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# Iran

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## India and Iran sign a MoU for Maritime Cooperation

During the visit of India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarabnada Sonowal's visit to Iran, India and Iran signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual recognition of seafarers' code of conduct for unlimited voyages, promoting [maritime partnership](#) between the two countries. Iran's Roads and Urban Development Minister Rostam Ghasemi, during his consultations with Sonwal, stated that the Iranian government is ready to conclude a long-term contract with India, prioritising the development of transit of goods through the Chabahar Port and ramping up the activities of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Sonowal also visited the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar to hand over six mobile harbour cranes to the Indian Ports Global Chabahar Free Trade Zone at the port. Earlier on July 31, MoPSW in association with India Ports Global observed '[Chabahar Day](#)'. Speaking at the event, Sonwal noted that "India's vision is to make Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar a transit hub and linking it to INSTC to reach out to Central Asian Countries".

## The UAE reinstates Ambassador to Iran

On 22 August, the UAE foreign ministry in a statement said its ambassador, Saif Al Zaabi, would return to Tehran "in the coming days". While Saudi Arabia and Bahrain had severed diplomatic ties as a reaction to the attacks on the Saudi Embassy in Tehran and its Consulate-General in Mashhad in August 2016, the UAE had recalled its ambassador, [downgrading ties](#) to the level of Charge d'affaires. Al Zaabi's return follows three years of tentative diplomacy between Abu Dhabi and Tehran which began in the

summer of 2019, when a series of incidents disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. Most recently, on 28 July, Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh [Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan](#) in a telephone call with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian had discussed ways of "boosting bilateral relations and areas of cooperation" and agreed to return the UAE ambassador to Iran.

## Iran Army conducts large-scale drone exercises across the country

The Islamic Republic of Iran Army conducted two-day large-scale drone drills across the country with the participation of different units of the Army. The spokesperson of the exercise Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi noted that more than 150 home-grown [combat and reconnaissance drones](#), including Yasir, Sadeq, Yazdan, and Ababil-3 tactical surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles, Pelican vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) naval drone, in addition to Mohajer-6 ISTAR aircraft were flown from different bases across Iran and monitored the country's frontiers. The drills were aimed at [testing the accuracy](#), armament strength, flight continuity, guidance and control and combat capabilities of drones. Mousavi, further noted that "due to the expansion of unmanned aerial capabilities, execution of various and numerous drone missions and the need to coordinate such flights, the Army has as set up a command and control network for the drone operations." The drone exercise was the first of its kind in Iran and comes amid reports in the Western media, as well as on the part of U.S. officials that Iran has supplied [drones to Russia](#).

## Iran's Foreign Minister visits Mali and Tanzania

On 22 August, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian paid a visit to

Mali and Tanzania aimed at boosting Iran's economic and political ties with the two African nations. Abdollahian was accompanied by a high-ranking economic delegation, including representatives of the public and private sectors. At a joint press conference with his Malian counterpart Abdoulaye Diop, Abdollahian remarked that "interference by some extra-regional countries is the reason behind formation of some terrorist groups in the West Asia region and Africa." After France ended its nearly ten year old counter-insurgency military operation in June 2022, Mali's military-led government has [accused France](#) of supporting non-state actors including Islamic militants. Iran has also signed an agreement to donate one million doses of home-grown Barakat Covid vaccine to Mali. At a meeting [Iran-Mali joint economic commission](#), the two sides decided to increase their cooperation in areas including digital economy, transportation, rail travel, housing, urban development, and culture. In Tanzania, Abdollahian emphasized implementing the agreements made in the first joint commission of comprehensive cooperation and his meeting with the President of Tanzania. He also called for resolving the issue of visas for Iranian business.

### **Iran's Foreign Minister visits Moscow**

On 31 August, Abdollahian handed over to Lavrov the European '[peace initiative](#)' that he said was given to Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi by a 'top European leader.' He noted that the proposal includes points on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant and prisoners of war. In his meeting with Abdollahian, Lavrov noted that Moscow and Tehran are focusing on the "creation of reliable and constructive mechanisms that will allow for developing mutually beneficial relations regardless of the West's

policy of diktat." Emphasising a long-term framework for bilateral cooperation, Abdollahian noted that "today, we exchanged the latest views on the [comprehensive long-term cooperation agreement](#) between Iran and Russia, and in the near future, this document will enter the implementation stage after the approval of the two countries' parliaments." On the talks to revive the Iran nuclear deal, Abdollahian observed that Iran wants [stronger guarantees](#) included in the text put forward by the EU aiming to salvage the JCPOA". Abdollahian and Lavrov also held talks over the situation in Afghanistan and Yemen, the developments in the Caucasus, the state of the Iran nuclear deal, and other regional and international issues.

### **Iran signs trilateral customs cooperation MoU with Russia and Azerbaijan**

At a trilateral meeting held in Tehran on 22 August, officials from Azerbaijan, Iran and Russia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on [transit facilitation](#). Ever since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war, both Russia and Iran have intensified efforts to augment trade via the INSTC. On the same day, during the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries, in Avaza, Turkmenistan, Turkmenistan agreed to integrate its Caspian [port of Turkmenbashi](#) into the East-West and North-South transportation corridors, including the INSTC. With the integration of Turkmenbashi port on the corridor, the route through Azerbaijan will no longer be the only transit between Iran and Russia.