



Disputed Persian Gulf Islands

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Why in News?

Tensions between [Iran](#) and the [United Arab Emirates \(UAE\)](#) have escalated as a joint statement issued at the **6th 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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