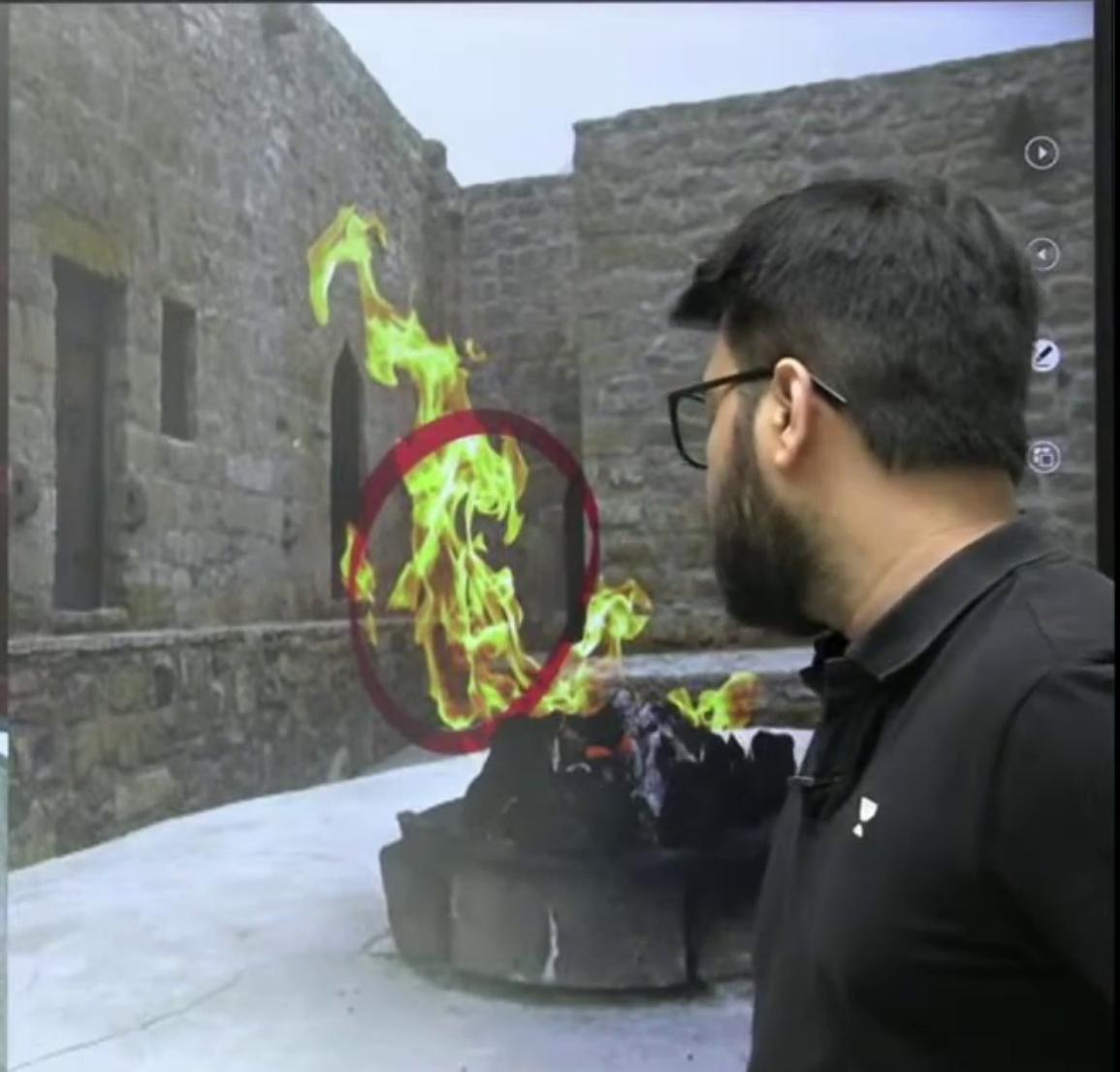






## An Intro

- They have **deep historical links** since the time of Persia and even after Arab conquest in 650 AD.
- “Over the several millennia, they interacted and enriched each other in the fields of language, religion, arts, culture, food and other traditions. Today the two countries enjoy warm, friendly relations and cooperate in a wide range of fields”.
- India hosts **world's largest population** of **Parsi's** followers of **Zoroastrianism** (Spiritual leader **Zoroaster**), God: **Ahura Mazada**, Book **Avesta**.
- Iran is situated in India's **extended neighborhood** and the two countries have significant overlap in their economic and security space.
- **Arab Muslims conquered the empire** in the seventh century AD, and the subsequent Islamization of Iran led to **the decline** of the once dominant **Zoroastrian religion**.



