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IRAN'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS AND THE FAILURE OF THE MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY: CAN THE JCPOA BE SALVAGED?

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ABSTRACT

The nuclear ambitions are different from state to state. The international concern is regarding the nuclear tech development of Iran and the threat of Iran to the world as Iran is non-compliance to the obligations imposed on it through JCPOA. It is been the main reason for the Operation Raising Lion and Operation Epic Fury and also resulted in the termination of JCPOA. The negotiations or the diplomacies between the conflicted states is been very difficult, however succeeded in stopping the Operation Raising Lion (12 day war). Later, on February, 2026 the Israel with US initiated Operation Epic Fury on Iran. The paper dealt with the doctrinal study through the journals, peer reviewed articles, News articles and the News channels live updates. The US and Israel feared of the nuclear technology and the enriched Uranium by the Iran might be a great threat to them and initiated the attacks only goal to destroy the nuclear power plants and the missile bases of Iran. The Iran's violations with respect to the development of nuclear tech and the Uranium enrichment might be dealt with in any other procedure but the sudden attack on the Iran is against the human rights where the Iran initiated the retaliation measures and refused to stop the retaliate actions. The multi-lateral diplomacies and negotiations are failed according to the report till date. The intention of US and Israel to control the nuclear threats to the other countries is essential but the approach is in question as the attacks are made on Iran's nuclear power plants, missile bases and industrial sector. The withdrawal of US from JCPOA itself salvaged the JCPOA as there is no purpose of the plan of action.

Key words: Nuclear Ambitions; Israel & US –Iran war; Operation Raising Lion; Operation Epic Fury; Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); Uranium Enrichment.

INTRODUCTION

The war is the most adversarial action of a state against the other. After World War II, the International organisations such as United Nations are formed in order to protect the peace and harmony of the world by maintaining the cooperation, friendly relations among the states to prevent the wars. But still there are traces of the war in the world, for example the Iraq- Iran war in 1980, Russia-Ukraine war on 24th Feb, 2022, Israel & US-Iran war in June 2025 and finally, the present Israel & US – Iran war started on 28th February, 2026 which is continuing till date. It pops up a question of failure of the UN or another international institutions which are established solely to maintain the peace and harmony, due to which the war broke out. The wars are completely different from earlier because, during the previous wars there is no nuclear technology and weapons whereas the nuclear technological advancements are being a threat to the world and environment as well. In this era, war equals to the destruction of the world either directly or indirectly. The international organisational systems are trying to restrict the states from developing the nuclear technology beyond the limits by allowing them to make the developments to an extent for the welfare of the civilians and the economic development of the states. One of such attempt is Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which is signed by P5+1 of United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China and Germany with Iran to control the nuclear tech development as it is a threat to others because if Iran been in an agitated state the world might be collapsed by the attack of Iran with the nuclear weapons.

HYPOTHESIS

There is a need of a specialised agency to restrict and limit the production or proliferation of nuclear weapons in order to enhance the peace and harmony.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Why the JCPOA has failed in fulfilling its objectives?
2. Whether the Multi-Lateral Diplomacies are effective in limitation of nuclear technology on Iran?

