

Bab el-Mandeb Strait

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Bab el-Mandeb Strait Latest News

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait has returned to the geopolitical spotlight after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi movement announced a maritime blockade against Saudi Arabia.

About Bab el-Mandeb Strait

- It is also known as the **"Gate of Tears" in Arabic**, referring to the large number of shipwrecks that have occurred in this region.
- **Location:** It lies at the southern tip of the **Red Sea**, between **Yemen** and the **Horn of Africa**. It **connects the Red Sea** to the **Gulf of Aden** and further to the Indian Ocean.
- It also separates Arabia, in the northeast, from the African continent, in the southwest.
- It further acts as a link between **the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea** via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.
- The strait is 30 kilometers (KM) wide and is divided into two channels by the Yemeni island of **Perim**, with the eastern channel being called **Alexander's Strait**, while the western-lying **Dact-el-Mayun Channel**.

- **Significance:** It is a crucial link in the trade route connecting the Mediterranean to Asia.
 - Ships transporting goods between Europe and Asia, as well as Middle Eastern oil bound for Europe and North America, pass through it when using Egypt's Suez Canal.

Source: TH

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