

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA



India-Korea Smart City Partnership: MMRDA enhances relationship to fast-track Mumbai 3.0 Vision

India and South Korea have partnered to develop smart city initiatives in Mumbai under the MMRDA's "Mumbai 3.0" vision. This collaboration aims to integrate Korean technology and expertise in urban planning, mobility, and sustainability to transform Mumbai's infrastructure, improve quality of life, and foster economic and technological cooperation.

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South Korea and Taiwan Follow Japan's Lead in India's Semiconductor push

South Korea and Taiwan are joining Japan in supporting India's semiconductor ambitions, aiming to reduce dependence on China and strengthen supply chains. India offers incentives and infrastructure to attract investments, while these countries bring expertise. The collaboration marks a strategic shift towards diversifying chip manufacturing and bolstering technological partnerships in Asia. [Read more](#)

South Korea Condemns Terrorist Attack in Jammu and Kashmir, Expresses Solidarity with India

The Republic of Korea strongly condemned the April 22 terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam area, extending condolences to the victims and their families. Reaffirming its firm stance against terrorism, Seoul expressed deep sympathy and solidarity with the government and people of India in this time of grief. [Read more](#)

India, South Korea discuss measures to bolster trade cooperation

India and South Korea discussed enhancing trade and economic cooperation during a high-level meeting. Both sides emphasized strengthening supply chains, resolving trade barriers, and expanding bilateral trade. They also reviewed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and explored collaboration in sectors like electronics, manufacturing, and critical technologies to boost mutual growth. [Read more](#)

India and South Korea Sign MoU to Boost Space Sector Collaboration

The Indian Space Association (ISpA) and Korea Association for Space Technology Promotion (KASP) have signed an MoU to enhance bilateral cooperation in the space sector. This partnership aims to facilitate joint research, technology exchange, and innovation, strengthening strategic ties between India and South Korea in the space domain. [Read more](#)



TOP NEWS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA



Low birth rate's far-reaching impact: Sustainability of teacher pensions under threat

South Korea's demographic crisis is straining the Teachers' Pension system, with early retirements rising due to school closures. Over 400 educators, including some in their 30s, began drawing pensions early. With declining student numbers and no reforms, the fund faces a deficit by 2028 and potential depletion by 2042.

[Read more](#)

South Korea uncovers rise in Chinese goods reabeled for US tariff evasion

South Korea's customs agency reported 29.5 billion won in violations in the first quarter, mostly from China, attempting to bypass US tariffs under President Trump. Products like cathode materials and surveillance cameras were falsely labeled as South Korean exports. A special task force has been formed to prevent further violations, and US officials are cooperating on investigations.

[Read more](#)

South Korea, China set for maritime talks amid tensions over steel structures in West Sea

South Korea and China are set to hold maritime talks to address tensions over the construction of steel structures in the Yellow Sea. The structures, which South Korea claims are for research purposes, have sparked concerns in China about potential disruptions to its fishing activities. Both sides aim to resolve the issue diplomatically. [Read more](#)

South Korea April 1-20 exports fall as US shipments drop amid tariffs

South Korea's exports rose 11.1% year-on-year from April 1-20, driven by strong semiconductor and ship sales. Semiconductor exports surged 43.4%, highlighting recovery in the tech sector. Imports also grew by 5.6%, indicating resilient domestic demand. The trade balance remained positive, reflecting steady economic momentum despite global uncertainties. [Read more](#)



Seoul and Washington Launch High-Level Economic Talks, Aim for July Trade Deal

South Korea and the U.S. kicked off their first "2+2" economic talks in Washington on April 24, seeking to avoid renewed tariffs and deepen cooperation in trade, investment, and economic security. The two sides agreed to pursue a "July Package" before the mutual tariff waiver expires on July 8. [Read more](#)

North Korea Confirms Troop Deployment to Russia

North Korea officially confirmed sending troops to Russia, citing a strategic treaty with Moscow. Pyongyang's forces fought in Russia's Kursk region under Kim Jong-un's orders. This follows Kremlin acknowledgment of North Korean soldiers' participation against Ukraine. Analysts suggest Kim may attend Russia's May 9 Victory Day celebrations in Moscow. [Read more](#)