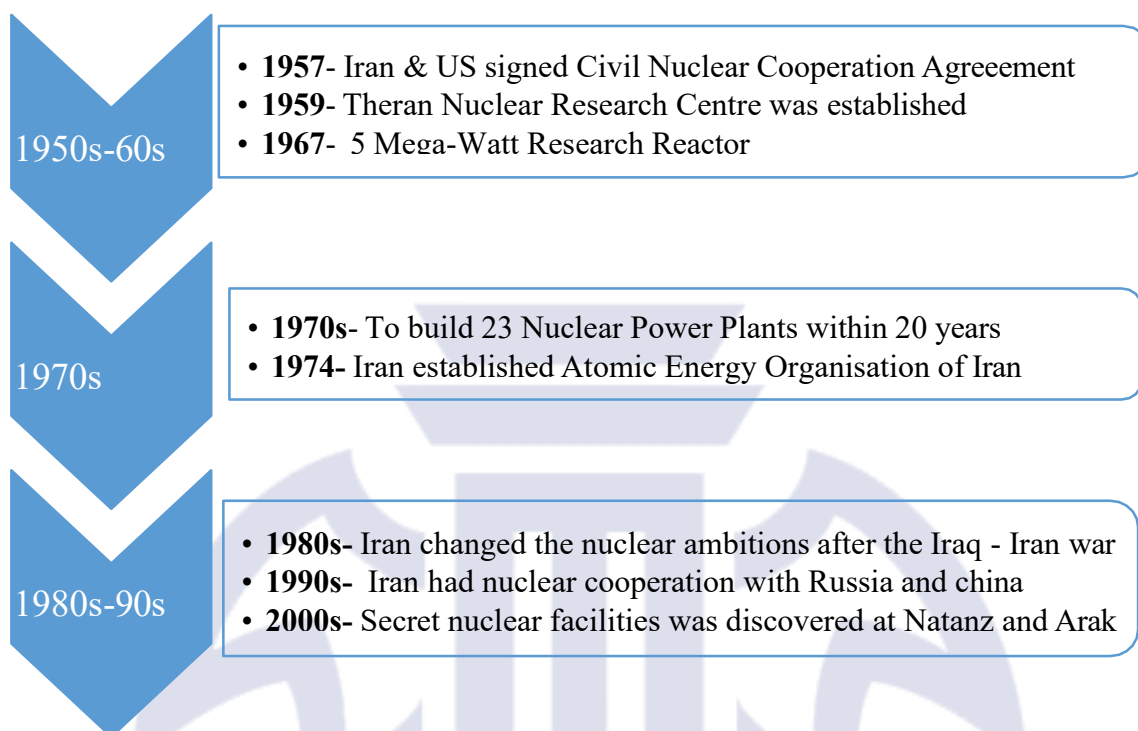
EVOLUTION OF NUCLEAR AMBITIONS OF IRAN

The nuclear programmes were started in Iran in the 1950s under the leadership of Shah Mohammad Reza, along with the support of the US by the Atoms for Peace programme.

At first, Iran sought nuclear technology for civilian purposes, such as electricity generation and

scientific research. Later, the nuclear ambitions of Iran were changed completely, specifically during the 1980s, when Iran wanted to develop nuclear weapons technology to defend itself and develop the nation.

The time line of the nuclear ambitions of Iran are as follows:

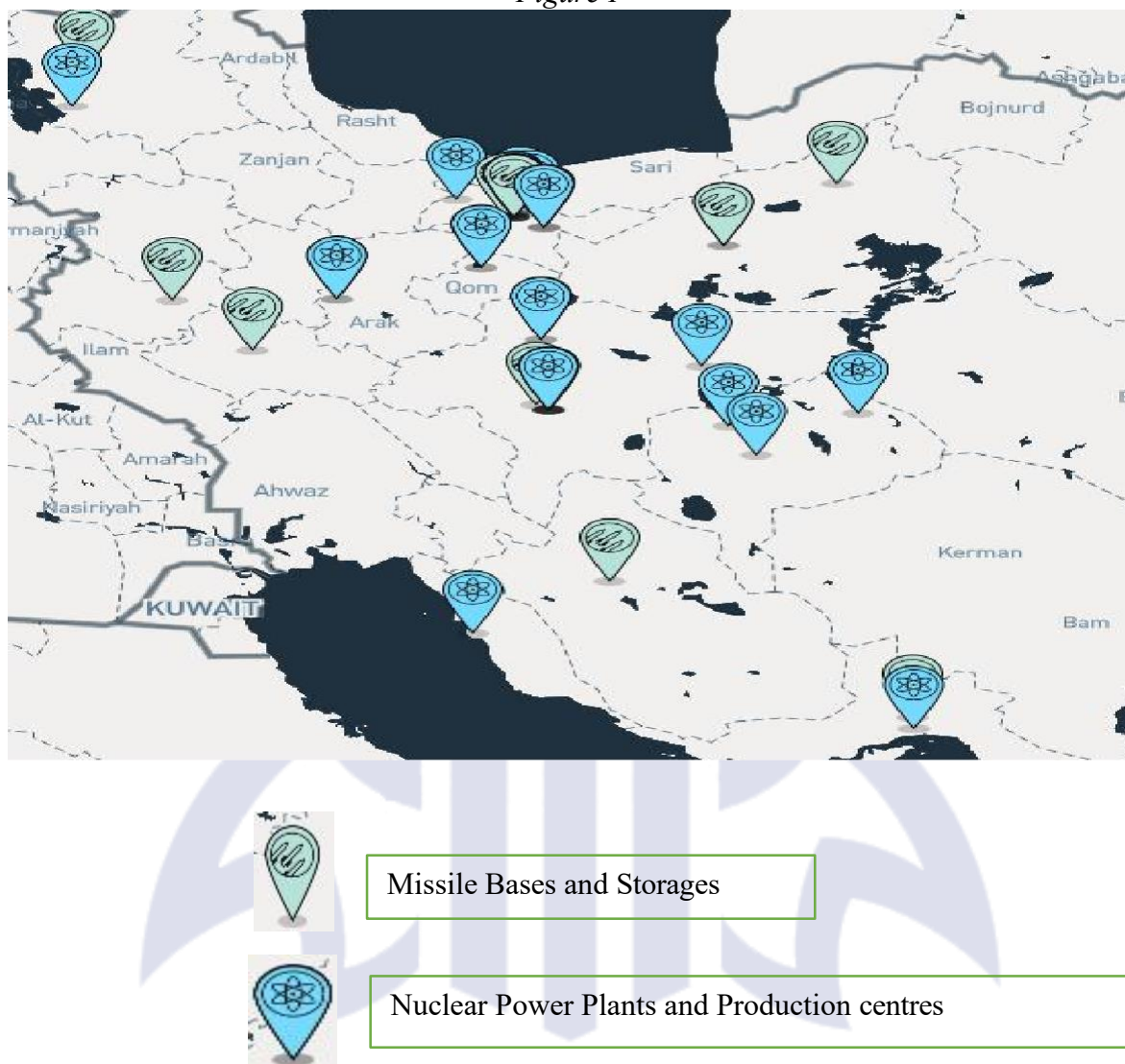


In the 1980s, a war broke out between Iraq and Iran. In that war, Iran was attacked by Iraq, due to which Iran experienced massive destruction of the state and the loss of lives. It is the main turning point of the world, because Iran has changed its ambitions with respect to the nuclear programmes under the Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. It wanted to establish the nuclear power plants and develop the nuclear weapons technology to defend itself from attacks. During the early 2000s, Iran was discovered to contain the secret nuclear facilities at Natanz and Arak, which increased international concern about the possibility of Iran developing nuclear weapons.

