Second Trump-Kim Meeting

Why in news?

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A second meeting of the U.S. President Trump and North Korean leader Kim is soon to take place in Vietnam, after the last year's meet in Singapore.

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How was the last meet?

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- The first meeting between U.S. President Trump and North Korea Chairman Kim Jong-un in 2018 saw little progress in achieving the set goals.
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- The Singapore meeting generated mutual goodwill and hopes of a breakthrough.
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- But the declaration on 'denuclearisation' of the Korean Peninsula came without indicating a timetable or the modalities of reaching that goal.
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What is the dispute now?

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- After the Singapore meet, Pyongyang’s anticipation of an easing of U.S. sanctions has not materialised.
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- The U.S. sought the information on inventory of nuclear stockpiles as a first step towards a verifiable dismantling of the North Korean arsenal.
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- But there is no progress on this front from the North Korean side.
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- Underscoring this stalemate, U.S. Vice President stated that Pyongyang had made little headway on its commitments.
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- Also, the concept of “complete denuclearisation” of the Korean Peninsula in the Singapore declaration has become a subject of conflicting interpretations.
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- Pyongyang insists that the expression must have a wider meaning and include the U.S. military umbrella that extends across South Korea and Japan.
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- It contends that North Korea will be the first target in the event of a pre-emptive U.S. strike.
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Why is the second meet significant?

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- North Korea has stopped its nuclear domination since the first meet with Trump.
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- It has not tested any nuclear-capable device or launched any missile for more than a year.
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- This is a reason for continued patience and confidence in the second dialogue.
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- South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in favours rapprochement with the neighbour, and a lasting resolution of the US.-North Korea nuclear standoff.
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- After his recent meeting with the Chinese leader Xi Jinping, Mr. Kim too reinforced his pledge to rid the region of nuclear arms.
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- But he emphasised on North Korea's need for security guarantees.
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- Against this backdrop, the prospects for any meaningful progress appear to hinge on mediation by China and South Korea.
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- In all, the meet is seen to be a significant one in determining the terms of relationship between the U.S. and North Korea.
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Source: The Hindu

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