.

- The **US has given separate exceptions** for the strategic Chabahar port project. //



Key Points

▪ About Chabahar Port:

- It is located in the **Indian Ocean in the Sistan province of Iran**.
- The Chabahar port is considered a **gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries**.
- The port, which is easily accessible from India's western coast, is increasingly seen as a counter to [Pakistan's Gwadar Port](#) which is being developed with Chinese investment.

▪ Importance of Chabahar Port for India:

- **Alternate Route:** Chabahar Port provides an option of alternate supply route to everyone, thus **reducing the importance of Pakistan** with respect to trade.
- **Strategic Requirements:** It is **located on the Gulf of Oman** and is only 72 km away from the [Gwadar port](#) in Pakistan which has been developed by China.
 - China is aggressively pursuing its own [Belt and Road Initiative](#) (BRI) under the **One Belt One Road (OBOR) project**.
- **Connectivity:** In future, the Chabahar project and the [International North South Transport Corridor](#) (INSTC) will complement each other by optimising Indian connectivity with Russia and Eurasia.

- Also, it gives India direct access to Afghanistan and other Central Asian Republics

▪ Reasons for Exception in US Sanctions:

- **In Interest of Afghanistan:** The US acknowledges that the Chabahar port project is not just only in India's or Iran's strategic interest but also **in Afghanistan's strategic interest**.
 - **Afghanistan** is a landlocked country which **depends on Pakistan for trade**. All its trade goes largely through the Pakistani ports.
 - **Pakistan denies transit to India** for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

- This project **provides Afghanistan a strategic alternative** and helps it to escape being landlocked in a sense.
- **Bypassing Pakistan:** If in future, issues between America and Iran get resolved, then Chabahar Port **will enable America to bypass Pakistan.**
- Pakistan still controls all the administrative routes by which Afghanistan can be supplied.
- US has always remained hesitant to act on terrorists, specifically Afghan Taliban, due to that. **Chabahar Port gives an option to America to take action against such terrorists.**

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