The current scenario is that Iran has established many nuclear facilities at different locations in Iran, such as Natanz, Fordow, Isfahan, Arak and Busher. According to the JCPOA, Iran has been restricted to 3.67% uranium enrichment for civilian purposes, but according to the IAEA's latest report, Iran has 60% enriched uranium. Now, it is a major concern worldwide. At present, Iran also restricted IAEA interference and the inspections on the nuclear actions and programmes of Iran.¹

¹ Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), "Iran" < <https://www.nti.org/countries/iran/> > accessed on 18th March, 2026.

Figure 1²



The following map 1.1 of the Iran clearly states or shows the nuclear technological capacity of Iran and its strength in development of nuclear tech which became a world concern. The world started fearing going against Iran in any way due to its nuclear capacity, where if Iran attacked, its nations would be destroyed completely. Especially, the relations between the US and Iran are depleted as the US supported Iraq during the Iraq-Iran War in the 1980s.

PERIOD	ADVANCED CENTRIFUGES PRODUCED	MONTHLY AVERAGE
February 2019- 2020	476	40
February 2020-2021	521	43
February 2021-2022	1,194	100

² Ibid.

February 2022-2023	3,531	294
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Table 1³

The Table 1 clears the capacity of Iran with respect to Centrifuges produced from 2019 to 2023 according to the available statistics. The Centrifuges are the machines which are used for the enrichment of the Uranium and the IR40 would be a reactor which helps in producing the nuclear energy, weapons and the space exploration. The centrifuges are important to a state to develop the nuclear capacity.

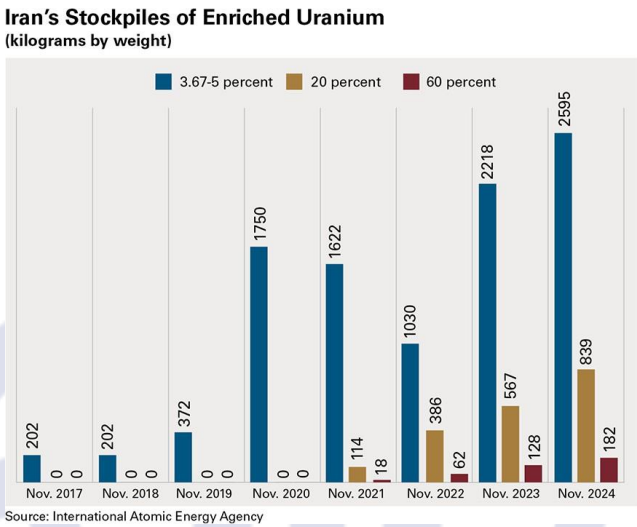


Figure 2⁴

The Figure 2 clearly gives an idea of the Iran's capacity of enriched uranium with the percentage and weight. Every kind of would have the different characteristics and attacking & destroying capacity.

RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES

Iran and the United States were very friendly before the 1980s. Before the 1980s, Iran and the US entered into the Atoms for Peace Programme, known as the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, to develop civilian nuclear energy for electricity and scientific research. In 1967, Iran's 5-megawatt reactor began operating with uranium supplied by the US.

³ David Albright; Sarah Burkhard and Spencer Faragasso, "Updated Highlights of Comprehensive Survey of Iran's Advanced Centrifuges-March 2023" Institute of Science and International Security (21st March, 2023) < <https://isis-online.org/isis-reports/updated-highlights-of-survey-of-irans-advanced-centrifuges-March2023> > accessed on 22nd March, 2026.

⁴ Arms Control Association, "The status of Iran's Nuclear Programme" (February, 2025) < <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/status-irans-nuclear-program-1> > accessed on 25th March, 2026

Beginning in the late 1970s, the US Government sought to impose safeguards on Tehran's nuclear development that extended far beyond the requirements of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). Also during that period, the Shah of Iran was aggressively pursuing a domestic full nuclear fuel cycle, most definitely in the area of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel.⁵ In 1980, following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, chaos ensued in Iran. Subsequently, Saddam Hussein, who is the leader of Iraq, wanted to seize the territory of Iran and gain regional dominance to get the Khuzestan province, which is very rich in oil production, and the Shatt-al-Arab waterway. In order to get the dominance over the Iran places, Iraq attacked Iran. During this war, US supported the Iraq. Iran faced the destruction of property and the loss of lives. Therefore, Iran ended the friendly relations with the US at that time. The depleted relations is continuing till date.

