

# Iran criticizes US for ‘illegally’ targeting Chabahar Port investments



**Economy Desk**

Iran’s Foreign Ministry on Sunday criticized Washington’s move to revoke sanctions waivers for the southeastern Chabahar Port, calling it an illegal attempt “to block other countries from investing in the facility”.

“The US decision is not only aimed at putting pressure on Iran and hindering the economic development of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, but also at unlawfully preventing other countries from cooperating in the investment and development of Chabahar Port,” Mohammad Reza Bahrani, director-general for South Asia at the ministry, told IRNA.

The US has announced it will

revoke the waiver of sanctions granted to India on Iran’s Chabahar Port, ending the special exemption granted in 2018 during Donald Trump’s first tenure. The exemption had allowed India to operate and develop a trade terminal in the port city on Iran’s Makran coast.

The US State Department said that starting September 29, persons operating Chabahar Port and engaging in related activities would face sanctions under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA). The move, part of the Trump administration’s “maximum pressure” policy, is another setback for India’s plans to develop Chabahar, which has already faced delays due to

wider US sanctions on Tehran. The Iranian Foreign Ministry official said the measure is significant because Chabahar has served as a symbol of cooperation between Iran and countries in the Global South, helping improve geographical access and promote trade and transit across the region.

Bahrani added that Iran and its economic and trade partners, fully aware of the importance of their cooperation, will continue advancing Chabahar’s development plan as a key national and regional project, regardless of what he called Washington’s “illogical and anti-development interference.”

The US decision threatens New Delhi’s \$500 million in-

vestment and its bid to reach Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. Trump’s decision jeopardizes India’s first overseas port project and undermines the Chabahar port, the strategic counter to Pakistan’s Gwadar port run by China.

In a reaction to the US withdrawal of the sanctions waiver, India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said it was “examining its implications” for New Delhi.

“We have seen the US press statement regarding the revocation of the sanctions waiver for Chabahar Port. We are presently examining its implications for India,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told the media.

## First Iran-Kuwait TIR Carnet shipment passes Shalamcheh border

**Economy Desk**

Head of the Khorramshahr Chamber of Commerce announced on Sunday that Iran had exported its first TIR Carnet shipment to Kuwait through the Shalamcheh border crossing.

The cargo, consisting of seafood, was cleared in Iraq and entered Kuwait via the Safwan border, ILNA quoted Mostafa Mousavi as saying.

Tir Carnet, as a valid customs document, allows

goods to pass through countries on the way in a sealed manner, without having to go through repetitive customs formalities at the entry and exit borders.

The shipment was made possible after three years of follow-up efforts by the Khorramshahr Chamber of Commerce, the Ministry of Industries, Mine and Trade, and Agriculture Ministry, he added.

The businessman said the move marks a major

achievement, following Iraq’s accession to the TIR system and multi-agency coordination. With the step, Shalamcheh is now recognized as an official TIR entry point and is expected to serve as a key hub for exports and transit of goods to Iraq, Persian Gulf countries, Jordan and North Africa.

The TIR unit of the Khorramshahr Chamber has also announced readiness to cooperate with domestic and

foreign transport companies, offering services to facilitate international trade and transit.

The formal launch of the crossing with Iraq has drawn the attention of business leaders and tourism experts to its new opportunities, Mousavi has recently said, adding that many argue Shalamcheh is more than a local passage and could be a strategic link in expanding Iran’s trade and tourism.

## Renewable energy projects secure \$4b funding

**Economy Desk**

Iran’s Economic Council authorized the National Development Fund (NDF) to invest in building 8,000 megawatts of renewable energy capacity, with an estimated cost of around \$3.95 billion, IRNA reported.

The approval follows a Leader-endorsed authorization allowing the fund to invest in the energy sector and a resolution by the NDF’s governing board. The fund will participate alongside private sector companies in building and expanding solar and

wind power plants across the country.

