International Relations · GS - II

Examine how nuclear deterrence, military exercises and economic sanctions contribute to escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Suggest measures to promote regional stability.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 04/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Nuclear deterrence; military exercises; mutual security perceptions; economic sanctions; diplomatic engagement; confidence-building measures; regional stability.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Korean Peninsula remains a major flashpoint in East Asia. North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes, combined with US–South Korea military cooperation, have deepened mutual distrust.

Major Issues

Security Dilemma: North Korea presents its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against external intervention. However, its weapons development raises security concerns among South Korea, the United States and neighbouring countries.

Military Exercises: Joint US–South Korea drills are intended to strengthen preparedness but are frequently condemned by Pyongyang as provocations. North Korea's missile tests and military responses further intensify regional insecurity.

Sanctions and Isolation: International sanctions seek to constrain North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes. However, sanctions alone have not resolved the crisis and may complicate humanitarian conditions and diplomatic engagement.

Way Forward

Sustained dialogue, military hotlines, advance notification of exercises and missile launches, and confidence-building measures can reduce miscalculation. Sanctions should be linked to verifiable non-proliferation objectives, alongside humanitarian safeguards and multilateral diplomacy.

Conclusion

Lasting stability requires reciprocal restraint, credible security assurances and sustained diplomatic engagement to prevent escalation and advance denuclearisation.

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