In 2013, Iran claimed that the US Government accepted an advanced nuclear program during the period of the Shah, while at the time, the US firmly felt the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel in Iran could lead to the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons, which would be unacceptable for US national security interests.⁶

JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION, 2015

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is commonly known as JCPOA which is signed in 2015. Both of Iran's two most recent presidents, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami, attempted to create a better relations with the outside world, especially with European powers, but the attempts remained unsuccessful during the attempt with the United States. After taking office in January 1993, President Bill Clinton imposed sanctions on Iran's oil sector under the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 for the allegations of involvement in terrorism and the pursuit of a nuclear weapons program. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush described Iran as part of the "axis of evil" because he believed that Iran was responsible for terrorism. Because, in the year 2002, many nuclear facilities been found or discovered in the Natanz and Arak where Natanz is for the Uranium enrichment while Arak is for the Heavy water reactor. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was alleged to have been pursuing the development of nuclear weapons in complete secrecy, even

⁵ Arms Control Association, "Section 1: Background and Status of Iran's Nuclear Program" <<https://www.armscontrol.org/research-reports/2014-06/section-1-background-status-irans-nuclear-program>> accessed on 22nd Mar, 2026.

⁶ Ibid.

though the Iranian government was attempting to pursue a much more conciliatory approach toward the United States where the weapons are said to be available to the public as well in 2002. In addition to it, the President Bush threatened Iran of their use of military force against Iran if Iran don't stop their ambitions towards the nuclear weapons. Later, the UNSC Resolution 1929 in 2010 implemented the restrictions on the Iran's Ballistic Missile Programmed and technology. Subsequently, the US and EU also imposed limitations on the Iranian oil and economy. In the year 2012, EU also removed the Iran from the SWIFT banking system which ultimately affected the Iran economy with the decrease of catastrophic decline as its power of purchase been reduced by 72% and the 50% of inflation and reduction of GDP by 5%. In order to evade the imposed sanctions, Iran began to smuggle oil into China and Asia and to develop what they called a "resistance economy" through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)⁷.

In 2013, moderates in Iran elected President Hassan Rouhani at a time of crisis, leading to the resurgence of calls for U.S.-Iran negotiations amongst moderates. In November 2013, an interim agreement was reached, which allowed for the eventual conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in July 2015; under this agreement, Iran agreed to limit the number of centrifuges to less than 6,000, to limit enrichment to less than 3.67%, to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) access to its nuclear facilities, as well as to receive phased relief from sanctions that had been imposed due to their nuclear program. The intensive negotiations of 20 months on the Numerous Bilateral meetings and Expert level technical talks led to formation of JCPOA in the 2015. The adoption of UN Resolution 2231 backed the JCPOA, which resulted in a rush of investments from the European Union and China, as well as assurances by Iran that it would open its markets to these investments and reduce the involvement of the IRGC in them; but the United States intended to "pivot" its policy toward Asia, particularly China, and therefore encouraged its allies and Europe to take over responsibility for the situation in the Middle East. This was significant because the sanctions imposed on Iran were also undermining China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and Russia's strategic objectives in the Middle East, so they welcomed the opportunity to participate in the P5+1 (U.S., U.K., France, China, Russia, and Germany) talks with Iran; prior to the 2008 financial crisis, all of these countries were eager to gain access to the Iranian market, as its oil

⁷ Kayhan Valadbaygi, "Unpacking the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA): Internationalisation of capital, imperial rivalry and cooperation, and regional power agency" (Vol 45-Issue 2), 10th May, 2023 < <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/02633957231172060>> accessed on 22nd March, 2026.

industry was a substantial contributor to their national GDPs and because of the geographic proximity and diversity of the Iranian economy. Iran's moderate factions (which supported trade with the West) were able to defeat military-bonyad hardliners (which supported trade with China)⁸. The sole objective of the JCPOA is always been the prevention of the Nuclear proliferation and the restrictions over the enrichment of uranium, because the more enrichment of the uranium which might lead to the production of nuclear weapons.

The JCPOA laid certain rules on the Iran to follow in exchange of withdrawal of the economic sanctions laid by UN on Iran are as follows:

- Limiting the Uranium enrichment up to 3.67% where trying Iran's uranium enrichment stockpile to 300kgs within 15 years⁹.
- Iran to reduce the centrifuges from 19000 to 5060¹⁰.
- To re-model the IR40¹¹ (heavy water reactor) to prevent the production of any kind of weapon grade plutonium¹².
- Mandatory compliance of rules to avoid the sanctions like Financial, Banking, Insurance, Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals, Shipping and Transport, Nuclear Proliferation, Gold, Metals, Software, Arms etc. by the PS+1 countries¹³.

JCPOA been a very well initiated negotiation between Iran and PS+1 countries towards the nuclear ambitions of Iran, where the world been terrified with its action of nuclear tech development. JCPOA been successful due to some dynamic elements been negotiated during the meetings such as:

1. **Realistic Diplomacy:** As the negotiations for seven years constantly been failed. The US was not willing to give up the negotiations. The countries have given a realistic view to Iran with respect to global relations with other countries like Russia, china etc., would be effected and also specifically mentioned about the sanctions which cannot be

⁸ Kayhan Valadbaygi, "Unpacking the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA): Internationalisation of capital, imperial rivalry and cooperation, and regional power agency" (Vol 45-Issue 2), 10th May, 2023 < <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/02633957231172060>> accessed on 22nd March, 2026.

⁹ JCPOA, "Annex III - Civil Nuclear Cooperation", < https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/statements-eeas/docs/iran_agreement/annex_3_civil_nuclear_cooperation_en.pdf> accessed on 22nd March, 2026.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Arak Heavy Water Reactor which is capable of producing the nuclear weapons, energy and Space exploration.

