Trump Vs Kim Showdown

What is the issue?

\n\n

\n
- US president Trump recently called off the planned bilateral summit with North Korean Premier Kim.
\n
- A serious of mis-steps has led to this unravelling, and the risk of geo-political tensions escalating further is very much alive.
\n

\n\n

How did the current situation evolve?

\n\n

\n
- US president Trump and North Korean leader Kim were scheduled to meet soon in Singapore for a comprehensive bilateral to end hostilities.
\n
- The meet was highly anticipated as it held the key to resolving the nuclear crisis that had engulfed the Korean peninsula for almost a decade now.
\n
- Usually, acceptance of invitations is made public only after comprehensive planning on the agenda to be discussed and expected goals are clear.
\n
- But, when Trump had immediately agreed for a summit on Kim’s invitation, it was widely perceived as an instinctive decision without proper planning.
\n
- Ironically, this was despite the intense acrimony between US and North Korea over the course of the previous year.
\n
- Currently, Trump has unilaterally pulled out of the meet saying that North Korea is displaying a high headed behaviour and wasn’t committed enough.
\n

\n\n

How has North Korea conducted itself since the thaw began?

\n\n

\n
- Once Mr. Trump had cleared the summit proposal, North Korea also moved fast, making a series of gestures to build goodwill.
\n
- In April, there was a summit between Mr. Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a border village in the demilitarised zone.
\n
- North Korea pledged to halt nuclear and missile tests, and also dismantled its nuclear test site – which was largely a symbolic gesture.
\n
- Kim also ordered the release of 3 Korean-Americans, who were undergoing prison terms.
\n

\n\n

How has US conducted itself on this issue?

\n\n

\n
- But the US hasn't taken these into account and has shown little bonhomie from its side to ease tensions.
\n
- It went ahead with its joint military exercise with South Korea, which could've been postponed or cancelled to convey goodwill.
\n
- Trump's team has also been bad mouthing Kim, and openly airing possibilities of a violently deposing Kim it he doesn't denuclearise on US terms.
\n
- All of these has triggered legitimate anger from the North Korean officials, and ended up issuing a fresh warning to the US of a nuclear showdown.
\n

\n\n

How does the future look?

\n\n

\n
- Despite the setback, hopes for an eventual one-to-one meeting still exist.
\n
- In a letter to Mr. Kim, Mr. Trump said the North was welcome to return to talks if it changed its attitude towards the U.S.

\n
- Pyongyang also issued a conciliatory response, saying that it hoped the U.S. President would reconsider his decision to “unilaterally” cancel the summit.
\n
- Both Mr. Trump and Mr. Kim should keep in mind the larger goal of de-escalation of tension, if not outright denuclearisation of North Korea.
\n
- The only sound way to address the Korean nuclear crisis is diplomacy.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n