News: Britain, France and Germany ratcheted up pressure on Iran on Tuesday to cease its violations of a landmark nuclear deal, stressing that they want to resolve differences through talks while starting the clock on a process that could result in a so-called “snapback” of United Nations sanctions.

Context:
The 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, seeks to prevent Iran from producing a nuclear weapon — something Iran insists it does not want to do — by putting curbs on its atomic programme in exchange for economic incentives.

About the move and its significance

- The three countries, which signed the international agreement in 2015 along with the U.S., Russia and China, said in a letter to the European Union’s foreign policy chief that they had no choice but to trigger the deal’s “dispute mechanism,” given Iran’s ongoing transgressions.

- The three said they rejected Tehran’s argument that Iran was justified in violating the deal because the U.S. broke the agreement by pulling out unilaterally in 2018.

- The Europeans stressed that they want to “resolve the impasse through constructive diplomatic dialogue” and made no threat of sanctions in their statement.

- They also specifically distanced themselves from sanctions imposed by the U.S., which Washington has said is part of a “maximum pressure”
campaign against Tehran.

- The pressure on Iran from Europe does not mean sanctions will automatically be slapped on the Islamic Republic.

**Way ahead**

Under its dispute resolution mechanism, countries have **30 days to resolve their problem**, though that can be extended. If it cannot be solved, the matter could be brought before the **UN Security Council** and could then result in the snapback of sanctions that had been lifted under the deal.