# International Relations · GS - II

**In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation?**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
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| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
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| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Energy security; oil prices; Chabahar Port; regional stability; Indian diaspora; sanctions; strategic autonomy; diplomatic balancing; connectivity**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

The US–Iran nuclear pact controversy, particularly the US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018 and the reimposition of sanctions, created significant economic and strategic challenges for India.

### Implications for India’s National Interest

1. **Energy security:** Restrictions on Iranian oil exports can raise procurement costs, increase price volatility and complicate energy planning.
2. **Connectivity:** Sanctions-related uncertainty can affect investment and projects associated with Iran, including Chabahar Port, which is important for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
3. **Regional stability:** Escalation in the Persian Gulf could disrupt shipping routes and threaten energy supplies.
4. **Economic effects:** Financial restrictions and compliance risks can complicate trade, payments and investment.

5. **Strategic balancing:** India must maintain productive relations with the United States, Iran, Israel and Gulf countries while protecting its independent foreign-policy choices.
6. **Diaspora interests:** Regional conflict could affect Indian workers and citizens living in the Gulf and wider West Asia.

**How India Should Respond**

1. Pursue sustained diplomacy with Washington, Tehran and other relevant parties to support de-escalation.
2. Diversify energy sources and strengthen strategic reserves.
3. Protect legitimate connectivity projects through diplomatic engagement and careful sanctions compliance.
4. Maintain maritime security cooperation and contingency planning for supply disruptions.
5. Uphold its strategic autonomy while respecting applicable international obligations and assessing legal and economic risks.

**Conclusion**

India should prioritise energy security, regional stability and connectivity through pragmatic diplomacy. A balanced approach combining diversification, dialogue and strategic autonomy can minimise the impact on national interests.

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