

Trump on the Iran nuclear deal

What is the issue?

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- In his inaugural speech in the ongoing UN summit US President Trump has slammed the Iran-US nuclear deal and said that the deal would be revisited.

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- World nations are critical of this decision as it seems to set a wrong precedent in the nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

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What is the deal about?

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- The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal is an international agreement on Iran's nuclear program, reached in 2015.

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- It's a deal negotiated among Germany, the five permanent UN Security Council members (China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S) and the European Union.

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- The agreement was to curb Iran's nuclear program in return for removing some economic sanctions imposed on it earlier.

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What is the US's stance?

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- U.S critics of the deal are sceptical of Iran's continuing ballistic-missile program.

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- They also show disagreement with the sunset provisions in the deal that

provides for easing the restrictions on Iran's uranium enrichment starting in 2025.

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- According to U.S. law, the administration must certify the Iran deal every 90 days.

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- While the Trump administration has twice done so, the next deadline is October 15, when possibility of withdrawal of the certification is high.

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- Despite the criticisms, Iran has maintained that it's ballistic-missile program was a defensive measure given the enemies in the volatile Middle East.

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Why is US decision a dangerous precedent?

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- Failure of the U.S. to respect an international agreement to which it's a signatory would set a dangerous precedent.

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- The Iran nuclear deal is a fairly successful deal as it prevented, by peaceful means, a country with potential nuclear capabilities from developing weapons.

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- Also, international agencies have repeatedly certified that Iran is fully compliant with the terms of the agreement right from its coming into effect.

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- Notably, the deal belongs to the international community in its entirety, and not just to one or two countries.

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- A decision to scrap or weaken the deal would be undermining the global non-proliferation regime and international institutions.

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- Also, given the rising nuclear threat from another country, North Korea, the international community cannot afford dismantling a successfully working nuclear agreement.

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Source: The Hindu

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