Fire Temple

## Pre Historic

- It is believed that **before 2000-3000 BC**, the inhabitants of **modern Iraq and southern Iran as also the people of west and north west India came from the same region**. Later, around 1500 BC Aryan
- There seems little doubt that the **Indus Valley civilization had contacts with the contemporaneous civilizations of Iran and Mesopotamia**. There is a striking similarity between some of the designs and seals. There was **trade between the coast of southern Iran and India** through the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea. Some **Indus seals have been excavated at Kish, Susa and Ur in Iran**. The Harappan people are believed to have imported silver, copper, turquoise and lapis lazuli from Persia and Afghanistan. Iran supplied silver, gold, lead, zinc, turquoise to ancient India. Ivory was imported from India.





# Iran after 1950's

- Efforts to nationalize its fossil fuel supply from Western companies led to an **Anglo-American coup in 1953**, which resulted in greater autocratic rule under Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and growing Western political influence. (Constitutional Monarchy)
- However, widespread dissatisfaction with the monarchy culminated in the **Iranian Revolution**, which established the current Islamic Republic in **1979**.
- Iran's political system combines elements of a presidential democracy and an Islamic theocracy, with the ultimate authority vested in an autocratic "Supreme Leader"

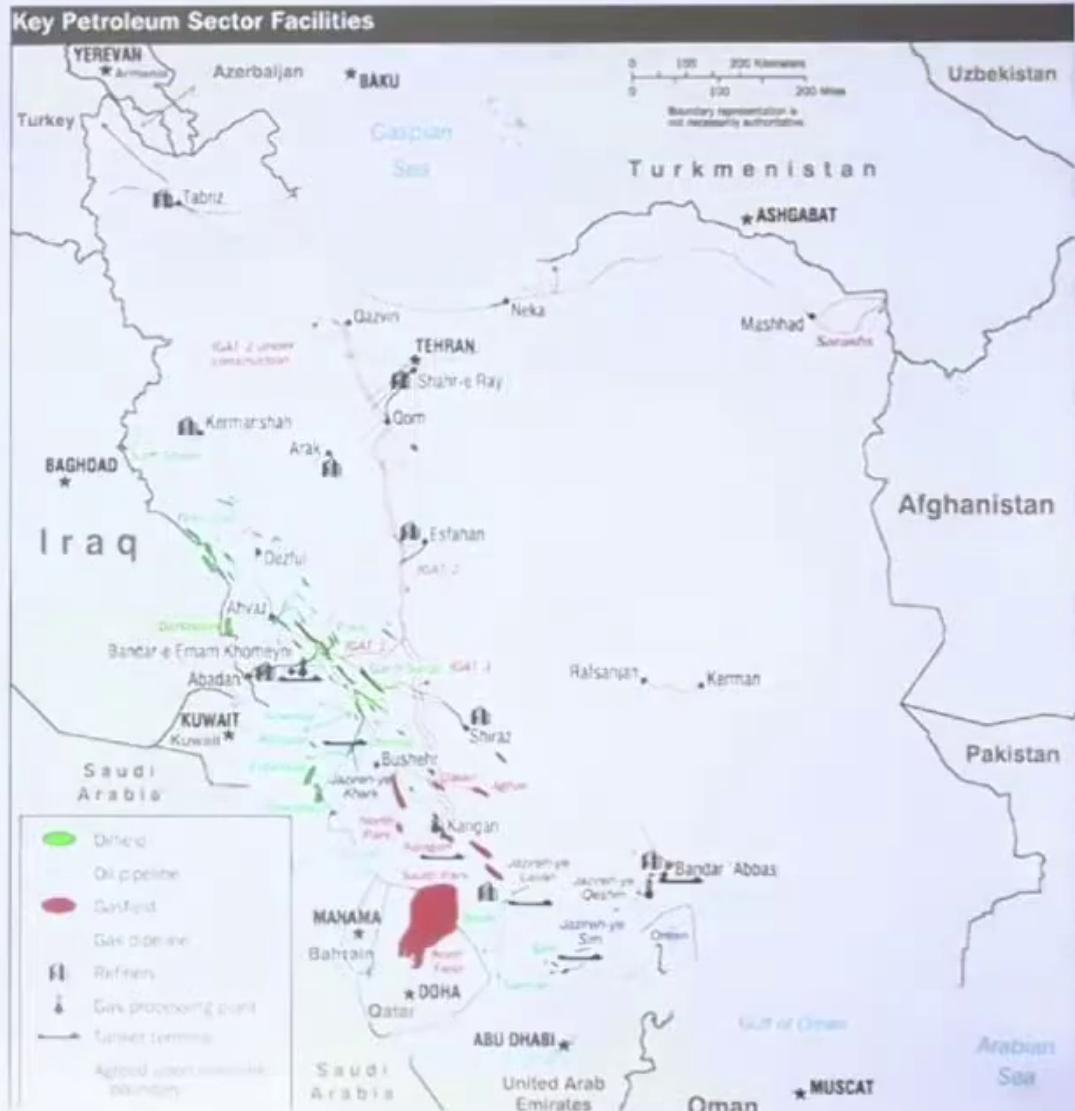


- Both nations established diplomatic relations in 1950's
- Until 1979 relations were **sour and sweet** due to many reasons
- In the 1990s, India and Iran supported the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan against the Taliban regime.
- **India and Iran differ significantly on key foreign policy issues.** India has expressed strong opposition against Iran's nuclear programme and whilst both nations continue to oppose the Taliban, India supported the presence of NATO forces in Afghanistan unlike Iran.
- According to a BBC World Service Poll conducted at the end of 2005, 71% of Iranians viewed India's influence positively
- On 22 May 2016, Prime minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Iran. The visit focused on bilateral connectivity and infrastructure, an energy partnership, and trade. (Chabahar Agreement)





