**Syllabus subtopic:** Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

**Prelims and Mains focus:** about the move by European countries to restrict Iran and its likely implications; about JCPOA

**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.