

Editorial Analysis

17 Feb 2022



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The nuclear challenge: On North Korea's economic worries

The article tends to highlight the nuclear challenge that the US is facing due to North Korea. President Joe Biden affirms that North Korea's nuclear programs intend to threaten America's security. To counter this, he has decided to engage with Pyongyang diplomatically.

All along, America's presidents have been trying to initiate talks with North Korea. Even after the collapse of the initiative, they resorted to maintaining strategic patience.

Later, under the Trump administration, the US proposed removing sanctions for de-nuclearisation, but North Korea rejected it.

Since then, there have been no improvements in the ties. After Biden took charge, North Korea conducted a missile test, which was observed as a provocation on their part.

The fundamental goal of the US is to achieve the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, which can only be achieved through diplomacy and peace talks. Biden administration must use the economic crisis in the North as an opportunity to address mutual concerns.

Words to look out for

Deterrence:

- **Synonyms:** disincentive, intimidation, prevention
- **Antonyms:** motivator, support, encouragement
- **Word usage:** For most people, the possibility of jail time is deterrence, but some hardened criminals will steal and kill anyway.

Provocation:

- **Synonyms:** incitement, aggravation, stimulus
- **Antonyms:** pacification, prevention, suppression
- **Word usage:** I walked away from a potential fight despite my enemy's provocation.

Breakthrough:

- **Synonyms:** discovery, find, advance
- **Antonyms:** predicament, decline, impasse
- **Word usage:** A medical breakthrough suddenly allowed doctors to cure a disease that killed thousands of people.

Article Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-nuclear-challenge-on-north-koreas-economic-worries/article34474669.ece>

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United opposition? Victorious state leaders have their task cut out to challenge BJP at Centre

The article talks about Mamta's Banerjee's win against BJP and the election results in Tamil Nadu and Kerala that have given rise to the hope of regional forces regaining strength to stand against the central power.

The author stresses the instance where Mamta Banerjee had written to the opposition leaders to unite against the centre.

The fact is that the centre and state relations are at their low leveraging solid grounds for regional parties to collaborate. However, the need on the third front is for a national party to sustain long.

Given this, a solid regional leader must come up to act as a central pole. Mamta Banerjee has that potential, provided she stops engaging in post-poll violence and works on crafting a national image for herself.

Words to look out for

Juggernaut:

- **Synonyms:** steamroller, behemoth
- **Antonyms:** asthenia, debilitation, diminutive
- **Word usage:** With over a billion hits each day, Google is the juggernaut of search engines.

Coalescing:

- **Synonyms:** consolidate, unite, combine
- **Antonyms:** separate, apart, divorce
- **Word usage:** Local high school principals have agreed to coalesce around new approaches for college preparation.

Emphatic:

- **Synonyms:** forceful, assertive, insistent
- **Antonyms:** ambiguous, forceless, doubtful
- **Word usage:** Nicole's mother was emphatic when she told her not to come home late again.

Article Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-editorials/united-opposition-victorious-state-leaders-have-their-task-cut-out-to-challenge-bjp-at-centre/>

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