- Iran is a founding member of the UN, OIC, and OPEC. It is a major regional and middle power, and its large reserves of fossil fuels—including the world's largest natural gas supply and the third largest proven oil reserves. Has considerable influence in international energy security and the world economy. The country's rich cultural legacy is reflected in part by its 22 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the third largest number in Asia and 10th largest in the world.



# JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION

P5+1 + Iran

JCPOA is also known as the "Iran deal" or "Iran nuclear deal".

- The deal was made in July **2015**.
- It is an agreement on Iran's nuclear program made between **Iran, the P5+1** (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) and the European Union.
- JCPOA **limits Iran's uranium enrichment programme until 2030** and contains monitoring and transparency measures that will remain in place long after that date.
- A few days after the JCPOA was agreed, it was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

However, in May 2018, United States announced its withdrawal from JCPOA.

## Chabhar Port

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- The strategic Chabahar port project, being developed by India in Iran, is a **separate exception and will not be impacted by U.S.** President Donald Trump's decision of not to renew exemptions that let eight countries including India to buy Iranian oil without facing tough American sanctions.
- The Chabahar port, considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by **India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.**
- For India, Chabahar port is an economic facility by which it can keep an **eye on the happenings in Gwadar.** Also, it gives India, direct access to Afghanistan and other Central Asian Republics.
- It will also give access to Iran's vast gas and oil reserves.

# Geo-strategic push

The consignment of wheat is the first of six shipments to be sent to Afghanistan over the next few months via Iran

Map not to scale



- The Iranian port of Chabahar will be New Delhi's primary gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia

- Chabahar will help ramp up trade between India, Afghanistan and Iran in the wake of Pakistan denying transit facilities

