North Korea's Denuclearisation

What is the issue?

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- North Korea's upcoming meet with the US is expected to give a shape to its denuclearisation plan.
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- With its effort to gain the trust of world nations and remove the sanctions, a look at the means and probabilities become essential.
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What is the recent meet on?

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- North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met for the first time recently.
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- They have pledged to ensure peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean peninsula.
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- North Korea has already pledged to close one of its nuclear test sites.
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What is the complexity?

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- Differences between the two leaders on the question of denuclearisation are evident.
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- South Korea emphasised that complete denuclearisation was essential for

peace.
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- However, North Korea did not make its stance clear on this front.
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- There was a clear indication of the need for equality between the two, during the talks.
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- However, this equality is hard to be materialised in terms of nuclear security in the short term.
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How have denuclearisations been?

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- Denuclearisation is a key to the whole process, as it means different things to different people.
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- For the U.S., the models are Iraq, Libya and the former republics of the Soviet Union.
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- They all surrendered their nuclear assets in return for peace and normalisation.
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- But North Korea seems to be opting for a different model.
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What is North Korea's possible plan?

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- **Recognition** - It much resembles the Indian model nuclear deal.
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- Under this, it gets recognised as a “technologically advanced responsible state”.
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- On the basis of this, it in turn gets certain strategic assurances.
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- It is an effort to legitimise the nuclear arsenal and earn recognition as a responsible state.
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- **Credibility** - India arrived at the nuclear deal with the US by pointing to the direct nuclear threat from China and in turn from Pakistan.
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- Mr. Kim has gone further by suspending all missile tests and taking steps to shut down a nuclear test site.
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- This is much in line with earlier US 's demand to India to sign the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to avoid sanctions.
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- **Relations with US** - Kim is also likely to use the Indian model to bargain for normal relations with the U.S.
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- This may be on the basis of guarantees such as:
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i. minimum deterrence
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ii. non-first use
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iii. no tests
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iv. commitment to nuclear disarmament in keeping with global developments, etc
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Why is this model uncertain for North Korea?

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- Trust and confidence in India as a responsible state and various other factors were behind the historic nuclear deal.
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- Unlike India, the track followed by the earlier North Korean leaders and the present one appeared in disorder.
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- This is ever since North Korea sought to leave the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) regime.
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- The posture was of threat and arrogance rather than peace or reconciliation.
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- It is now inclined to negotiate its way into removing sanctions and shaping

its future.
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- But the U.S. would be far more reluctant to make any concessions to North Korea without an agreement on denuclearisation.
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- The forthcoming negotiations will prove whether the Indian model will help North Korea in restoring peace.
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- Some amount of domestic reform at home, in terms of civil liberties, would help North Korea make its case better.
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Source: The Hindu

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