

21 July 2025

Context: The Eilat Port in Israel is facing an imminent closure due to a greater than 90% decline in maritime operations, which has been caused by ongoing Houthi assaults in the Red Sea.



About Port of Eilat:

What is the Port of Eilat?

- It is the only commercial port in Israel located on the Red Sea, serving as the southernmost trade gateway for the country.
- Established in 1952 and commencing operations in 1957, it enables maritime connections with Asia, East Africa, and Australia.
- **Location:** Positioned at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba, neighboring Jordan and Egypt.

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Key Features:

- **No railway access:** The closest railhead is situated over 100 km away in Dimona, which restricts the movement of inland cargo.
- Handles 50% of Israel's vehicle imports, primarily from China and the Far East.
- Dedicated terminals for the export of potash and phosphate by Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL).
- Utilized for the transshipment of containers through feeder vessels to Aqaba, Jordan.

Strategic Significance:

- **Bypasses the Suez Canal:** Provides direct access to trade routes in the Indian Ocean.
- Has played a significant role in Arab-Israeli conflicts, particularly during the Suez Crisis and the Six-Day War.
- Crucial for energy imports (historically utilized the Eilat-Ashkelon oil pipeline).
- The port's closure would represent both a symbolic and logistical victory for the Houthis, undermining Israel's trade security.