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News: Dispute Over the Persian Gulf Islands

- 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 the joint statement.

Persian Gulf Islands Dispute

- Persian Gulf Islands Dispute is the **dispute between Iran and United Arab Emirates (UAE)** involving 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 **Iran 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

- Persian Gulf is an **arm of the Arabian Sea located between the southwestern Iran and the Arabian Peninsula.**

- Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman (Musandam exclave) and Iran border the Persian Gulf.
- It is connected to the Gulf of Oman in the east 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.

Strategic Importance

- Persian Gulf countries are major producers of crude oil and natural gas.
- Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia are members of OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

