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1. India, Russia ink proposal on developing Chennai-Vladivostok sea route

Why India wants to connect Chennai with Vladivostok?

What is the strategic significance of this sea route for India?

Can India counter Chinese OBOR through Chennai-Vladivostok sea route ?

What are the connecting dots of Chennai-Vladivostok sea route?

GS paper 2 (Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

Date: 7 September, 2019



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What is the context about?




During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia this week, a Memorandum of Intent was signed to open a full-fledged maritime route between Russia's eastern port city and Chennai on India's eastern seaboard.



Opening of this route between Chennai and Vladivostok assumes significance because it ensures there will be connectivity between the two major ports which will give impetus to the cooperation between India and the Russian Far East.



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Why India wants to connect Chennai and Vladivostok?



In Russian, Vladivostok means the ‘Ruler of the East’. Located on the Golden Horn Bay north of North Korea and a short distance from Russia’s border with China, it is the largest port on Russia’s Pacific coast, and home to the Pacific Fleet of the Russian Navy.




It is the eastern railhead of the legendary Trans Siberian Railway, which connects the far east of Russia to the capital Moscow, and further west to the countries of Europe.



At Vladivostok’s massive port, shipping and commercial fishing are the main commercial activities. Automobiles are a major item of import at the port, from where they are often transported further inland. And thus India can tap its complete potential.



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What is the strategic significance of this sea route for India?



India is building nuclear power plants with Russia's collaboration in Kudankulam on the sea coast in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district. The opening of a sea route is likely to help in the project.



A vibrant sea route will help in the upscaling of trade relations between the two nations. It will also increase India's presence in the Indo-Pacific, and especially the South China Sea, a deeply contested patch of the ocean that Beijing considers its stomping ground.

Can India counter Chinese OBOR through Chennai-Vladivostok sea route ?

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The proposed maritime route can be transformed into corridor that could closely deal with Indo-Japan Pacific to Indian Ocean Corridor to counter China's Maritime Silk Route (MSR) under Border Road Initiative (BRI) which connect entire South East Asia through road, shipping and rail links.



Russia is sensitive to growing Chinese presence in Russia's Far-eastern region particularly increasing population from China which are settling there.



It fears that this pattern could change demographics of Fareast Russia. The growing presence of other countries including India will help to bring balance China's presence in far east region.

What are the connecting dots of Chennai-Vladivostok sea route?

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An ocean liner travelling from Vladivostok to Chennai would sail southward on the Sea of Japan past the Korean peninsula, Taiwan and the Philippines in the South China Sea, past Singapore and through the Strait of Malacca, to emerge into the Bay of Bengal and then cut across through the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago to Chennai.



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