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## Violation of Armistice Agreement: UNC

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### Why in News

Recently, the **United Nations Command (UNC)** has found both North and South Korea guilty of violating the **Korean Armistice Agreement 1953** due to gunfire along the **Korean Demilitarised Zone (DMZ)** between the two countries.

#### United Nations Command

- The **USA led UNC** is a **unified command** for the multinational military forces.
- It **oversees affairs in the heavily fortified DMZ** and ensures the terms of the armistice are being agreed upon by both North Korea and South Korea.
- It was established on **24<sup>th</sup> July 1950 in Tokyo, Japan**.

### Key Points

- The UNC led a **multinational special investigation** regarding the recent shootings at DMZ whose findings have **not been accepted by South Korea** owing to **non-cooperation by North Korea** in the investigations.  
Investigations had been **unable to determine** whether the shootings that originated from North Korea had been intentional.
- The shooting also violates the **Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018**, an **inter-Korean military agreement**, which calls for reduced military tensions between the two countries.

### Korean Armistice Agreement 1953

- The armistice agreement **halted the Korean War of 1950-53** and established the **Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**, the **current border** between the two nations.
  - India has played a major role in the cease-fire agreement, strengthening **India-South Korea relations**.
  - The DMZ runs close to the **38<sup>th</sup> parallel line**.

- The armistice was signed on **27<sup>th</sup> July 1953** and was designed to ensure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved.
- It was signed by representatives of the UNC, Korean People's Army (KPA) and the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA).

**South Korea did not sign** the armistice as it refused to accept it.

- It was only a ceasefire and there was no official declaration of the end of the war so in the absence of an official peace treaty, as is the norm, **the two countries officially remain at war.**

However, in **December 1991**, North and South Korea **signed a pact** agreeing to refrain from aggression.



**Korean War**

Way Forward

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Both North and South Korea should work towards improving their relations and seek a potential resolution of the situation by bilateral talks and discussions possibly leading to a peace treaty which would end the Korean war formally. Denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula and USA removing its nuclear-capable forces from South Korea is a prerequisite for ensuring balance, peace, mutual cooperation and growth.

**Source: IE**