



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

SEPT'18 (22 to 28)

Topic: North and South Korean Leaders Hold Historic Summit

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on September 19, 2018 signed an agreement on denuclearisation, defusing crisis on the Korean peninsula and reducing military tensions.

The talks were hosted by North Korea in its capital city Pyongyang. The North Korean leader welcomed the South Korea President at the Sunan International Airport, at the start of Moon's three-day visit to the nation.

Background:

The historic talks are taking place between the two Koreas as the US effort to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons program lost its momentum, just a few months after US President Trump met with Kim in June for a summit in Singapore.

Though North Korea claimed to have shut down one of its nuclear test sites, reports emerged that North Korea

Week: 22nd to 28th Sept 2018

was building new ballistic missiles at a factory just outside its capital.

Key Highlights:

- North Korea has agreed to permanently dismantle engine testing facilities and missile launch pads in the presence of international inspectors.
- The North Korean leader stated that his regime is also willing to take additional steps in accordance with the June 12 North Korea-US Joint Declaration, such as dismantle the country's largest nuclear facility in Yongbyon if the US takes corresponding measures.
- The Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Centre is a major complex and its permanent closure would be a significant move towards ensuring that the North gives up its nuclear arsenal.
- Besides this, Kim Jong Un pledged to visit Seoul, which would be the first visit by a North Korean leader to the South since the Korean War.
- The leaders of the two militaries, South Korean defence Minister Song Young-moo and North Korea's Minister for the People's Armed Forces No Kwang-chol also signed a declaration, agreeing to a wide

Week: 22nd to 28th Sept 2018

range of steps aimed at further reducing military tension on the Korean Peninsula.

- Both the leaders want the US to sign off on formally ending the Korean War, which still technically continues because no peace treaty was signed.

Significance:

There have been military tensions between the two countries for a long time. This move will lead to good relation between the two countries.

This is the third meeting between Moon and Kim but the first to take place outside the truce village of Panmunjom, on the border.

Previously, two different South Korean Presidents were hosted by Kim's father, the late Kim Jong Il for summit sessions at the capital in 2000 and 2007.

The main agenda of the Moon-Kim meeting was to enhance ties between the two Koreas and push the talks on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Week: 22nd to 28th Sept 2018

Accompanying Moon on the historic trip are leading industrialists from South Korea's business community including the CEO of Samsung. The industry leaders were added to the trip to explore possible ventures across the border.

Conclusion:

Many countries are happy with this move as this will bring about global peace and such practice should be followed by few other neighboring countries which are continuously in a state of war. The joint agreement between the North and South Korea specified measures including a joint military committee, the halt of border drills and the withdrawal of 11 border guard posts by the end of the year, in order reduce the risk of military escalation.

The agreement also outlined plans to reconnect a cross-border railway, to allow letter exchanges and video calls between citizens and to seek to file a joint bid to co-host the 2032 Olympics.

Week: 22nd to 28th Sept 2018

The other objectives of South Korean President in the North are expected to be largely focused on cultural and symbolic activities designed to project an image of cross-border friendship.

Suggested Reading:

- ✓ <https://edition.cnn.com/asia/live-news/north-korea-south-korea-summit-intl/index.html>
- ✓ <https://www.jagranjosh.com/current-affairs/two-koreas-sign-agreement-on-denuclearisation-of-korean-peninsula-1537353210-1>
- ✓ <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=353033>