



EASTERN MARITIME CORRIDOR: INTERNATIONAL RELATION

NEWS: New eastern route cuts down shipping time & costs, promises to boost India-Russia trade

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The EMC connects Chennai to Vladivostok, reducing shipping time to 24 days and distance by 40%, making trade more efficient and cost-effective. It boosts India-Russia trade ties, supports India's energy security, and aligns with the *Act Far East Policy* while countering China's dominance in the South China Sea.

Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC): A Comprehensive Overview

What is the EMC?

- The Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC), also known as the Chennai-Vladivostok sea route, is a strategic shipping route connecting the eastern coast of India (Chennai) with Russia's eastern port city of Vladivostok.
- Operational since early 2024, the EMC is a shorter and more efficient alternative to the traditional Mumbai-St. Petersburg route via the Suez Canal.

Key Features of the EMC

1. Distance and Time Efficiency:

- **Distance:** 5,647 nautical miles (10,458 km), saving 40% of the distance compared to the Mumbai-St. Petersburg route (16,066 km).
- **Time:** Reduces shipping time to 24 days (from 40+ days via the western route).

2. Route:

- Passes through the Sea of Japan, East China Sea, South China Sea, Malacca Straits, Andaman Sea, and Bay of Bengal.
- Includes optional port stops in cities like Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Colombo.

3. Trade Volume:

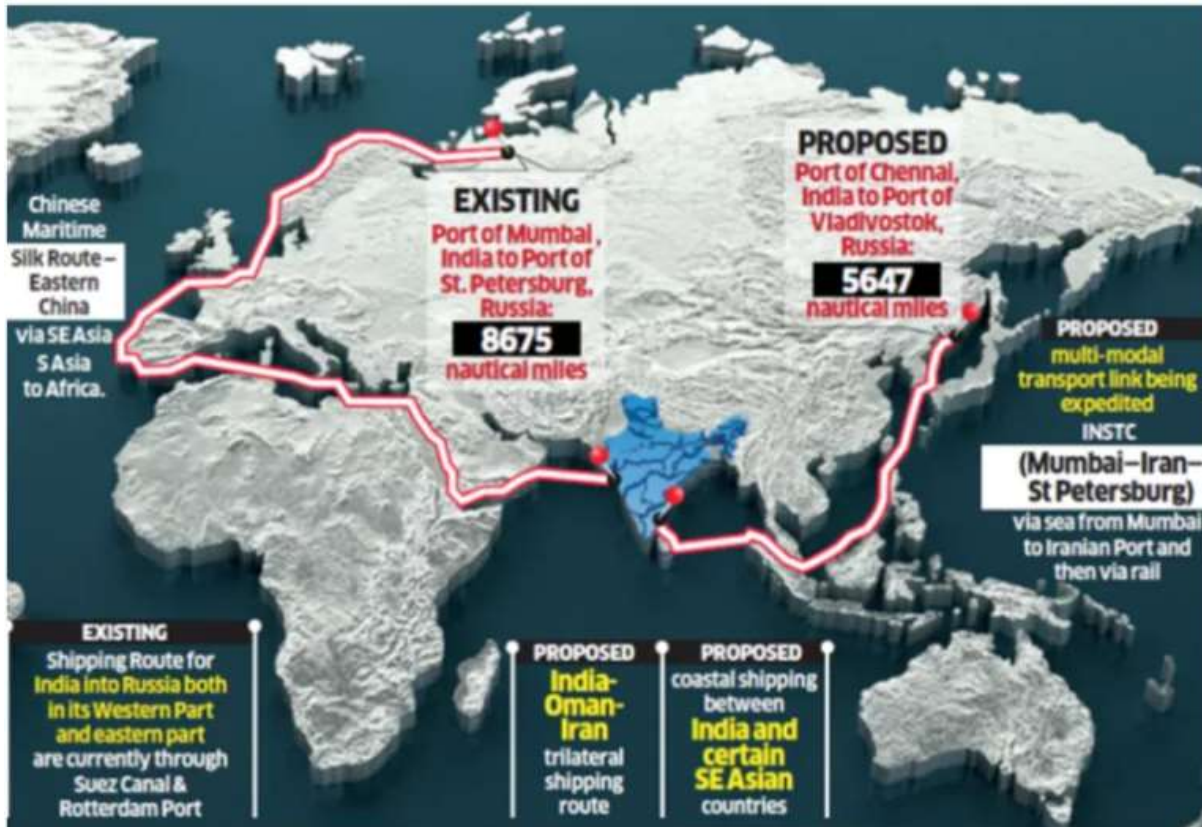
Handles significant trade items:

