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Q84

**What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India? (a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase. (b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened. (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia. (d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India. Official key: C.**

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2017 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

**Explanation**

**(a)**

Chabahar is on Iran's Makran coast facing the Gulf of Oman. It is not a project whose main payoff is an enormous jump in India-Africa trade. This option is not the key.

**(b)**

Oil-producing Arab states lie primarily across the Gulf; Chabahar is an Iran-India-Afghanistan connectivity play, not an Arab-relations instrument as such. This option is therefore wrong.

**(c) Official key**

Developing Chabahar gives India a sea-road-rail route to Afghanistan and Central Asia that does not depend on transit through Pakistan. That strategic access is why (c) is the official key.

**(d)**

Pakistan facilitating an Iraq-India gas pipeline is unrelated and contrary to the geography of Chabahar. This option is not the key.

**Summary**

Official key is (c). Chabahar Port in Sistan-Baluchestan is India's alternative gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia, linked onward to Zaranj-Delaram and the **INSTC** idea. It reduces dependence on Pakistani land routes. Africa trade, Arab oil diplomacy, and an Iraq-India pipeline via Pakistan are not the port's stated importance. Only (c) is correct.

**Related possible facts**

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

**Chabahar location**

Iranian coast west of Pakistan's Gwadar

**Shahid Beheshti terminal**

India-developed terminal at Chabahar

**Zaranj-Delaram**

India-built highway inside Afghanistan linking toward the Iranian border

**INSTC**

International North-South Transport Corridor; Chabahar can feed it

**Gwadar**

China-Pakistan port on the same Makran coast; strategic contrast

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