SECURITY



US deploys B-1 bombers to Japan, placing North Korea in closer striking range

The U.S. has deployed B-1B Lancer bombers to Misawa Air Base in northern Japan, just 810 miles from Pyongyang. This marks the first such deployment to Japan, aimed at strengthening deterrence against North Korea and China amid rising regional tensions and escalating security challenges. [Read more](#)



Seoul launches 4th spy satellite to boost NK surveillance

South Korea launched its fourth domestically developed spy satellite, enhancing its reconnaissance capabilities to monitor North Korea. The satellite, equipped with synthetic aperture radar, will improve surveillance despite weather conditions and time of day. By 2025, South Korea plans a five-satellite network for real-time monitoring and faster response to provocations. [Read more](#)

US flies long-range bomber for drill with South Korea, as North marks key state anniversary

The U.S. conducted a joint drill with South Korea, involving long-range bombers, as North Korea marked a key state anniversary. The exercise aimed to strengthen deterrence against North Korea's provocations and enhance security cooperation. The display of military strength comes amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula. [Read more](#)

Audit Reveals South Korea Falsified 2018 DMZ Guard Post Inspections to Maintain Inter-Korean Pact Timeline

South Korea's military manipulated inspection findings in 2018 to falsely declare North Korean guard posts dismantled under a key peace accord, the Board of Audit and Inspection revealed. Despite underground structures remaining intact, reports were altered to preserve diplomatic momentum. Prosecutors are now investigating six former top defense officials. [Read more](#)

North Korea continues to pursue covert biological weapons program: US report

A U.S. State Department report claims North Korea maintains a covert biological weapons program, violating international treaties. Despite being a signatory of the Biological Weapons Convention, Pyongyang is suspected of producing pathogens, toxins, and using unconventional delivery methods. The U.S. continues monitoring this breach of international commitments. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT



Korea Trade Insurance Corp. opens Washington office

South Korea's Trade Insurance Corp. (K-SURE) has opened its first U.S. office in Washington, D.C., aiming to support Korean exporters and strengthen economic ties with the U.S. The office will provide financial services and risk management, particularly benefiting sectors like semiconductors and electric vehicles. [Read more](#)

South Korea Joins NATO's Science & Technology Enhanced Partnership

On March 1, 2025, South Korea became an S&T Enhanced Partner of NATO, gaining access to collaborative research in areas like cybersecurity, medicine, and propulsion. Joining alongside Switzerland and Ukraine, South Korea will now contribute to NATO's strategic scientific board and global security innovation network.

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World-OKTA Faces Backlash Over Event in Wildfire-Hit Andong

The World Federation of Overseas Korean Traders Association (World-OKTA) is facing criticism for holding its leaders' convention in Andong, recently devastated by wildfires. Critics cite insensitivity and possible election law violations after receiving government subsidies. World-OKTA plans to proceed with export consultations and fundraising for displaced residents during the event.

[Read more](#)

Trump's 145% tariff on Chinese batteries opens door for Korean rivals

The U.S.'s new 145% tariff on Chinese energy storage batteries boosts South Korean battery firms, reducing China's price advantage. LG Energy Solution, Samsung SDI, and SK On are adapting with LFP battery production for the U.S. market, capitalizing on existing infrastructure and local manufacturing to gain market share.

[Read more](#)



New alliances: Hyundai, Posco team up on steel, batteries to tackle US tariffs

Hyundai Motor and Posco Group have formed a strategic alliance in the U.S. to counter high tariffs and secure EV battery materials. Posco may invest in Hyundai's Louisiana steel plant, while both aim to establish a robust U.S. supply chain. The move signals a major shift in their rivalry. [Read more](#)

Unprecedented Heat Drives Dangerous Wildfires in South Korea and Japan

From March 21-26, 2025, unseasonably high temperatures fueled dangerous wildfires across South Korea and Japan. Human-caused climate change amplified the heat, increasing fire risks in drought-affected areas. With temperatures up to 10°C above average, experts warn that these extreme heat events are now more likely due to climate change. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

