

India secures six-month US waiver to run Chabahar Port

Economy Desk

India confirmed on Thursday that the United States had granted it a six-month sanctions waiver to operate Iran's Chabahar Port, a move that will help New Delhi bolster trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.

"I can confirm that we have been granted an exemption for a six-month period," Indian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a weekly news briefing, referring to the port, Reuters reported.

He added that New Delhi remained engaged with the US on a bilateral trade agreement. "We continue to remain engaged with the US side on finalizing the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discussions. For any further update, I would refer you to the Ministry of Commerce," Jaiswal said.

The announcement follows Washington's decision in September to revoke a sanctions waiver that had allowed India to operate the Chabahar Port since 2018. The White House said on September 18 the exemption would end on September 29, a move that had threatened India's multimillion-dollar investment in the strategic southeastern Iranian port and exposed anyone involved in its operation to possible sanctions. The waiver followed word by US President Donald Trump this week that he wanted to reach a

trade deal with India, signaling a thaw in relations that soured to their lowest point in decades after he doubled tariffs on Indian imports to 50% as punishment for Indian purchases of Russian oil.

India has already provided equipment worth \$25 million, shipped food supplies through Iran's Chabahar Port. The country signed a 10-year agreement with Iran in May 2024 to develop and operate the port, pledging \$120 million in investment and offering an additional \$250 million credit line for infrastructure upgrades.

The port was initially planned with a rail link to Afghanistan for building the landlocked country's economy through trade and reducing Kabul's dependence on the Pakistani port of Karachi. This month India stepped up engagement with Afghanistan by reopening its embassy in Kabul, which had been closed after the Taliban seized power in 2021.

An Indian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the US waiver took effect on Wednesday. The US embassy in New Delhi did not immediately respond to a request for comment, the report by Reuters added.

Iran has long slammed Washington's use of sanctions, with officials in Tehran describing the approach as an "addiction" since the 1979 Islamic Revolution by repeatedly targeting various Iranian entities under shifting pretexts.



ISNA

IRENA meeting in Abu Dhabi

Tehran vows continued renewables expansion despite sanctions



Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the IRENA, Reza Ameri (r.), addresses the agency's 30th Council meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE, on October 30, 2025.

● ISNA

Economy Desk

Iran has made progress in developing renewable energy despite unilateral sanctions and remains committed to diversifying its energy mix, the country's ambassador and permanent representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) said on Thursday. Reza Ameri highlighted Iran's progress in developing solar, wind, biomass and geothermal power plants, as well as in implementing national energy efficiency programs at the agency's 30th Council meeting in Abu Dhabi, IRNA reported. According to the latest data from Iran's Renewable Energy and Electricity Efficiency Organization (SATBA), the country's renewable energy plants now have a daily generation capacity of over 2,700 megawatts, accounting for only 2.8% of Iran's total daily electricity generation capacity of around 95,000 megawatts. The country plans to raise its installed renewable energy capacity to 7,000

megawatts per day by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2026) and further to 11,000 MW per day by next summer, according to the Energy Ministry. President Masoud Pezeshkian's government has set a goal of installing 30,000 MW of renewables in the next three years to help ease daily power shortage which was around 12,000 MW last summer. At the IRENA meeting on Thursday, the Iranian envoy stressed that the Islamic Republic's efforts to advance clean energy continue in the face of economic restrictions. The 30th IRENA Council meeting, held in the United Arab Emirates, brought together more than 400 senior officials from 170 member states and international organizations to review implementation of the agency's 2024-2025 work program and budget and discuss global strategies for clean energy expansion. Ameri underlined IRENA's key role in advancing global renewable energy development and supporting developing nations.

Citing new IRENA statistics showing a 91% increase in newly installed renewable electricity capacity in 2024 and \$460 billion in savings on fossil fuel costs, he said, "These achievements demonstrate the growing resilience and competitiveness of clean energy. However, regional disparities in access to finance and technology must remain a top priority for global cooperation."

