



Iran to Pull Out of NPT

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Why in News

Iran has warned to **withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** if the European Nations refer the dispute over its atomic programme to the **United Nation Security Council**.

Background

- Iran had signed the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** with US, UK, France, Germany, Russia and China in 2015 that had offered it access to global trade in return for accepting curbs to its atomic program.
- In 2018, the US unilaterally pulled out the pact and **reimposed sanctions on Iran**.
- Recently, the top **Iranian general Qassem Soleimani** (the commander of the Al-Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, IRGC) was assassinated by the US during his visit to Iraq. This has escalated tensions in the international arena.
- Amid rising tensions, Britain, France and Germany declared that Iran was violating the 2015 pact and have launched a **dispute mechanism** that could eventually see the matter referred back to the Security Council and the reimposition of U.N. sanctions.

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

- The NPT is an **international treaty** whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.
- The treaty was signed in **1968** and entered into force in **1970**. Presently, it has 190 member states.
- It requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- It represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.

- Nuclear-weapon states parties under the NPT are defined as those that manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive devices before January 1, 1967.

India's Stand on NPT

- India is one of the only five countries that either did not sign the NPT or signed but withdrew later, thus becoming part of a list that includes **Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan.**
- India always considered the NPT as **discriminatory and had refused** to sign it.
- India has opposed the international treaties aimed at non-proliferation since they were selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and legitimised the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers.