

Iran and India

changing dynamics in the relation between Iran and China has endangered deep rooted historical cultural ties between India & Iran.

Recently, India got a setback in Chabahar - Zarandj railway line. It is anticipated that this is due to the ongoing talk of the China - Iran for strategic treaty. But India should remain engaged with Iran, since there is lot in the stake. :-

(i) Energy security - Following US sanctions, India stopped the most economical ~~energy~~ crude oil import from Iran. But elections are due in US which can change the scenario.

(ii) Engagement with central Asia - Chabahar port and further development upto Afghanistan is vital for India's 'connect central Asia policy' bypassing Pakistan.

(iii) Power balance in the Gulf - As the world seems to be dividing, the Gulf needs a balancing wheel between Saudi Arabia and Iran. India can be that wheel.

(iv) China factor - China is growing everywhere at the cost of India's Interest, recent 450bn \$ talk is part of it. Increasing share of China in Chabahal will connect it through Gwadar port. Iran has also signed one road-belt initiative. All these can disturb peace of Indian Ocean. Thus a close engagement with Iran is inevitable.

(v) Afghanistan factor - India and Iran both share same concerns related to Taliban, thus politics of ~~by~~ Afghanistan can be ~~not~~ dealt with better engagement with Iran.

Thus, India should maintain the engagement with Iran by overcoming its weakness like delay in project which is the reason given by Iran and smart diplomacy with us for more concessions