¹² JCPOA, "Annex I – Nuclear-related measures" < https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/annex_1_nuclear_related_commitments_en.pdf> accessed on 23rd March, 2026.

¹³ JCPOA, "Annex II – Sanctions-related commitments" < https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/annex_2_sanctions_related_commitments_en_0.pdf> accessed on 23rd March, 2026

avoided and lead to the economic suffering of the Iran. Iran also been showed the countries disinterest in Iran.

2. **Leverage in Military Forces:** After the events happened on September 11, President Bush addressed Iran as a member of “axis of evil” along with Iraq and North Korea who supports the terrorist organisation. As a result of the U.S. seizing Iraq and Afghanistan in 2003, U.S. troops are been placed in the place which has close accessibility to Iran with the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, thus making Iran's nuclear plants located in Natanz and Arak highly open to attack. President Bush, again in 2005, warned of the possibility of a military strike against Iran as one means to prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons, therefore creating a sense of urgency and fear in the Iranian authorities, leading them to agree to negotiate the 2015 JCPOA agreement several years later.
3. **Negotiations on the Economic Sanctions:** The actions of Iran resulted in sanctions by the European Union and United States on various sectors of Iran as it is already been found with the secret nuclear technology. The sanctions were initiated on Financial, Banking, Insurance, Oil, Gas and Petrochemicals, Shipping and Transport, Nuclear Proliferation, Gold, Metals, Software, Arms. The PS+1 counties made an agreement of non-imposition of sanctions in exchange of compliance of restrictions under JCPOA by Iran.

This plan of Action been successful till 2018, but in the year 2018 JCPOA faced a setback. The first failure of JCPOA took place with the withdrawal of the United States from JCPOA. On 8th May, 2018, President Trump officially declared that the US withdrawing the JCPOA as it is “horrible one sided deal for Iran” and JCPOA is failed to bring the peace in the world. The US also re-imposed the economic sanctions on Iran as it withdrawn the JCPOA¹⁴. Iran actions were violated the rules of JCPOA, where the US official been stated that Iran was violated the rules before its withdrawal gradually after the signing the JCPOA¹⁵. Iran openly violated the rules after the US withdrawal especially from 2019. The violative actions of Iran from 2019 are as follows:

¹⁴ The Times of Israel, “Full text of Trump’s remarks withdrawing from Iran deal” (8th May, 2018) < <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-of-trumps-remarks-withdrawing-from-iran-deal/>> accessed on 23rd March, 2026.

¹⁵ European Union External Affairs, “Joint statement on the re-imposition of US sanctions due to its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) (6th August, 2018) < https://www.eeas.europa.eu/node/49141_en> accessed on 23rd March, 2026.

S.NO	MONTH-YEAR	VIOLATIONS
1	July-2019	More than 3.67% enrichment of Uranium
2	August-2019	Enriched Uranium Stockpile is above 300kgs
3	September-2019	Centrifuge Research & Development are increased
4	November-2019	Uranium enrichment is been started at secret locations
5	January-2020	Unlimited Centrifuges are produced
6	July-2020+	Advanced Technological Centrifuges were produced
7	April-2020	Uranium enrichment is increased to 60%
8	February-2021	Iran limited the access to the IAEA from inspecting the nuclear technology in Iran.

After the war in June 2025 between Israel and Iran, on 28th October, 2025, all the membered nations of JCPOA officially terminated the JCPOA. The termination took place after 10 years of signing. All the member nations decided to reinstitute the economic which were imposed prior 2015.

ISRAEL & US – IRAN WAR

Iran and Israel aren't have any friendly relations between them. After defeating its allies in the "Axis of Resistance" in 2024-2025, Israel fought against Iran initiated the Operation Raising Lion which is also known as 12 Days War on 13th June, 2025. After the death of Hama's leader in the war, there is no attack from Hama on Israel to be specific from 7th October, 2023 and the people continued protesting in Gaza. None of the Arab nations that entered into the Abraham Accords would allow Hamas to return now that they have become allies with Israel. Hamas, along with the rest of the Iranian-backed axis, was destroyed completely and could no longer strike Israel. The Hezbollah destruction caused by numerous explosions (3,250 injured) to its infrastructure, loss of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and retreat from the Litani River means it will take Hezbollah's new leader, Naim Qassem, many years before he can substitute the losses incurred by Hezbollah to create a viable resistance against Israel. Assad's of Syria's inability to maintain power after twenty years of civil war and his eventual defeat resulted in the disruption of Hezbollah's ability to receive support from Iran. Assad's loss of the Golan Heights to Israel has provided an opportunity for Israel to secure peace with Syria under the leadership of al-Shara. The renewed Trump presidency following the JCPOA exit and the assassination of Qasem Soleimani provided the impetus for the U.S. and Israel to call for Libya-

style disarmament of all Iranian nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction or face possible war, which will continue to support Netanyahu's efforts to disable Iran's nuclear capability, missiles, drones, and defenses while ultimately looking toward the fall of the Iranian regime. The Israeli government officially declared its objectives behind the attacks on Iran in 2025 are as follows:

- End the development of nuclear weapons by Iran
- Eliminate the ability of Iran to launch missiles
- Eliminate the use of UAVs by Iran
- Damage the air-defence capability of Iran and thereby destroy its air force
- Bring down the Iranian regime.¹⁶

During the 12 Day war, Iran shown the world its nuclear capacity by implementing the retaliatory measures through the launch of the missiles. The penetration of the missiles by Iran had a great influence on the Israel.

