

## General Studies-2; Topic: India and its neighbourhood.

### U.S and Iran Nuclear Agreement

#### 1) Introduction

- U.S. President Donald Trump has decertified the Iran nuclear deal, describing it as against U.S. national security interests
- The Iran nuclear deal was the culmination of 13 years of diplomacy and was a major step towards ensuring that Iran's nuclear program is not diverted for military purposes.

#### 2) Highlights

- Under American law, the administration has to certify that Iran is technically in compliance with the deal, every 90 days.
- Now the U.S is refusing to certify the nuclear deal
- All other signatories, as well as the UN, insist that Iran is fully complying.
- The deal is a success as it prevented a country with potential nuclear capabilities from developing weapons
- But Trump, call it the “worst agreement in American diplomatic history”
- Trump appears to be going by the advice of two key American allies in the region, Israel and Saudi Arabia
- EU and China may not give much credence to Trump's decision because EU has got extensive business relations with Iran and Iran is critical for China's OBOR project.

#### 3) Trump's Statements

- Iran nuclear deal is “one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into”.
- The Iranian regime supports terrorism and exports violence across West Asia.
- We must not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons.
- Iran has not lived up to the spirit of their agreement.
- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is at odds with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the other five signatories to the deal
- He accused Iran of supporting Al Qaida, Taliban, Hamas and Hezbollah.
- He also blamed Iran for the civil wars in Syria and Yemen.

#### 4) Significance of Iran Nuclear Deal

- The Iran deal, despite its shortcomings, was a shining example of the capacity of world powers to come together and sort out a complex issue diplomatically.
- It assumed greater significance given the recent wars and chaos in West Asia.
- It should have set a model in addressing other nuclear crises.
- Iran deal, and other diplomatic achievements, is necessary to convince countries like North Korea, that it is possible to create security without acquiring nuclear weapons.
- The deal is important in ensuring the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and regional peace and stability.

### 5) Impact of Trump's Decision

- The damage Trump's decision has done to the agreement and to American diplomacy in general is huge.
- Instead, by going after Iran even though it complies with the agreement, the U.S. is damaging its own reputation.
- The reset of Iran and US relations which was possible because of Obama's approach is now in doubt.
- By undermining the Iran nuclear deal, Donald Trump is undermining the global non-proliferation regime and international institutions.
- It would be a great setback for rules-based multilateral mechanisms.
- Iran, Russia and European leaders have condemned President Trump's decision.
- It reflects the growing isolation of the United States and could make it harder to resolve the growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.
- More sanctions could be imposed on Iran.

### 6) Impact on India

- India and Iran relations are on downward trend in recent times.
- Oil supplies are reduced to India and Iran is not in favour of allotting gas fields to India in recent times. Mostly India's relations with the US might be the reason for this.
- But India is in a better position having been forced to diversify its crude supplying base
- It may impact on Chabahar port project if US impose more sanctions on Iran.
- It will impact India's balance in the complex West Asia region.

### 7) Conclusion

- If U.S. is serious about non-proliferation, it should use the Iran deal to resolve other complex international conflicts.