International Relations · GS - II

North Korea's advancing nuclear capabilities and the failure of diplomatic engagement between Washington and Pyongyang pose a serious challenge to regional and global security. Examine the implications of North Korea's nuclear ambitions for the international non-proliferation regime and suggest measures to ensure stability in the Korean Peninsula.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

North Korea's nuclear expansion challenges the NPT regime, intensifies East Asian arms competition and weakens diplomacy. Multilateral negotiations, confidence-building measures, sanctions enforcement and security guarantees remain essential.

Model Answer

North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal and advancement in ballistic missile technology have emerged as major challenges to international peace and security. The failure of diplomatic engagement between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un highlights the limitations of personalised diplomacy.

Implications:

1. **Nuclear proliferation:** North Korea's nuclear ambitions undermine the credibility of the global non-proliferation framework.

2. **Regional instability:** Its capabilities threaten South Korea and Japan, encouraging military modernisation and possible nuclear proliferation in East Asia.
3. **Great power rivalry:** North Korea's strengthening ties with Russia and China complicate international efforts to contain its nuclear programme.
4. **Global security:** Long-range missile capabilities increase the risk of nuclear escalation beyond the Korean Peninsula.

Way Forward:

- Revive multilateral negotiations involving the Six-Party Talks framework.
- Strengthen UNSC sanctions enforcement and prevent illicit nuclear financing.
- Promote confidence-building measures and military communication channels.
- Pursue phased denuclearisation alongside verifiable security guarantees.
- Strengthen the role of the IAEA in nuclear monitoring.

Conclusion: A sustainable Korean Peninsula peace requires balancing deterrence with diplomacy, recognising that military pressure alone cannot guarantee denuclearisation.

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