S.NO	DATE	PERCENTAGE OF PENETRATION
1	June 13	2%
2	June 14	3%
3	June 15	9%
4	June 16	9%
5	June 17	8%
6	June 18	6%
7	June 19	16%
8	June 20	15%
9	June 21	-
10	June 22	8%
11	June 23	-
12	June 24	5%

Table 2¹⁷

¹⁶ Ali Bagheri Dolatabadi, "The June 2025 Israeli War: Iran's Assessment and Regional Consequences" WILEY Online Library (8th September, 2025) < <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/mepo.70008> > accessed on 23rd March, 2026.

¹⁷ Ibid

Every missile will have a destruction capacity based on the metal and weight it is made of. According to the statistics in the above table, Iran's current nuclear capacity and its power in the nuclear world are. Due to its nuclear capacity, Israel wanted to eliminate the nuclear plants and missile bases, which resulted in reducing or eliminating the nuclear tech and capacity of Iran. Israel has also been very confident that it can destroy the nuclear capacity of Iran after a successful war with Hamas in 2024.

But, Iran's retaliation measures and attacks on Israel made Israel realise the actual strength Iran had built during all the years till 13th June, 2025. The war continued till 24th June 2025 as the war unaffected to the other states whereas the Middle East countries like Oman, and Qatar, both countries sought, which to end it. Therefore, both countries initiated intensive negotiations to end the war. Later, President Trump declared the ceasefire over the war between Israel and Iran. It can be considered the first negotiation regarding nuclear war after the formation of the JCPOA¹⁸. Later, the JCPOA was terminated officially. The JCPOA has been salvaged to its core due to Iran's violations of the JCPOA's rules and regulations, unofficially prior to 2018 and officially from 2019, as per the records mentioned in *Table 1*. The war ended with the ceasefire, but later, the other members of the JCPOA decided to terminate the JCPOA and reimpose the sanctions on Iran. Therefore, the JCPOA is officially terminated on 28th October, 2025, which can be said to be the complete failure of the JCPOA.

FEBRUARY 2026

On 28th February 2026, Israel again targeted the nuclear technology of Iran. Israel and the US wanted to destroy the nuclear tech and missile bases in Iran. Israel, with the support of US military troops, attacked Iran. The US sent its military troops and established its military bases in the Gulf countries and initiated the attack on Iran on 28th February, 2026. The US and Israel attacked Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab, Iran. In this attack, the supreme leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei, who is the former president, died. Iran initiated the retaliation measures by launching the missiles and drones on the military bases of Israel and the US established in Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan and Dubai.

¹⁸ Syed Rizwan Haider Bukhari; Syed Umair Jalal; Ghulam Mujaddid, "Strategic Ceasefire or Tactical Deception A Geopolitical Analysis of the Iran, Israel, U.S. Crisis in 2025" Qlantic Journal of Social Sciences, (Vol:6-Issue 2, Page no: 146-156) < https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Syed-Rizwan-Haider-Bukhari/publication/393401822_Strategic_Ceasefire_or_Tactical_Deception_A_Geopolitical_Analysis_of_the_Iran_Israel_US_Crisis_in_2025/links/6867b977b991270ef3019165/Strategic-Ceasefire-or-Tactical-Deception-A-Geopolitical-Analysis-of-the-Iran-Israel-US-Crisis-in-2025.pdf > accessed on 24th March, 2026.

Israel and the US officially stated that they wanted to negotiate with Iran regarding the nuclear technology, but the negotiations failed. As Iran's nuclear development is a great threat to the world, they want to end the threat. Therefore, they initiated Operation Epic Fury on 28th February, 2026. The first attack of Israel was on the IR40, which is the Arak reactor. The war is continuing, which is affecting the neighbouring countries due to Iran's attacks on the military bases of the US and Israel. The war went to an extreme level, till today over 1,937 people have died, of which 1500 are civilians, 24,800 people were injured, and finally 3.2 million people were displaced, including the school attack by the US-Israel. UAE officially declared that 3 deaths and 58 injuries occurred when the fragments of the drones hit areas such as Dubai Airport, Palm Jumeirah, and Abu Dhabi. The Saudi Embassy in Riyadh has also been attacked. The strong nuclear power of Iran created a fear in all the countries.

On 06th March, 2026, the current president of Iran officially apologised the neighbouring countries for the attacks they have been made from 28th February, 2026. Iran also warned the neighbouring countries that Iran will not attack any state unless it is been attacked from their countries and said not to establish the military bases of the enemy countries to prevent the attacks on their states.¹⁹ Iran is using the ballistic missiles and fragmented technological drones which ultimately has capacity to destroy the large area.

