

# **American Sanctions Over North Korea**

For Prelims: North Korean missile launches, 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, Korean Armistice Agreement.

**For Mains**: Korean War, Korean Armistice Agreement, Cold War, Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003, THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence), American Sanctions Over North Korea.

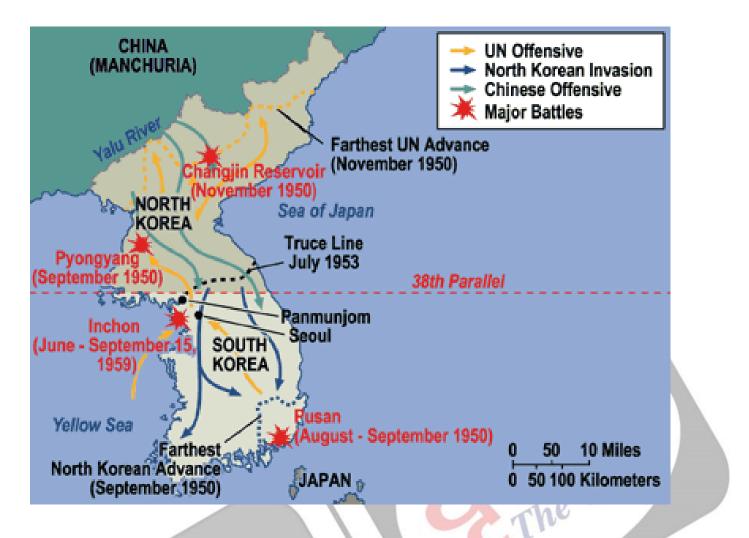
## Why in News

Recently, the US has imposed its first sanctions over **North Korea's weapons programs** following a series of **North Korean missile launches.** 

- These sanctions were aimed both to prevent the advancement of North Korea's programs and to impede its attempts to proliferate weapons technologies.
- North Korea is continuing its missile program despite several <u>UN Security Council</u> resolutions and the international community's calls for diplomacy and <u>denuclearization</u>.

# **Key Points**

- Origin of Divide in Korean Peninsula:
  - The present-day conflict between the US and North Korea can be traced from the Cold War between the USSR and US.
  - After the defeat of Japan in <u>World War II</u>, the Allied forces at the **Yalta Conference** (1945), agreed to establish a "four-power trusteeship over Korea".
  - The fear of the spread of communism (state ownership over economic resources of a country) and the mutual distrust between the USSR and the US led to the failure of the trusteeship plan.
    - Before a concrete plan could be formulated, the USSR invaded Korea.
    - This led to a condition where the north of Korea was under the USSR and the south under the rest of the allies, mainly the US.
    - The Korean peninsula was divided into two regions by the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.
  - In 1948 the United Nations proposed free elections across all of Korea.
    - The USSR rejected this plan and the northern part was declared as Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).
    - The election took place in the **American protectorate** resulting in the establishment of the **Republic of Korea (South Korea).**
  - Both North Korea and South Korea tried to enhance their reach, territorially and ideologically, which gave birth to the Korean Conflict.



#### The Korean War:

- On 25<sup>th</sup> June 1950, North Korea, backed by the USSR, launched an attack on South Korea and occupied most of the country.
  - In response, the United Nations force led by the US retaliated.
- In 1951 the US forces led by Douglas MacArthur crossed the 38th parallel and triggered the entry of China in support of North Korea.
  - To prevent further escalation, peace talks began later in 1951.
- India was actively involved in negotiating peace in the Korean peninsula by engaging all the major stakeholders US, USSR and China.
  - In 1952, the Indian resolution on Korea was adopted at the <u>United Nations</u> (UN).
- On 27<sup>th</sup> July 1953, the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed between the UN Command, the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army.
  - It led to an official ceasefire without a Peace treaty. Thus, the war officially never ended.
- This also led to the establishment of the Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) a strip of land running across the Korean Peninsula to serve as a buffer zone between North Korea and South Korea.
- In December 1991, North and South Korea signed a pact agreeing to refrain from aggression.

# US-North Korea Conflict:

- During the **Cold War era, (allegedly with the support of Russia and China)** North Korea accelerated its nuclear programme and developed nuclear capabilities.
  - During the same time, the **US extended its Nuclear Umbrella** (guarantee of support during a nuclear attack) to its allies i.e South Korea and Japan.
- North Korea withdrew from the <u>Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003</u> and afterwards, under present leader Kim Jong-un, it increased nuclear missile testing.
  - North Korea is barred from testing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons

#### under international law.

- In response to this, the US started deploying **THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence)** in South Korea in March 2017.
- The territorial conflict which started between North and South Korea has **transformed into a tussle between the US and North Korea.**
- Following the failure of diplomatic efforts to improve relations with North Korea, **the US has imposed sanctions.**

## India's Stand:

• India has consistently voiced its opposition to North Korean nuclear and missile tests. However, it has maintained a neutral stance regarding sanctions.

## **Source: IE**

