

## **1. Iran Nuclear Talks set to Resume After Five Months**

**Prelims Syllabus:** International Relations

**Mains Syllabus:** GS-II Effect of policies and politics of Developed and Developing countries on India's Interests, Indian Diaspora.

### **Why in News?**

- The international talks have resumed in Vienna to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

### **About the News:**

- The talks are held between the remaining partners to the deal — Iran, China, Russia, Germany, France and the U.K.
- The talks seek to bring back the United States, after it withdrew from the accord in 2018 under then President Donald Trump and began imposing sanctions on Iran.

### **About the Iran Nuclear Deal:**

- Also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 and 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).
- Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for Nuclear Weapons.

### **What's the Concern Now?**

- Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018. Besides, he opted for a “maximum pressure” campaign by imposing sanctions and other tough actions.
- Iran responded by intensifying its Enrichment of uranium and building of centrifuges, while maintaining its insistence that its nuclear development was for civilian and not military purposes.
- Again, In January 2020, following the drone strike on Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Gen. Qasem Soleiman, Iran announced that it would no longer observe the JCPOA's restraints.
- The collapse of the JCPOA drags Iran towards nuclear brinkmanship, like North Korea, which has created major geopolitical instability in the region and beyond.

**Significance of the Deal for India:**

- Removing sanctions may revive India's interest in the Chabahar port, Bandar Abbas port, and other plans for Regional Connectivity.
- This would further help India to neutralize the Chinese presence in Gwadar port, Pakistan.
- Restoration of ties between the US and Iran will help India to procure cheap Iranian oil and aid in Energy Security.