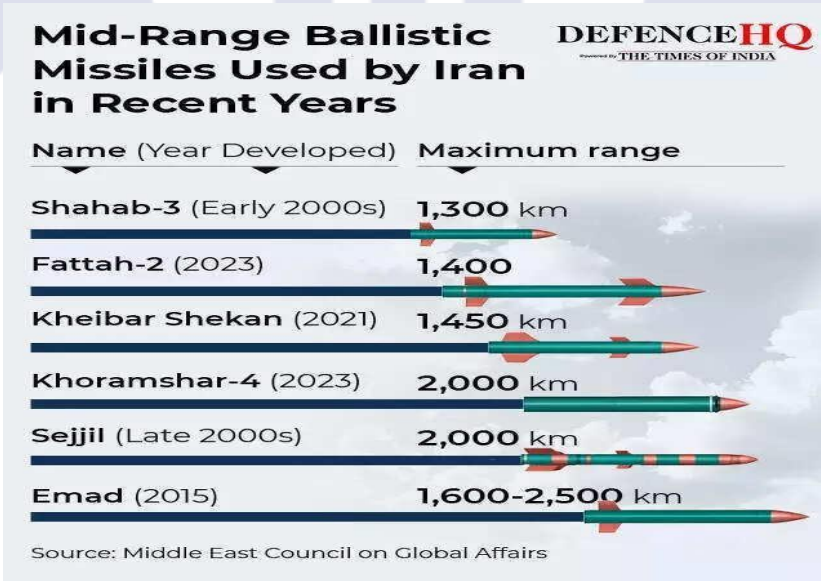


Figure 3²⁰

¹⁹ NDTV-World, Iran President Says 'Sorry' To Neighbours For Attacks, But With A Condition” (7th March, 2026) < Iran War: Iran President Masoud Pezeshkian Apologises To Neighbouring Countries For Attacks, Says Will Not Surrender To Israel, US> accessed on 27th March, 2026.

²⁰ Vivek Dubey, “Missiles, Drones and Geography: How Iran Challenged the US-Israel billion-dollar war machine” Times of India (08th March, 2026) < <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/defence/international/missiles-drones-and-geography-how-iran-challenged-the-us-israel-million-dollar-war-machine-epic-fury-trump/articleshow/129265567.cms>> accessed on 27th March, 2026.

The retaliation measures taken by Iran is always been a question, Iran defended itself in the war with its nuclear tech backup i.e., basllistic missiles which are production since early 2000s. Every missile has its own capacity of destruction. The figure 3 gives a clear idea of maximum range of each missile.

MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACIES

The first negotiation in limiting the nuclear ambitions of Iran to protect the world from the nuclear threat is JCPOA. It is most successful negotiation on nuclear technology, but it is also not entirely successful due to the withdrawal of US in 2018 and the termination of the JCPOA in 2025. As all the countries being affected by the war between Israel &US – Iran, the diplomacies are taking place to stop the war but it appears to be a failure because the war is continuing now.

June 2025	January 2026	March 2026
• OMAN &QATAR • Ceasefire	• New Agreement • Rejected	• Resolution 2817 • 13/15 Votes

There are 3 negotiations which took place recently in the aspect of wars with Iran are follows:

- I. First negotiation-24th June, 2025
- II. Second Negotiation-23 January, 2026
- III. Third Negotiation-10th March, 2026

FIRST NEGOTIATION: The first negotiation with respect to the war took place recently on 24th June, 2025. The intensive negotiations were initiated by Oman & Qatar actively. The Middle East countries were adversely affected by the war between Israel and Iran as their properties also destroyed. The negotiations are said to be partially successful, as both the countries are wanted to attack the other. Then US stepped in and declared the ceasefire on the war which brought an end to the war on 24th June, 2025.

SECOND NEGOTIATION: The second negotiation took place on 23rd January, 2026. The negotiation is initiated by the US. It wanted to have a meeting and form another agreement on the nuclear ambitions and limitations on Iran as the JCPOA was officially terminated on 28th October, 2025. Iran openly rejected the offer of agreement on the limitations of nuclear

ambitions of it.

It is one of the main reason for the present war, as Iran is rejected to form an agreement on nuclear ambitions, US sent its military troops to Gulf countries and attacked Iran. Finally, this action of US with the support of Israel resulted in current war. The second negotiation is a failure negotiation by the US with Iran.

THIRD NEGOTIATION: The third negotiation shows the role of International Institutes and Organisations importance in the global conflicts especially in the geopolitical issues like wars and trade.

On 6th March, 2026, the UN Security Council conducted the 1011th Meeting and brought a Resolution 2817 with the 13/15 majority votes. The two nations – Russia and China didn't use their veto power on resolution but sided the Iran by blaming the western countries as they are the one who attacked Iran first and Iran started retaliation measures which is a natural action by any state. Therefore, Russia and china in support of Iran didn't execute their voting power in the Security Council. The US again initiated the ceasefire on the war, which is rejected by Iran and Iran stated that it would fight till its least point and they are capable to defend themselves. Therefore, the third negotiation is also failed as the war continuing till date i.e., 28th March, 2026²¹.

NUCLEAR LAWS

There are no clear and codified laws with respect to the nuclear technology and nuclear warfare. But there are treaties which are formed to impose the restrictions of the nuclear technology of the states to maintain the peace and harmony of the world. To be specific, the treaties and international agreements are not effective as the nuclear powered nations are not interested to become a member of it as their power globally would decrease.

