

Gulf leaders meet in Saudi to discuss Iran war's fallout

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia hosted leaders and officials from across the Gulf on Tuesday to discuss the ongoing crisis in the region. The talks in the coastal city of Jeddah come as the White House considers Iran's latest proposal to end the two-month-old conflict.

"During the summit, a number of topics and issues related to regional and international developments were discussed, as well as the coordination of efforts in response to them," Saudi press agency reported. A source close to the govt said that "the current political and security situation in the region" was being discussed during the summit. AFP

UAE to leave Opec amid energy crisis

Policy Decision Based On Production Levels; Didn't Consult Saudi Arabia: Energy Minister

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates said on Tuesday it was quitting Opec and Opec+, dealing a heavy blow to the oil producers' group as an unprecedented energy crisis triggered by the Iran war exposes discord among Gulf nations.

The loss of UAE, a longstanding Opec member, could weaken the group, which has usually sought to show a united front despite internal disagreements over geopolitics and production quotas.

UAE energy minister Suhail Mohamed al-Mazrouei said the decision was taken after a careful look at the regional power's energy strategies. Asked whether the UAE consulted with Opec's de facto leader and regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia, he said the UAE did not raise the issue with any other country.

"This is a policy decision, it has been done after a careful look at current and future policies related to level of production," said the energy minister.

Opec Gulf producers have been struggling to ship exports through the Strait of Hormuz, a chokepoint between Iran and Oman through which a fifth of the world's crude oil and liquefied natural gas normally passes, because of Iranian threats and attacks against vessels.

Mazrouei said the UAE's move, in which it will leave Opec and Opec+ as of May 1, would not have a huge impact on the market because of the constraints in the strait.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Count-

DENT TO CARTEL'S UNITY

What is Opec

➤ Founded in 1960, it has 12 major oil producing countries – Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, UAE, Kuwait, Venezuela, Nigeria, Algeria, Angola, Libya, Congo, Gabon

➤ The cartel of oil producers manages oil production, dictates global oil prices to maximise gains for the members

What is Opec+

Founded in 2016 in the aftermath of oil price crash, it is an expanded alliance constituting of Opec members and other non-Opec major oil producing countries – Russia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Oman, Azerbaijan



WHAT DOES UAE'S EXIT MEAN

Weakens the unity of the cartel that has controlled oil prices for the past 6 decades

UAE can now freely raise production, leading to possible downward pressure on oil prices

Expands rivalry with Saudi Arabia, which has advocated strict production quotas

UAE exit news trims oil price gains

Brent crude futures for June climbed 3.1%, to \$111.6 a barrel, posting gains for a seventh straight day after gaining 2.8% to close the previous session at their highest since April 7. US WTI crude for June rose 3.7%, to \$100.1 a barrel, after gaining 2.1% in the previous session. WTI futures rose above the \$100 per barrel threshold for the first time since April 13.

Prices pared some gains after UAE said it had quit Opec and Opec+, dealing a heavy blow to the oil exporting groups. REUTERS

ries (Opec) and allies including Russia are known collectively as Opec+, and the UAE was their fourth-largest producer. Together they controlled nearly half the world's oil before the war.

The International Energy Agency said that Opec+ saw its share of global oil output decline to 44% in March from about 48% in Feb. It is likely to fall further in April as production shut-ins become more pronounced.

"This opens the door for

the UAE to gain global market share when the geopolitical situation normalises," said Monica Malik, chief economist at ADCB. Operating outside the producer group allows the UAE to fully leverage its position as a supplier of some of the world's lowest-cost and lowest-carbon barrels.

The UAE has recently doubled down on its relationships with the United States and Israel, especially after coming under attack during the Iran war. REUTERS

SCI may run vessels to

India 5th largest military spender at over \$92 bn in 2025, says Sipri

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India was fifth biggest military spender globally in 2025 and the country increased its military spending by 8.9% to \$92.1 billion, according to a report released by arms watchdog group Sipri on Monday.

The India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025 — which involved use of combat aircraft, drones and missiles — pushed up India's military spending during the year, according to the report.

"Pakistan's military spending grew by 11% to \$11.9 billion in 2025. The increase was largely due to new orders for aircraft and missiles placed with China in 2025 following the armed conflict

India's spending rose by 8.9%, while Pakistan grew its military spending by 11% to \$11.9 bn

with India in May, as well as payments for earlier procurement contracts nearing completion," according to Sipri's annual "Trends in World Military Expenditure" report.