# Chabhar reply to string of pearls by China



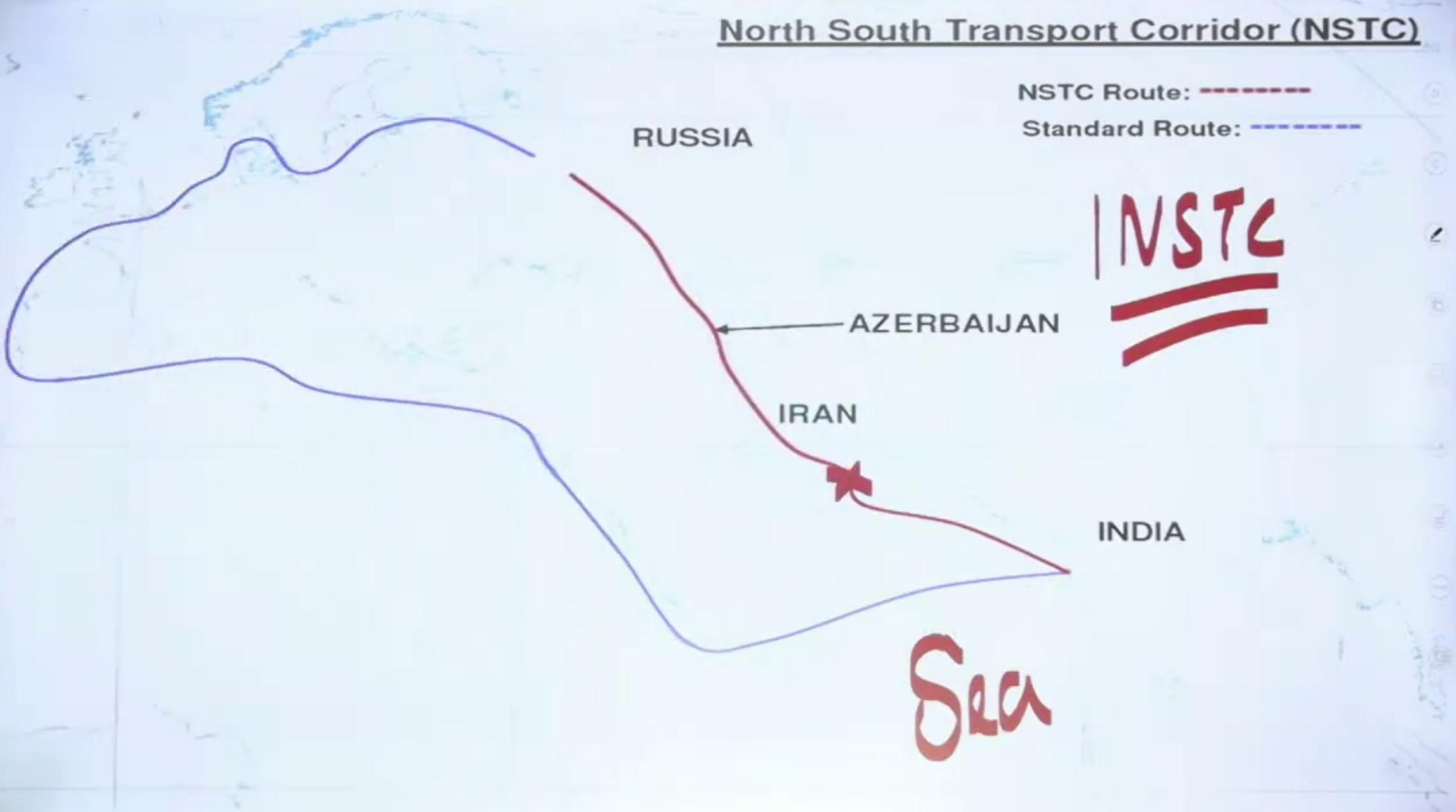
## CPEC and Gwadar Port



Zaranj-  
Delaram  
Highway by  
India



## North South Transport Corridor (NSTC)



## Recent Issues

- The ONGC's foreign arm OVL **is out of the Farzad-B gas field** exploration project. (MEA confirmed)
- Policy changes by the Iranian government, Iran's precarious finances, and the **U.S. sanctions** situation – are the reasons for dropping India from the projects.
- India had proposed to invest **\$1.6 billion in the Chabahar-Zahedan railway line**, and approximately \$6 billion in the Farzad-B gas field project.

Indian  
Railways  
Construction  
Ltd. (IRCON)

## PROJECT ROADMAP



INDIA



### TRADE CORRIDOR TO BE COMPLETED

- Chabahar port to Zahedan  
1,380km

### PARTIALLY COMPLETED

- Zahedan to Zaranj  
200km

### COMPLETED

- Zaranj to Delaram  
218km