



Israeli and US actions against Iran amount to nuclear brinkmanship

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Context

- The attacks on Iran might have damaged its nuclear installations and, in particular, its uranium enrichment capabilities.
- Yet, this **naked aggression** was against a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a country that had willingly subjected its facilities to international scrutiny of IAEA
- Iran had also signed the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with the P5+1 (nuclear armed states plus Germany)** to ensure that its nuclear capabilities remained peaceful, only for it to be **rendered meaningless after the U.S. withdrew** from it during President Donald Trump's first term.
- **Israel's hypocrisy** is stark. It remains a **non-signatory to the NPT** and **refuses any oversight by IAEA** of its undeclared, but known, arsenal.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) marks **55 years** on 5th March, 2025.
- It was approved by the **UN General Assembly** on 12th June, 1968 and came into force on 5th March, **1970**.
- About NPT: It is the **only multilateral binding treaty to disarmament while promoting peaceful nuclear energy use**.
- Key Provisions: It defines **Nuclear Weapon States** as **countries possessing nuclear weapons before 1st January, 1967 (USA, UK, France, China, and USSR/Russia)**.
- **Non-nuclear states agree not to develop nuclear weapons, while nuclear states pledge not to transfer them.**
- It **allows peaceful use of nuclear energy**.
- Membership: 191 members with 5 NWS (US, Russia, UK, France & China).
- **India is not a member.**
- **Monitoring: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** monitors compliance.
- India and NPT: **India opposes the NPT, calling it discriminatory, as it legitimizes nuclear weapons for five countries while denying the same right to others.**
- **India follows a "No First Use" (NFU) policy** and is committed to global nuclear disarmament