



## Place in News - Port of Pasni

**Context:** Pakistan has suggested permitting the United States to construct and manage a commercial deep-water port at Pasni, Balochistan, with the objective of exporting essential minerals such as copper and rare earth elements.



### About Port of Pasni:

- The Port of Pasni is a modest deep-water harbor located in the Gwadar district of Balochistan, featuring a fish harbor, a cargo jetty, and a base for the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA). Initially intended for fisheries and coastal trade, it is now included in Pakistan's proposal as a strategic terminal for mineral exports.



**Location:**

- Positioned on the Arabian Sea, approximately 70 miles east of the China-backed Gwadar Port and 100 miles from the Iran-Pakistan border. Its closeness to India's Chabahar Port in Iran ( $\approx 300$  km) places it at the center of South Asia's developing geostrategic maritime triangle — Chabahar (India-Iran), Gwadar (China-Pakistan), and Pasni (US-Pakistan).

**Aim of the Proposal:**

- Pakistan aims to lessen its reliance on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and draw US investment through a strictly commercial venture. The goal is to export critical minerals such as copper, antimony, and neodymium, which are vital for defense and green technologies.

**Key Features:**

- The proposed investment amounts to \$1.2 billion, integrating funding from the Pakistani federal government and private US financing. Plans include establishing rail connectivity to the mineral-rich Reko Diq belt and developing advanced cargo handling infrastructure. Officials stress that the project is non-military, concentrating exclusively on economic collaboration.



**Strategic and Economic Implications:**

- This initiative provides the US with a potential foothold near China's Gwadar and Iran's Chabahar, altering the security landscape of the Arabian Sea. For India, it raises strategic concerns, as the port's proximity to Chabahar could influence maritime surveillance, logistics routes, and intelligence dynamics along the western seaboard.