- **Imports:** Crude oil, coal, fertilizers, vegetable oils, iron, and steel.
- **Exports:** Processed minerals, tea, granite, marine products, and natural stones.



4. Cost Reduction:

- The shorter route leads to significant savings in transportation costs, making trade—especially in commodities like crude oil—more economical. **Economic and Strategic Significance**



Economic Benefits:

- Energy Security:**
 - India, now the largest buyer of Russian oil (surpassing China), benefits from reduced shipping costs for importing crude oil, coal, and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
 - Russian crude oil (Urals grade) constitutes over 75% of India's oil imports from Russia in 2024.
- Boost to India's Maritime Sector:**
 - The maritime sector handles 95% of India's trade by volume and 70% by value. The EMC complements India's *Maritime Vision 2030*.

Geopolitical Significance:

- Strengthening India-Russia Relations:**



- Deepens trade ties and diversifies supply routes, reducing Russia's reliance on China.
- Supports defense and nuclear collaborations with Russia.
- **Countering China:**
 - The EMC's route through the South China Sea provides India with a strategic position in a region dominated by Chinese influence.
- **Act Far East Policy:**
 - Expands India's access to Russia's vast natural resources and strengthens India's position in the Pacific trade network.

EXIM DATA BETWEEN INDIA'S EASTERN PORTS (PARADIP, VIZAG, TUTICORIN, ENNORE, CHENNAI AND KOLKATA) AND RUSSIA SINCE JANUARY 2024

1. Exports - Top five product/commodity basket (by value) are Processed minerals, Iron and steel, Tea, Marine Products, Tea, Coffee

2. Imports - Crude Oil, Project Goods, Coal and Coke, Vegetable Oils, Fertilisers

Quantity wise import data of top 5 commodities are as follows:-

Petroleum crude, coal/ coke, manufactured fertilisers, vegetable oil, Iron and steel (all units normalised to tonnes)

(Source: Ministry of Shipping)

Quantity wise export data of top 5 commodities are as follows:-

process minerals, iron and steel, tea, granite and natural stones, processed fruits and juices (all units normalised to tonnes)

Imports from Russia to India (till Nov 2024)

Commodity	Quantity in tonnes
Petroleum: Crude	16,883,881
Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc	3,739,847
Fertilisers manufactured	9,25,579
Vegetable oils	4,15,330
Iron and Steel	3,27,313
Pulses	2,15,391
Newsprint	37,598
Other crude minerals	31,068
Inorganic Chemicals	21,560

(Source: Ministry of Shipping)

TRADE ROUTED THROUGH PORTS ON INDIA'S EASTERN SEABOARD

1. Chennai Port
2. Paradip
3. Vizag
4. Tuticorin
5. Ennore
6. Kolkata

Challenges and Concerns

1. **South China Sea Tensions:**



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- Passing through the South China Sea brings the EMC under potential geopolitical tensions due to China's assertive territorial claims in the region.

2. Infrastructure Development:

- Enhancing port facilities and logistics in both India and Russia is critical for the full operational potential of the EMC.

3. Global Trade Volatility:

- Any sanctions, global economic fluctuations, or conflicts could impact the trade volume through this route.

Source : <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/india-russia-trade-boost-new-eastern-route-9726640/>