"The energy transition must be just, inclusive and based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities," he added. "Without equitable access to financial resources and technology, achieving global goals will not be possible." Ameri welcomed IRENA's initiatives such as the Climate Investment Platform (CIP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAF), calling for their expansion to provide stronger support for developing countries. Reaffirming Iran's backing for IRENA's mission, he said, "The agency's role in realizing a sustainable, secure and equitable future for all nations is vital."

He concluded that the international community should "strengthen cooperation, technology transfer and investment facilitation so that the energy transition becomes not only faster but also fairer, leading to sustainable development and lasting peace for all."

Minister urges free zone officials to expedite \$10b investment plan

Economy Desk

Iran's Economy Minister Ali Madanizadeh on Thursday called on managers of the country's free trade zones to accelerate the implementation of a nationwide transformation plan aimed at attracting \$10 billion in investment over the next three years.

Speaking to a meeting of Kish Free Zone Organization managers in southern Iran, he said, "My request is to finalize and operationalize the discussion of anonymous investments mentioned in the free zone transformation plan as quickly as possible so that the \$10 billion investment target over three years is achieved."

Madanizadeh said that the overall plan for transforming Iran's free zones is being prepared by Kish Free Zone authorities and urged them to finalize the plan quickly, following his recommendations and with the support of foreign consultants.

The minister urged Kish Free Zone officials to "think big," highlighting the potential to turn the island in the Persian Gulf into a regional technology and innovation hub.

Madanizadeh suggested prioritizing the attraction of domestic talent that may face limitations on the mainland, as well as Iranian innovators abroad who could feel more comfortable operating in free zones.



He proposed developing a broader innovation ecosystem beyond the digital economy, concentrating major innovative companies on Kish and bringing leading universities to the island.

"If a nationwide model change is to occur, the first place it should happen is in the free zones," the minister said, highlighting the strategic role of these zones in driving economic transformation.

According to ISNA, Iran currently has 18 approved free trade zones, eight of which — Kish, Qeshm, Chabahar, Aras, Anzali, Arvand, Maku, and Imam Khomeini Airport City — are operational, while the remaining ten — Mazandaran, Incheh Borun, Sistan, Mehran, Qasr-e Shirin, Baneh and Marivan, Sarakhs, Dogharoon, Ardabil, and Bushehr — are in the process of being activated.

Kish Free Zone, located in the Persian Gulf, is one of Iran's most prominent economic zones, aimed at promoting trade, investment, and innovation in the country.

Gilan Province planning Rasht-Oman air cargo route to boost exports



● IRNA

Economy Desk

Gilan Governor General Hadi Haqshenas announced on Thursday that authorities are

working with airlines to launch an air cargo route from Rasht to Oman, aiming to expand the northern province's export capacity.

"With the cooperation of airlines, we are planning to establish an air cargo line from Rasht Airport to Oman to activate air exports," IRNA quoted Haqshenas as saying.

He added that the planned Rasht-Oman route, along with the completion of the Rasht-Astara railway, would further facilitate exports of the province's agricultural products to global markets.

Trade between Iran and Oman reached \$1.153 billion in the first five months of the Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), marking an 11% increase from a year earlier, with Iran's exports — up 16% — driving most of the growth, according to Mehr News Agency.

According to the Gilan governor general, between 400 and 500

trucks currently enter or leave the province daily, and the provincial goal is to raise that figure to 800.

He underscored the importance of export standardization, warning, "If within the next two years products such as kiwifruit lack traceability documents and QR codes, many countries will stop accepting them."

He pointed to a recent instance in which part of a bell pepper shipment was returned, calling it a proof that "our production must be based on scientific principles and global standards."

"The development of processing

and complementary industries — the missing link in agricultural value-added — can help reduce waste and improve productivity," the governor said.

Haqshenas also described the Rasht-Astara railway as one of the country's key development priorities, noting that 90 kilometers of the route have been cleared so far, including 70 kilometers in the past six months. He expressed hope that upon completion, the line, which is part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), would allow Gilan to export goods directly by rail to international destinations.