Status of US-Iran Nuclear deal

Why in news?

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US Administration pledges to toughen enforcement of the deal and increase pressure on Tehran.

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What is the US-Iran nuclear deal about?

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According to the deal made between earlier US administration and Iran:

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- It is not a bilateral pact, it contains terms and conditions.
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- America and its allies will recognise Iran’s right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, as guaranteed by the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.
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- Iran will enrich uranium, the vital process that could be used to make the core of a nuclear bomb, this will be monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
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- Iran will allow IAEA inspectors more powers to monitor its nuclear plants and other facilities.
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- Once the IAEA has confirmed that Iran has taken steps to reduce its nuclear presence, America and its allies will lift all nuclear-related economic sanctions, including oil embargos and financial restrictions.
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What is the stand of present US administration?

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- Present US administration has repeatedly condemned the deal brokered by President Barack Obama as a dangerous surrender to Iran.
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- U.S. administration don’t want to certify that Iran is fulfilling with an international nuclear agreement.
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- The Present government is intended to toughen enforcement of the deal, apply new sanctions on Iran for its “support of terrorism” and other “destabilising activities”.
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- US has also endorsed the Saudi-led Sunni bloc’s attempts to isolate Iran.
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- There are plans for a negotiation with European partners to craft a broader strategy to increase pressure on Tehran.
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Why US cannot decide independently on the deal?

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- The nuclear deal was reached among seven entities, including the U.S., Russia, Germany and Iran.
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- Any unilateral move to withdraw from the agreement would hurt American interests as European countries are keen on expanding economic ties with Iran.
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- By law, the US administration is required to notify Congress every 90 days whether Iran is living up to the deal, and no decision can be made by the US administration alone.
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Why US should change its stand?

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- The policy of containing Iran could backfire as Iran has already established itself as a rising regional power with substantial geopolitical clout.
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- To stabilise Syria, the U.S. needs Iran’s help, there won’t be a long-lasting peace deal in Syria without Iran’s participation and cooperation.
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- If the U.S. is serious about working towards peace and stability in West Asia, it should reciprocate Iran’s compliance with the nuclear deal.
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- It should also act as a mediator between Saudi Arabia and Iran, instead of taking sides in a destabilising cold war in West Asia.
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Source: The Hindu

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