

## Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. nuclearisation (noun) – the act of having nuclear weapons.
2. address (verb) – tackle, deal with, attend to, try to sort out.
3. call (for) (noun) – requirement, necessity, demand, need.
4. stern (adjective) – strict, severe, stringent.
5. deterrence (noun) – the act of deterring/stopping someone from doing something.
6. hostile (adjective) – opposed, inimical, antagonistic, ill-disposed; confrontational, belligerent, combative.
7. head (verb) – move towards, go towards, aim for.
8. diplomatic (adjective) – (delicate & sensitive) consular, foreign-policy.
9. showdown (noun) – confrontation, face-off, clash.
10. congressional (adjective) – relating to the Congress (legislative assembly in the U.S).
11. Congress (noun) – legislative assembly, parliament; The United States Congress is the bicameral (two chambers) legislature of the federal government of the United States, and consists of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.
12. address (noun) – speech, talk, discourse.
13. pose (verb) – constitute, present, create, cause (a problem or danger or risk).
14. diplomacy (noun) – negotiations, discussions, talks, dialogue (related to international politics).
15. steer (verb) – navigate, guide, conduct, direct/lead.
16. strategic (adjective) – relating to achieving long-term or overall goals.
17. strategic patience (noun) – it refers to the Obama-era policy that the administration used to deal with North Korea.
18. summitry (noun) – summit meetings collectively.
19. summit (noun) – meeting, conference, conclave (international meeting/conference of heads of state/government).
20. puzzle (noun) – enigma, mystery, paradox, problem.
21. post-War (adjective) – It refers to the time since the end of World War II.
22. diplomatically (adverb) – tactfully, sensitively; in a way that involves ambassadors/diplomats between countries.
23. framework agreement (noun) – an agreement between two parties that recognizes that the parties have not come to a final agreement on

all matters relevant to the relationship between them, but have come to an agreement on enough matters to move forward with the relationship, with further details to be agreed to in the future.

24. **halt** (verb) – stop, terminate, end.
25. **wait and watch/wait and see** (phrase) – bide one's time; to wait calmly for a good opportunity to do something; be patient, stand by, hold back.
26. **predecessor** (noun) – previous holder of the post; forerunner, precursor, antecedent.
27. **reach out** (phrasal verb) – contact someone to obtain/offer help/assistance/cooperation.
28. **regime** (noun) – government.
29. **breakthrough** (noun) – very important/significant development or progress.
30. **in theory** (phrase) – in principle, on paper, in the abstract.
31. **de-nuclearisation** (noun) – the act of removing nuclear weapons from a place.
32. **peninsula** (noun) – an area of land almost surrounded by water (on three sides) and one side attached to the mainland.
33. **sanctions** (noun) – action taken, or an order given to force a country to obey international laws by limiting or stopping trade with that country, by not allowing economic aid for that country, etc (Courtesy: VOA Learning English).
34. **phased** (adjective) – gradual, incremental, step-by-step, staggered.
35. **seek** (verb) – ask for, request, appeal.
36. **in return** (phrase) – in exchange for, in consideration of.
37. **ties** (noun) – association, relationship, bond, connection.
38. **provocation** (noun) – annoyance, irritation, agitation, vexation; stirring, goading, prompting.
39. **strike** (noun) – attack.
40. **out of the question** (phrase) – unthinkable, unimaginable, unsuitable.
41. **summit** (noun) – meeting, conference, conclave.
42. **lead to** (verb) – result in, cause, bring on, give rise to.
43. **momentum** (noun) – power, strength, impetus.
44. **engagement** (noun) – participation, taking part, involvement.
45. **stick to** (phrasal verb) – abide by, hold to, comply with, fulfil, make good.
46. **self-imposed** (adjective) – something imposed on self (not by others).
47. **moratorium** (noun) – a temporary suspension/postponement of activity (for example; payment of a debt).

48. **ballistic missile** (noun) – a missile, which is shot from the ground, takes a long distance to travel well outside the atmosphere and falls to the earth to explode on its target (due to the gravity).
49. **acknowledge** (verb) – admit, accept, recognize, realize.
50. **go through** (phrasal verb) – undergo, experience, face, suffer, endure, withstand.
51. **seize** (verb) – take hold of, snatch, grab, capture (suddenly); to take an opportunity decisively.
52. **seize the moment** (phrase) – to make the most of today (present moment); to take full advantage (of opportunities).
53. **common ground** (phrase) – shared opinions, beliefs (or interests).
54. **strategy** (noun) – plan of action (in order to achieve a more expansive set of political, economic, and security interests).

## The nuclear challenge: On North Korea's economic worries

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### North Korea's economic worries and the U.S.'s nuclearisation concerns need addressing

President Joe Biden's call for "stern deterrence" in response to **North Korea's nuclear programme** and Pyongyang's angry reaction, accusing the Biden administration of being "hostile", suggest that both countries are headed towards a diplomatic showdown. In his first congressional address last week, Mr. Biden said the nuclear programmes of Iran and North Korea posed a "serious threat to America's security and world security" and promised to respond through "diplomacy and stern deterrence". His administration has also completed a review of the U.S.'s North Korea policy. Mr. Biden is likely to steer between Barack Obama's "strategic patience" and Donald Trump's top-level summitry in dealing with the North Korean nuclear challenge. North Korea has remained an unresolved foreign policy puzzle for all post-War American Presidents. In recent times, U.S. Presidents have shown a willingness to diplomatically engage with Pyongyang. The Clinton administration had signed a framework agreement with Pyongyang to halt its nuclear programme. Mr. Obama had initiated talks with North Korea in 2012, which collapsed after Pyongyang launched

a satellite. He then adopted a wait-and-watch approach, which came to be called “strategic patience”. Mr. Trump altered his predecessor’s North Korea policy by reaching out to the regime and meeting its leader, Kim Jong-un, thrice, but without a breakthrough.

In theory, the Trump administration and North Korea had agreed to a complete de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, but failed to agree on its formula. In the 2019 Trump-Kim summit at Hanoi, the U.S. proposed removal of sanctions for de-nuclearisation, but North Korea rejected it. Pyongyang had taken a phased approach and sought sanctions removal in return. Ever since, there has been no improvement in ties. After Mr. Biden assumed office, North Korea had conducted short-range missile tests, which the U.S. saw as a provocation. Mr. Biden does not have many good options in dealing with North Korea. The U.S.’s key goal in northeastern Asia is the de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. And the only practical way to achieve this is through diplomacy as a military strike on North Korea, a nuclear power, is out of the question. Though the Trump-Kim summits did not lead to any breakthrough, they have still created a diplomatic momentum for engagement. Despite its threats to expand its nuclear programme, North Korea sticks to the self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range ballistic missile tests. The North, as acknowledged by Mr. Kim recently, is going through a tough economic crisis and is open to talks. Mr. Biden should seize this opportunity and try to reach common ground with Mr. Kim that addresses both North Korea’s economic worries and the U.S.’s nuclear concerns. That should be the focus of the Biden administration’s new North Korean strategy.