

## **Disputed Persian Gulf Islands**

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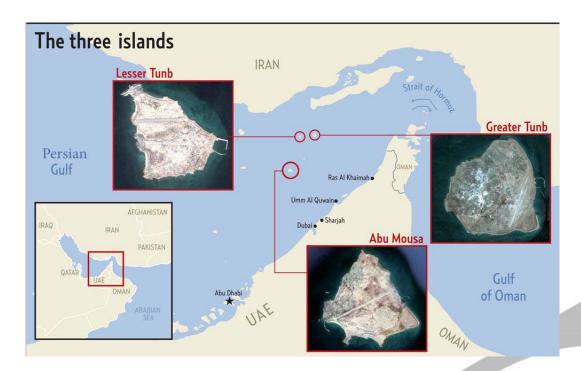
## Why in News?

Tensions between <u>Iran</u> and the <u>United Arab Emirates (UAE)</u> have escalated as a joint statement issued at the **6**<sup>th</sup> **Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Morocco** challenged Iran's claims to three disputed islands in the **Persian Gulf**.

A joint statement signed by Russia and Arab countries has called for a peaceful resolution to the Iran-UAE conflict over disputed islands. In response, Iran summoned the Russian envoy to express its protest against the joint statement.

## What is the Dispute Over the Persian Gulf Islands?

- The dispute involves three islands in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, namely the Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa.
- Iran claims that the islands have been part of Persian states since the ancient past until they were occupied by the British in the early 20th century.
  - Iran took control of the three islands after **British forces withdrew in 1971.** It considers them an **"inseparable" part of its territory.**
  - It also says that It has an agreement with Sharjah, one of the UAE's seven emirates, which gives it the right to **administer Abu Musa** and station troops there.
- The UAE asserts ownership of the disputed islands, with Ras al-Khaimah(City in the UAE) claiming Greater and Lesser Tunbs, and Sharjah claiming Abu Musa.
  - The UAE contends that Iran forcibly seized the islands from Ras al-Khaimah just before the formation of the **Emirati Federation in 1971.**



## **Persian Gulf**

- The Persian Gulf is a shallow sea in the Indian Ocean that borders the Arabian Peninsula and southwestern Iran. It's also known as the Arabian Gulf.
- The Persian Gulf is bordered by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.
- The Persian Gulf is connected to the Gulf of Oman by the Strait of Hormuz.
  - The Strait of Hormuz is situated between **Qeshm Island** and the **Iranian coast** in the north and the Musandam Peninsula of the Arabian Peninsula in the south.
- Persian Gulf countries are major producers of crude oil and natural gas.

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