

## **US-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy**

### **Why in news?**

North Korea has resumed back its largest fissile material production reactor at the Yongbyon complex which was ceased back in 2018.

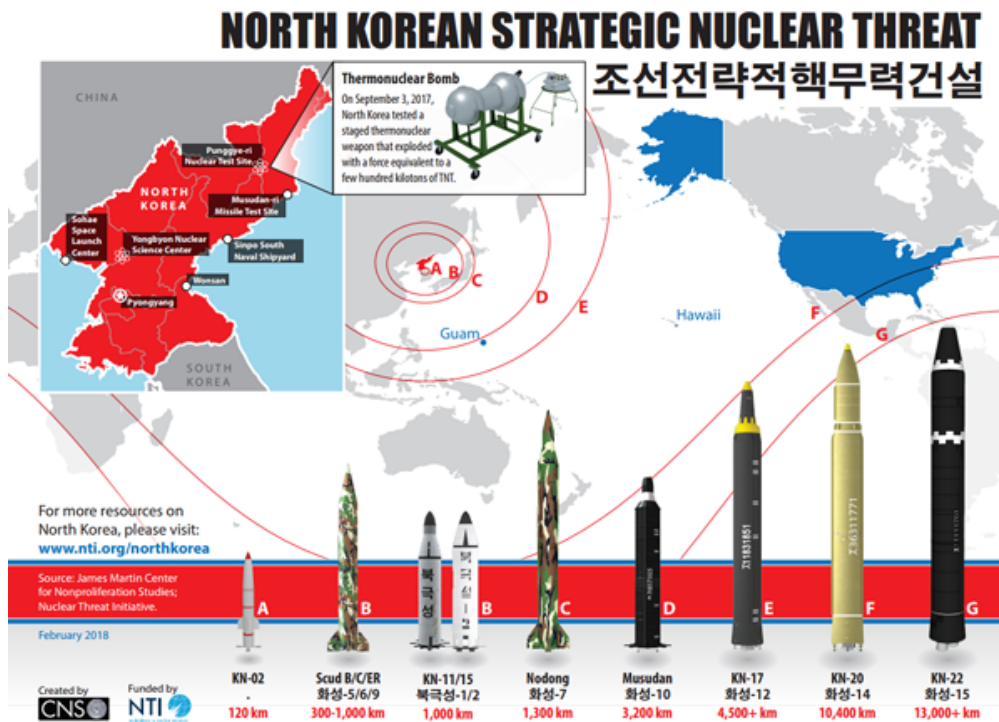
### **What are the developments in Pyongyang's Nuclear Programme ?**

#### **During 20<sup>th</sup> century:**

- In 1994, Pyongyang barred IAEA access to the Yongbyon complex
- A peace deal called **1994 Agreed Framework** was signed by President Bill Clinton, requiring Pyongyang to freeze all nuclear activity and allow inspection of its military sites in return for the construction of two light water reactors.
- But the accord broke down in 2002

#### **During the tenure of President George W. Bush:**

- North Korea unilaterally withdrew from Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) in 2003
- It is not a party to CTBT and Chemical Weapons Convention
- President George W. Bush referred North Korea as a part of the "axis of evil"
- North Korea was placed on the terrorism list after the 1987 bombing of a South Korean airplane
- In order to enforce its denuclearisation commitment, Pyongyang blew up the cooling tower at the Yongbyon complex in 2008
- Later it barred IAEA inspectors access to its reprocessing plant in the Yongbyon complex as like 1994



### During the tenure of President Donald Trump:

- In 2017, North Korea successfully tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), and conducted a thermonuclear weapon test
- In 2019 North Korea offered to fully dismantle in exchange for securing complete relief from international economic sanctions
- North Korea resumed its short-range ballistic missile tests after the bilateral talks stalled

### During the tenure of President Joe Biden:

- The Biden administration has declared its readiness to resume negotiations with Pyongyang
- But Mr. Kim has overturned the offers until sanctions are removed
- Yongbyon complex resumed its operation to generate plutonium and highly enriched uranium for the development of atomic bombs
- Also, North Korea test fired its first strategic cruise missile with possible nuclear capability recently
- North Korea's missile capacity has been enhanced to strike even the territory of U.S.

### How does U.S. perceives the North Korea's actions?

- North Korea holding to the **deterrence theory** that nuclear weapons are intended to deter other states from attacking appears hollow

- The UN treaty on complete abolition of atomic arms is the morally superior alternative
- The U.S.'s key goal in northeastern Asia is the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and it views diplomacy as the only practical way to achieve this

**Source : The Hindu, BBC**

