



## Place in News - Dardanelles Strait

**Context:** The Dardanelles Strait, located in northwestern Turkey, has been temporarily shut to maritime traffic due to wildfires in the vicinity of Çanakkale, leading to evacuations and firefighting efforts.



### About the Dardanelles Strait:

- A narrow, natural sea channel that links the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara. Historically referred to as the Hellespont, it has served as a vital route for trade and military strategy since ancient times.

### Location:

- Positioned in northwestern Turkey, it separates Europe's Gallipoli Peninsula (to the northwest) from Asia Minor (to the southeast).



- It is entirely within Turkey's territorial waters.

**Features:**

- **Length & Width:** It measures 61 km in length, with a width varying from 1.2 km to 6.5 km.
- **Depth:** The average depth is approximately 55 m, with a maximum of about 90 m in the central narrow sections.
- **Currents:** The surface current flows from the Sea of Marmara towards the Aegean, while an undercurrent transports saline water in the opposite direction.
- **Ports & Settlements:** Notable ports include Gallipoli, Eceabat, and Çanakkale.
- **Historical Significance:** It has been a crucial battleground in ancient conflicts, including the Persian invasion (480 BCE), Alexander's expedition (334 BCE), and the Gallipoli Campaign during WWI.

**Implications:**

- **Global Trade:** The closure affects shipping routes between Europe, Asia, and the Black Sea through the Bosphorus.
- **Geopolitical Importance:** It serves as a maritime chokepoint that is essential for Turkey's strategic influence and NATO's security interests.