

U.S. READY FOR TALKS ON IRAN DEAL

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: Effect of policies and politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests

The Biden administration has said that it will participate in talks with Iran with a view to reinstate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or the 'Iran nuclear deal', which has been unravelling since the U.S.'s departure from the deal in 2018.

"The United States would accept an invitation from the European Union high representative to attend a meeting of the P5+1 and Iran to discuss a diplomatic way forward on Iran's nuclear program," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Thursday.

In 2018, Mr. Trump pulled the U.S. out of the JCPOA, an agreement between Iran, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and Germany, which lifted longstanding international sanctions against Iran in exchange for Tehran scuttling its nuclear programme. The U.S. had reinstated ramped up sanctions against Iran as part of what it called a 'maximum pressure campaign', after leaving the deal.

Also on Thursday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken told his counterparts from the U.K., France and Germany ('the E3') that the U.S. is prepared to talk to Iran and was prepared to re-enter the JCPOA if Iran also returned to compliance with it.

"The Ministers affirmed strong interest in continuing their consultations and coordination, including with China and Russia, on this key security issue, recognising the role of the High Representative of the European Union as Coordinator of the Joint Commission," a joint statement released after the meeting read.

The Biden administration sent a letter to the UN Security Council withdrawing letters from the Trump administration that had attempted to reinstate UN sanctions on Iran via a 'snapback' process (the Trump move was not recognised by other members of the then Security Council).

Travel restrictions within the U.S. on Iran's UN diplomats were also eased, a State Department official told reporters on a briefing call on Thursday. "So essentially, returning to the status quo of the last few years before the last administration," the official said.

Iran has threatened to partially stop International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections next week if other parties to the JCPOA do not meet their commitments under the deal — a move the West cautioned against.

"The E3 and the United States are united in underlining the dangerous nature of a decision to limit IAEA access, and urge Iran to consider the consequences of such grave action, particularly at this time of renewed diplomatic opportunity," the statement from Thursday's Ministers' meeting said.

"We are the ones who have kept this agreement alive in recent years, and now it's about supporting the United States in taking the road back into the agreement," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas told reporters in Paris, according to the Associated Press. "The measures that have been taken in Tehran and may be taken in the coming days are anything but helpful. They endanger the Americans' path back into this agreement. The more pressure that is exerted, the more politically difficult it will be to find a solution," he said.

Talks between the West and Tehran have not been announced as of this writing.

Subscribe to The Hindu digital to get unlimited access to Today's paper

Already have an account ? [Sign in](#)

Start your 14 days free trial. [Sign Up](#)

Find mobile-friendly version of articles from the day's newspaper in one easy-to-read list.

Enjoy reading as many articles as you wish without any limitations.

A select list of articles that match your interests and tastes.

Move smoothly between articles as our pages load instantly.

A one-stop-shop for seeing the latest updates, and managing your preferences.

We brief you on the latest and most important developments, three times a day.

*Our Digital Subscription plans do not currently include the e-paper, crossword and print.

You can support quality journalism by turning off ad blocker or purchase a subscription for unlimited access to The Hindu.

[Sign up for a 30 day free trial.](#)

END

Downloaded from **crackIAS.com**

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com