The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear weapons (NPT) was signed in 1968 and became effective in 1970. The treaty's three objectives are to - limit nuclear weapons from spreading, to encourage peaceful use of nuclear energy and to promote disarmament of countries that possess nuclear weapons. And the NPT is "the only binding multilateral agreement that

²¹ United Nations, "Security Council Adopts Resolution 2817 (2026) Condemning Iran's 'Egregious Attacks' against Neighbours as Middle East Violence Rapidly Escalates" (11th March, 2026) < Security Council Adopts Resolution 2817 (2026) Condemning Iran's 'Egregious Attacks' against Neighbours as Middle East Violence Rapidly Escalates | UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases> accessed on 28th March, 2026.

includes an obligation to disarmament" (i.e., legally binding commitment to disarmament); it is the most ratified of all arms control treaties and the only structure for non-proliferation. The IAEA uses its safeguard systems to ensure that parties comply with their treaty obligations, by means of inspections, thus preventing diversion into weapons without restricting access to technology. By Article VIII of the Treaty, there is a five-year review process for the NPT; however, during the most recent reviews 2015 and 2022 no consensus was reached. The next NPT Review Conference will occur in New York City from April 27 to May 22, 2026²².

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament from 1994 and adopted by the UNGA in 1996 (A/RES/50/245), which prohibit all nuclear explosions. The treaty opened for signature in September 1996 and it requires that all 44 of the Annex 2 states ratify it before it can enter into force under Article XIV. Out of the 44 Annex 2 states, 36 have ratified the CTBT; however, the states that have not yet ratified the treaty are China, DPRK, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna is creating an international verification system to monitor compliance with the CTBT. The Article XIV conferences (e.g., 2023) and ministers' meetings are designed to encourage states to ratify the CTBT; the 2018 Disarmament Agenda of the United Nations Secretary-General calls upon states to take the necessary actions to ratify the CTBT.²³

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is an international treaty that was adopted on July 7, 2017 by 122 states through UN General Assembly resolution 71/258. This treaty prohibits all forms of the development, testing, production, possession, stockpiling, deployment, use or threat to use nuclear weapons and providing assistance to or hosting on territory of nuclear weapons. It was opened for signatures on September 20, 2017 and went into effect on January 22, 2021 with 50 ratifications (by that time at least 50 states were parties to the treaty). The parties to the treaty must assist victims of nuclear weapons; assist in remediating affected environments; and declare their nuclear weapons status as required in Article 2 of the treaty. States parties to the treaty have held three BMN in Vienna (2022) and New York City

²² United Nations – Office for Disarmament Affairs, “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons” <<https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/treaty-non-proliferation-nuclear-weapons>> accessed on 28th March, 2026.

²³ United Nations- Office for Disarmament Affairs, “Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty” <<https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty>> accessed on 28th March, 2026.

(2023); the first Review Conference will be held from November 30, 2026 to December 4, 2026 in New York City. A Scientific Advisory Group has been established in support of TPNW implementation²⁴.

My critiques: There are many treaties on the nuclear proliferation but the treaties will be binding only after signing the treaty. Therefore, any nuclear powered country shows its disinterest in signing the treaty. The NPT is signed in 1971 which is still not signed by the India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea; CTBT took place 1994 but, it is formally enforced and finally TPNW which is adopted in 2021, it is not signed by a single nuclear powered out 9 nuclear powered countries such as Russia, US, China, France, UK, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea. There is a need of binding force over this subject matter.

CONCLUSION

The NPT, CTBT, and TPNW are significant multilateral limitations on achieving nuclear proliferation, banning nuclear testing and prohibiting nuclear weapons altogether but their effectiveness is diminished by the failure to include the world's largest nuclear powers such as the US, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and Iran as treaty signatories. Iran is pursuing aggressive nuclear objectives in the face of rising tensions with Israel and US (e.g. operations Raising Lion and Epic Fury), escalating uranium enrichment violating the JCPOA, and carrying out retaliatory strikes against Israel and US allies. The collapse of the JCPOA (following the US withdrawal in 2018) has highlighted that there are very little internationally verified enforcement mechanisms to ensure that IAEA has adequate access to ensure compliance, especially with the reimposition of sanctions. The fulfillment of the JCPOA is expected to occur through renewed engagement with the P5+1, an obligation to adhere to NPT/CTBT/TPNW by all signatories without exception, and with the establishment of an ongoing IAEA inspection framework to ensure enforcement and compliance of limits on enrichment/ICBM production/capabilities. Absent a comprehensive verification framework, the continued use of confidence-building and incentive-based policies could lead to a nuclear catastrophe and the breakdown of the existing international law system. The immediate agenda for the 2026 NPT Review and TPNW Conference should be to address the issues surrounding Iran's compliance, reduce tensions and hold the Iranian regime accountable for its nuclear ambitions to avoid the

²⁴ United Nations- Office for Disarmament Affairs, "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons" < <https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/treaty-prohibition-nuclear-weapons>> accessed on 28th March, 2026.

increased potential of states using unilateral force to resolve conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need for formation of a specialised agency on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons by the states as a binding force. Every agency rules would be binding if the state sign the charter of the organisation. But the specialised agency can be formed in such a way where it would have the power to interfere in the nuclear or any kind of wars to protect the world from destruction and promote the peace and harmony.

