



## CHABAHAH PORT, IRAN: PLACES IN NEWS

**NEWS: Indian Delegation's Visit to Afghanistan:** Led by JP Singh, Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran) in India's Ministry of External Affairs.

- **Purpose:** To discuss Chabahar Port usage, humanitarian aid, and bilateral relations.

### Offer to Use Chabahar Port

- **Chabahar Port Proposal:** India offered the use of Iran's Chabahar Port to Afghan businesses for trade transactions.
- **Contract with Iran:** Earlier in 2024, India signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and operate the port, enhancing regional connectivity and trade.



### Humanitarian Aid Commitment

- **Ongoing Assistance:** India has been sending humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, including wheat, medicines, and earthquake-resistant materials.
- **Embassy Operations:** Although India does not formally recognize the Taliban government, its embassy remains functional with a technical team aiding in humanitarian efforts.

### Significance of the Visit for India-Afghanistan Relations

- **Strengthening Ties:** This visit reflects India's continued commitment to supporting Afghanistan's development and humanitarian needs.



- **Taliban Statement on Cooperation:** The Taliban's defense ministry expressed a desire to expand relations, particularly in humanitarian cooperation, highlighting shared interests despite political differences.

## About:

**Chahabar is Iran's oceanic port nearest to India.** It is situated in Sistan and Baluchistan Province, on the Makran coast. It lies in the Gulf of Oman.

- Chahabar Port project has two main ports called the Shahid Kalantari Port and the Shahid Beheshti Port.
- Iran had offered India the project of developing the Shahid Beheshti port which was well received by India.

## Significance of Chabahar Port:

- **Alternative Trade Route:** Historically, India's access to Afghanistan and **Central Asia** has been largely dependent on transit routes through Pakistan.
  - Chabahar Port offers an **alternative route that bypasses Pakistan**, reducing India's reliance on its neighbour for trade with Afghanistan and beyond.
  - Also, Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Iran, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.
- **Economic Benefits:** Chabahar will play a crucial role in India's efforts to enhance **connections with the resource-rich Central Asian countries and Afghanistan.**
  - It will allow India to **diversify its trading routes** and gain enhanced **access to the markets** of Russia, Eurasia and Europe, apart from Iran and Afghanistan.
    - Cargo movement through **INSTC route is expected to save 30% in cost and 40% in transportation time**, ensuring quick turnaround at a competitive cost.
  - **Central Asian nations**, rich in resources but without direct access to the sea like Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, have **shown interest** in utilising Chabahar to **connect to the Indian Ocean Region** and tap into the Indian market.

**Source:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-official-meets-afghan-defence-minister-offers-use-of-chabahar-port-to-enhance-trade/articleshow/115055736.cms?from=mdr>