

Dialogue between the two Koreas

Why in news?

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Despite multiple challenges, resumption of dialogue between the North and South Korea has reignited hopes of a possible ease in tensions.

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What drove the talks?

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- North Korea's latest ballistic missile launches and nuclear explosions have raised global alarm over the region's safety for travel and tourism.

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- South Korea wants to reduce tensions immediately, to ensure the safe conduct of the approaching winter Olympic Games that it is hosting next month.

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- Hence, Seoul sees the confirmation of North Korean participation in the games and parallel peace talks as vital for the successful conduct of the games.

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- Simultaneously, North eyes an opportunity to get de-facto recognition as a nuclear state, which is a vantage point for negotiating for lifting sanctions.

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- Hence, talks between Seoul and Pyongyang has resumed after two years.

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What were some significant compromises?

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- South Korean President Mr. Moon, has been a staunch advocate of a negotiated resolution of the North Korean nuclear stand-off.

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- On that note, the U.S. and South Korea had agreed for delaying their joint

military exercises in exchange for a freeze in North Korea's nuclear program.

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- Notably, the joint military exercise was an irritant for both Pyongyang and Beijing, as both saw them as interference in their backyard.

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- China even imposed an unofficial blockade on South Korean trade and tourism for a while after the installation of US's THAAD missiles in its territory.

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- While denuclearisation on the Peninsula is still far off, as talks have resumed after two years, it has created considerable hope.

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Source: The Hindu

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