

Mayyun Island

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Why in news?

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have captured Mayyun Island and expanded along the Bab al-Mandab Strait, tightening a maritime blockade in the Red Sea.

- **Mayun Island** - It is a small volcanic island that sits directly in the middle of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.
- It is also called Perim Island.
- **Location** - It lies on the Yemeni side of the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, the southern gateway to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.
- **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** - It connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean - one of the world's most important shipping and energy-trade routes in the Red Sea.
- The strait is about 29 km wide at its narrowest point, making it one of the world's most vulnerable maritime chokepoints.
- **Other seized Islands** - Houthis captured the Greater and Lesser Hanish islands, the nearby Red Sea coast, and the Yemeni port city of Mocha.
- Their advance brought them within 30 km of Djibouti, putting the U.S. Camp Lemonnier base within range of Houthi drones and missiles.

Houthi advance toward Bab el-Mandeb

Iran-aligned Houthi forces have taken control of Perim Island (Mayun) and reached the town of Dhubab, after capturing the Red Sea port of Mocha, according to Reuters and AP reports.



References

1. [India Today | Houthis seize key Yemen island](#)
2. [Indian Express | Houthis close in on Bab el-Mandeb](#)