

# International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)

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**In news**– Recently, the movement of containers from Russia's Astrakhan port to Nhava Shiva port in Mumbai has signalled the launch of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

## About the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC)-

- INSTC is a **7,200-km multi-modal transport corridor that combines road, rail and maritime routes connecting Russia and India via central Asia and Iran.**
- INSTC links the Indian Ocean to the Caspian Sea via the Persian Gulf.



- **The primary objective** of the INSTC project is to reduce costs in terms of time and money over the traditional route currently being used
- The corridor also **aims to increase trade connectivity between major cities such as Mumbai, Moscow, Tehran, Baku, Bandar Abbas, Astrakhan, Bandar Anzali, etc**

- **The legal framework for the INSTC is provided by a trilateral agreement signed by India, Iran and Russia at the Euro-Asian Conference on Transport in 2000.**
- Since then Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Syria have signed instruments of accession to become members of the INSTC.
- **Once fully operational, the INSTC is expected to reduce freight costs by 30% and journey time by 40% in comparison with the conventional deep sea route via the Suez Canal.**
- **India's investment in the INSTC is exemplified by its involvement in Iran's Chabahar port** and the construction of a 500-km Chabahar-Zahedan railway line.
- Once completed, this infrastructure will allow India access to Afghanistan and central Asia, a prospect strengthened by the Taliban government's support for the project.
- **The India Ports Global Limited, a joint venture between the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust, will develop the port along with Iran's Aria Banader.**
- INSTC provides an opportunity for the internationalisation of India's infrastructural state, with state-run businesses taking the lead and paving the way for private companies.
- With the INST, India can now bypass Pakistan to access Afghanistan, central Asia and beyond.
- It can shape a north-south transport corridor that can complement the east-west axis of the China-led Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).