Xi, Trump, Putin hold first trilateral summit in Shenzhen

Topics: International Affairs · UPSC Prelims · TNPSC · SSC · Current Affairs



News

The Presidents of three nuclear-weapon States – Xi Jinping (China), Donald Trump (United States) and Vladimir Putin (Russia) – held a trilateral summit in Shenzhen, China, on 19 November 2026. Hosted by Xi on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting, it was the first three-way meeting of the three countries' leaders, AFP (via Euronews) and MercoPress reported. Xi and Putin had held bilateral talks on 18 November – their fifth meeting this year (one by video link). After the meeting the three issued a joint 'peace declaration' committing to stable energy flows, a dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing proliferation, and strategic stability (Al Jazeera). The declaration reaffirmed that a nuclear war 'cannot be won and must never be fought' (Reuters). The US–Russia bilateral nuclear weapons treaty expired in February 2026; China holds that the US and Russia, with far bigger arsenals, must cut first. The declaration also asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) and similar bodies not to 'abuse their jurisdiction'; none of the three is an ICC member. Kyiv and European capitals voiced concern that Ukraine's future could be settled without them (Euronews).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Date, place	19 November 2026 – Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China
Leaders	Xi Jinping (China, host), Donald Trump (USA), Vladimir Putin (Russia)

Point	Details
Significance	First three-way meeting of the three countries' leaders (AFP, MercoPress)
Occasion	APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Shenzhen (18–19 Nov)
APEC 2026 theme	'Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together'
Declaration	Stable energy flows; dialogue on nuclear-risk reduction and non-proliferation; strategic stability
Xi–Putin	Bilateral talks on 18 Nov – fifth meeting this year (Euronews)
Arms control	US–Russia New START – expired February 2026
ICC	None of the three is a member; declaration says the ICC must not 'abuse' its jurisdiction

Background

- APEC: The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, launched in Canberra in 1989 at the initiative of Australian PM Bob Hawke, has 21 member 'economies'; its secretariat is in Singapore. The US, China and Russia are members; India is not. China hosted APEC earlier in 2001 and 2014; the 2026 theme is 'Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together'.
- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): signed in 1968, in force since 1970. It recognises as 'nuclear-weapon States' only the five that exploded a device before 1 January 1967 – the US, Russia (USSR), UK, France and China, who are also the UN Security Council's permanent members. India, Pakistan and Israel never joined; North Korea withdrew in 2003.
- Arms control: New START, signed by the US and Russia in Prague in 2010, capped deployed strategic warheads at 1,550; it expired in February 2026. The US had quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019. India, after its 1974 (Pokhran-I) and 1998 (Pokhran-II) tests, adopted a 'No First Use' doctrine in 2003.
- Shenzhen: a Guangdong city next to Hong Kong; in 1980, under Deng Xiaoping's reforms, it became one of China's first Special Economic Zones (SEZs). It grew from a fishing village into a world electronics and technology hub. China's model is often cited as an inspiration for India's SEZ policy (2000) and SEZ Act (2005).

Tamil Nadu link: The second informal summit between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping (the 'Chennai Connect') was held at Mamallapuram, Chengalpattu district, on 11–12 October 2019; the first was at Wuhan, China, in 2018. Also, the Kudankulam nuclear power plant (Tirunelveli district), built with Russian cooperation, is a symbol of India–Russia nuclear ties.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

The Presidents of three nuclear-weapon States – Xi Jinping (China), Donald Trump (United States) and Vladimir Putin (Russia) – held a trilateral summit in Shenzhen, China, on 19 November 2026.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Date, place: 19 November 2026 – Shenzhen, Guangdong province, China; Leaders: Xi Jinping (China, host), Donald Trump (USA), Vladimir Putin (Russia); Significance: First three-way meeting of the three

countries' leaders (AFP, MercoPress); Occasion: APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Shenzhen (18–19 Nov).

What is the background to this news?

APEC: The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, launched in Canberra in 1989 at the initiative of Australian PM Bob Hawke, has 21 member 'economies'; its secretariat is in Singapore.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. APEC, on whose sidelines the Shenzhen summit was held, was founded in 1989 in which city?

A) Singapore

B) Bangkok

C) Canberra

D) Tokyo

Answer: C – Explanation: Canberra – at Australian PM Bob Hawke's initiative. APEC has 21 member economies; its secretariat is in Singapore. India is not a member.

2. The NPT recognises as 'nuclear-weapon States' only those that exploded a nuclear device before which date?

A) 1 January 1967

B) 1 January 1970

C) 18 May 1974

D) 1 January 1957

Answer: A – Explanation: 1 Jan 1967 – the US, Russia, UK, France and China. India, which tested in 1974, has not signed the NPT.

3. Shenzhen, one of China's first Special Economic Zones, lies in which province?

A) Fujian

B) Hainan

C) Guangdong

D) Zhejiang

Answer: C – Explanation: Guangdong – next to Hong Kong; it became an SEZ in 1980 under Deng Xiaoping's reforms. Xiamen SEZ is in Fujian.

4. Which last remaining US–Russia nuclear arms-control treaty expired in February 2026?

A) INF Treaty

B) SALT II

C) CTBT

D) New START

Answer: D – Explanation: New START – signed in Prague in 2010; it capped deployed warheads at 1,550. The US quit the INF Treaty in 2019.

5. Where was the second Modi–Xi informal summit held in October 2019?

A) Wuhan

B) Mamallapuram

C) Ahmedabad

D) Goa

Answer: B – Explanation: Mamallapuram (Chengalpattu district) – 11–12 Oct 2019, the 'Chennai Connect'. The first informal summit was at Wuhan, China, in 2018.

Sources: Reuters; Euronews (AFP/AP); Al Jazeera; MercoPress; APEC; Shenzhen Longgang Govt. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.