International Relations · GS - II

Why have diplomatic negotiations failed to achieve the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula? Examine the implications of North Korea's nuclear programme for regional and global security.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Strategic mistrust, security dilemma, nuclear deterrence, NPT framework, sanctions, regional power competition, diplomatic engagement

Model Answer

The persistence of the nuclear deadlock

The Korean Peninsula remains a major international security concern because North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities have continued to develop despite diplomatic negotiations and international sanctions.

Factors behind diplomatic failure

1. **Security dilemma:** North Korea views its nuclear arsenal as a deterrent against perceived external threats, particularly from the United States and its regional allies.
2. **Lack of mutual trust:** Washington has sought denuclearisation, while Pyongyang has demanded security guarantees and sanctions relief. Differences over sequencing have repeatedly obstructed negotiations.
3. **Verification difficulties:** Disagreements over inspections, declarations and dismantlement mechanisms have complicated implementation.

4. **Domestic and strategic calculations:** Nuclear weapons serve as an instrument of regime security and international bargaining for North Korea.
5. **Regional rivalries:** Strategic competition involving the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea complicates diplomatic consensus.

Wider security implications

1. **Regional instability:** Missile development and military responses increase tensions and the possibility of escalation.
2. **Non-proliferation concerns:** Continued nuclear development weakens confidence in international non-proliferation efforts.
3. **Arms competition:** Neighbouring countries may strengthen military capabilities in response to perceived threats.
4. **Global security:** Nuclear proliferation increases risks associated with miscalculation, illicit transfers and crisis escalation.

India's interests

India supports peaceful resolution, nuclear disarmament and the preservation of regional stability. Developments also affect India's broader Indo-Pacific strategic and economic interests.

Conclusion

Sustainable progress requires credible security assurances, verifiable arms-control arrangements and sustained multilateral engagement rather than reliance on coercive measures alone.

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