China, the world's second largest military spender, increased its military spending by 7.4% to \$336 billion. This was the 31st consecutive year-on-year increase as China continued its military modernisation drive.

"A renewed campaign against corruption in military procurement does not

appear to have constrained spending," the report said.

At \$954 billion, military spending by the US was 7.5% lower in 2025 than in 2024. The drop was primarily because no new financial military assistance for Ukraine was approved during the year. This was in sharp contrast to the previous three years, when a total of \$127 billion was approved.

The five biggest spenders in 2025 were the US, China, Russia, Germany and India, together accounting for 58% of world military spending, at a total of \$1,686 billion.

The global world military expenditure reached \$2,887 billion in the year 2025, the 11th consecutive year of growth.

India set to receive 4th unit of S-400 missile systems early next month



NEW DELHI, Apr 28 (PTI)

INDIA is expected to receive the fourth unit of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system from Russia in the first part of next month that is expected to further enhance the IAF's air defence mechanism, sources in the security establishment said on Tuesday.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to procure five units of the missile systems and three of them have already been delivered.

The sources said the fifth unit of the missile will be delivered by November under an updated timeline for supplying the weapon system.

The S-400 missile systems played a crucial role during Operation Sindoor.

Last month, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia that will take the total number to 10.

It is learnt that the fourth unit of the missile system has already been shipped and it is expected to reach India in the next few days.

India had signed the deal for procurement of the S-400 missiles over seven years back notwithstanding a warning by the US that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions under the provisions of Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

The sources said India is not expecting any possible hindrance from US sanctions as the new procurement will be a "follow on" order of the previous order.

Review of Nuclear NPT begins at UN

■ **By Edith M Lederer**

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 28 (AP)

THE United States and Iran clashed over Tehran's nuclear programme as a review of the treaty meant to prevent the spread of atomic weapons got underway on Monday at the United Nations, a confrontation almost certain to be repeated during the monthlong meeting.

At issue was the election of Iran as one of 34 Vice Presidents of the conference, where 191 parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty are reviewing its implementation as they have done every five years since it took effect in 1970.

Iran was a candidate of what has been dubbed the "nonaligned movement," made up of 121 mainly developing countries. Tensions over Tehran's nuclear programme escalated ahead of the Iran war, with President Donald Trump vowing to ensure the country cannot build an atomic weapon.

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Iran just informed US that it's in state of collapse: Trump

WASHINGTON, Apr 28 (AP)

PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed that Iran "has just" informed the US that it is in a "state of collapse". "They want us to "Open the Hormuz Strait," as soon as possible, as they try to figure out their leadership situation," Trump posted.

He added that he believes they will be able to sort out reported divisions within the Islamic Republic Government about negotiations with the US. The White House did not immediately respond to questions about who on the Iranian side delivered the

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Rajnath cautions SCO not to go slack on sponsored terror

NEW DELHI, Apr 28 (PTI)

THE Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) must not lose sight of "state-sponsored" cross-border terrorism as there is no place for any "double standards" in combating the menace, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday in a clear reference to Pakistan's support to various terror groups.

In his address at a conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Singh said India demonstrated its "firm resolve" during Operation Sindoor that "terror epicentres are no longer immune to justifiable punishment". "We must not lose sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the very sovereignty of a nation state," he said.

"There is no place for any double standards, and SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists," Singh said.

The Defence Minister pitched for concerted global efforts to combat terrorism.

"We are also facing a growing challenge in the form of extremism, radicalism and terrorism. Terrorism has become the most

serious threat to the emerging world order."

"It is in this backdrop that the SCO emerged as an organisation, based on our shared values. The SCO has condemned such acts and ideologies in a common fight against terrorism," he said. Rajnath meets Chinese Defence Minister Dong in

Bishkek: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun on the margins of a multilateral conclave in Bishkek. It is learnt that the two ministers reviewed the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

"It was a pleasure to interact

with the Defence Minister of China Admiral Dong Jun during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek," Singh said on social media. There is no official word yet on what transpired during the talks between Singh and Dong. The Defence Minister also met his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other dignitaries during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday.

(PTI)