Under the decision, the NDF may provide up to 80% of the total investment cost, proportionate to the share of the private company’s contribution, in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

The measure aims to mobilize non-governmental companies to develop renewable energy sites nationwide, while the NDF is required to ensure the repayment of principal and a minimum annual return of 8% in foreign currency.

Electricity generated from these projects will be eligible



for domestic consumption or export and will not be subject to any load management programs.

## President urges turning scientific achievements into industrial growth



President Masoud Pezeshkian(c) chairs a meeting on strategies for advancing Iran’s technological development in the capital Tehran on September 20, 2025. [president.ir](#)

**Economy Desk**

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that translating scientific achievements into industrial growth and transferring knowledge from universities to technology and industrial companies is a priority for his government.

Speaking at a meeting on strategies for advancing the country’s technological development, Pezeshkian said global economic shifts, particularly in the Persian Gulf region’s move toward a post-oil economy, make this effort even more urgent, IRNA reported.

He added that the government plans to use technological and innovation-driven developments as a framework for decision-making.

The meeting, chaired by the president, was held on Saturday evening to review strategies for the country’s technological development. In this session, the global conditions in the field of new technologies, the status of leading countries and the country’s position in this arena were discussed and exchanged in detail.

The necessity of ‘supporting the private sector to facilitate the formation of large technology

companies with global competitiveness’, ‘special attention to participation in the placement of large international companies, especially in the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, high-tech and artificial intelligence’, ‘utilizing the model of leading countries in creating smart cities with the aim of strengthening dozens of industrial disciplines based on artificial intelligence’ and ‘a special focus on developing technology diplomacy’ were among the topics reviewed and emphasized at this session.

At the session, Pezeshkian said Iran should also draw on successful experiences of member states of regional and international organizations such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. He added that the government is committed to supporting technological development and will engage any sector or institution that can contribute.

He asked officials to prepare educational packages in the field of artificial intelligence and new technologies to be included in the student education system and present them to the government, in order to improve the quality of education as one of the government’s major plans.

## A reflection on ...

Failure to secure a majority in favor of extending the suspension of sanctions amounts, under Resolution 2231, to a continuation of the “no decision” state. This is a necessary condition for snapback but not a sufficient one. For the mechanism to be triggered, the no decision status must last the full 30 days. Paragraph 12 makes this clear: If the Security Council has not adopted a resolution under Paragraph 11 to continue the sanctions relief in Paragraph 7(a), then, after the 30th day following the notification, at midnight GMT, the provisions of Resolutions 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, and 1929 shall apply again in the same manner as before the adoption of Resolution 2231.

From these legal premises, at least two conclusions can be drawn. First, the process of snapback is still ongoing, and September 28 will be the day of its enforcement, whether or not the procedural resolution raised on Friday passes (because Resolution 2231 explicitly names no decision as the necessary condition for snapback). Second, given that the continuation of the no decision status for the 30-day window is also the sufficient condition, there remains about one

week for diplomacy — even if that opportunity is merely theoretical. In fact, any permanent or non-permanent member of the Council that is also a JCPOA participant could, through a political deal struck outside the chamber, introduce a draft resolution to extend Resolution 2231 and thus block snapback, even one minute before the deadline at midnight GMT on the 30th day.

The final point is this: the odds of snapback not being provoked are, based on overwhelming political evidence, a formal possibility, not a practical one. But it cannot be overlooked that the pre-2231 resolutions were passed at a time of consensus among the global powers. Just this past Friday, however, Russia, China, Algeria, and Pakistan voted in favor of South Korea’s procedural resolution to extend Iran’s sanctions relief. This underscores that the reinstated resolutions will return in a very different political climate than when they were first adopted, and they will be enforced amid far more complex global dynamics.

For Iran, the costs of their return are inevitable. Yet those costs, compared with the earlier period, and the world’s shift into an era of great powers’ rivalry, are likely to be capped at a lower threshold.