

# PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



Japan's Prime Minister emphasized bilateral cooperation in the ambitious plan to build a bridge across Italy's Strait of Messina recently.

## **Strait of Messina**

It is a narrow water body in the Mediterranean Sea in southern Italy.

It is an example of a strait that runs through a country. It separates mainland Italy and the island of Sicily. It is named after the city of Messina, located on the northeastern tip of Sicily.

It is a 32 km-long strait that connects the Tyrrhenian Sea in the north with the Ionian Sea in the south. Both are parts of the larger Mediterranean Sea. At its narrowest point, the strait is about 3.1 kilometers wide.

The strait is generally narrow and shallow, with an average depth of 90 m, and is 250 m deep at the deepest point. The waters of the strait are known for strong currents, whirlpools, and tidal flows.

The strait was greatly feared by sailors in antiquity, mainly because of the rocks and whirlpools known as Scylla and Charybdis, which were personified as female monsters in Greek mythology.

It has a unique marine ecosystem due to its strong water currents.

The alternating and intense current, abundant phosphorus and nitrogen, and low water temperature support abundant and diverse species.

It is a migratory route used by fish and other species to access the Mediterranean Sea.

Every year, several bird species pass through the strait to their breeding grounds in Europe.