Korea Times, in *Army holds live-fire artillery drills at Paju firing range for 1st time in 7 years*, reports on South Korea's military conducting large-scale artillery exercises near the border with North Korea for the first time since 2017. The article highlights efforts to strengthen military readiness, bolster deterrence capabilities, and respond to evolving security challenges on the Korean Peninsula. [Read more](#)

Chosun Ilbo, in *North Korea's nuclear submarine plans take shape—with help from Russia?*, reports on Kim Jong-un unveiling North Korea's first-ever nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine amid speculation of Russian technological support. The article examines Pyongyang's evolving military capabilities, potential strategic shifts in the Korean Peninsula, and the broader implications for regional security. [Read more](#)

Chosun Ilbo, in *Nearly half of North Korean troops in Ukraine reported killed or wounded*, reports on heavy North Korean casualties in Ukraine, with over 5,000 troops killed or wounded during operations in Russia's Kursk region. The article examines the impact of North Korea's military involvement, the strain on Pyongyang's forces, and the potential risks of further escalation. [Read more](#)

Korea JoongAng Daily, in *U.S. military considering permanent deployment of F-35 fighter jets to Korea*, reports on Washington's plans to station F-35 stealth fighters in South Korea to strengthen deterrence against North Korean threats. The article explores efforts to bolster U.S.–South Korea defense cooperation and respond to evolving regional security dynamics. [Read more](#)

Korea JoongAng Daily, in *Korea, U.S. and Japan hold tabletop exercise in Seoul*, reports on trilateral defense talks and a simulation exercise aimed at strengthening coordinated responses to North Korean nuclear and missile threats. The article highlights deepening security cooperation among the three allies amid rising tensions in the region. [Read more](#)

Korea Herald, in *Marine Corps holds large-scale amphibious landing drills in Pohang*, reports on South Korea's Marine Corps conducting major amphibious landing exercises involving 3,200 troops, KF-16 fighter jets, and naval vessels, including the ROKS Marado. The article highlights efforts to enhance combat readiness and joint operational capabilities amid regional security challenges. [Read more](#)

Korea Herald, in *South Korea and U.S. to continue Nuclear Consultative Group under Trump administration*, reports on the continuation of the Nuclear Consultative Group (NCG) between South Korea and the United States, despite speculation it could be scrapped. The article examines the ongoing efforts to strengthen extended deterrence through nuclear cooperation, with the next meeting potentially scheduled for June. [Read more](#)

Army Recognition, in *U.S. and South Korea unite to build next-generation military drones for global export*, reports on a new partnership between the United States and South Korea to develop advanced unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for international markets. The article examines the strategic implications of this collaboration, including enhanced defense capabilities and expanded export opportunities. [Read more](#)

South China Morning Post, in *Military spending on the rise in East Asia as China upgrades its armed forces*, reports on a significant increase in defense budgets across East Asia, driven by China's military expansion. The article examines how Beijing's growing military capabilities are prompting neighboring countries to bolster their own defense spending, reflecting heightened regional tensions. [Read more](#)

NDTV, in *North Korea launches new 5,000-tonne warship with “Most Powerful Weapons”*, reports on the unveiling of North Korea's largest destroyer-class vessel, the Choe Hyon, equipped with advanced missile systems and vertical launch capabilities. The article examines the strategic implications of this development amid heightened regional tensions and ongoing military cooperation with Russia. [Read more](#)



The Korea Chair Bulletin provides research-driven insights into India-South Korea relations, covering policy shifts, strategic dialogues, and emerging trends. It also highlights key developments and news from the Korean Peninsula.

Korea Chair Bulletin

The Republic of Korea Chair at CSDR aims to enhance the understanding and cooperation between India and the Republic of Korea through research and policy engagement. Launched in Jan 2025, with a grant from the Korea Foundation, the Chair intends to create broader awareness and in-depth understanding of the India-ROK relationship, which remains limited despite growing governmental engagement.

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