

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA

LG Electronics eyes Rs 15,000 crore IPO debut in October: Report

South Korea's LG Electronics is set to launch a ₹15,000 crore initial public offering (IPO) of its Indian arm in October 2025, making it the year's largest IPO. The offering, a 15% stake via Offer for Sale, follows SEBI approval. Leading bankers—including Morgan Stanley and JP Morgan—are managing the highly anticipated listing. [Read more](#)

Shri Gourangalal Das Appointed as India's Next Ambassador to South Korea

Shri Gourangalal Das, a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer and currently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea. Das is expected to assume charge shortly, further strengthening India-South Korea diplomatic relations and advancing bilateral cooperation in strategic, economic, and cultural domains. [Read more](#)



PM Modi Meets Ambassador Lee Seong-ho at Korea Pavilion, Semicon India 2025

On September 3, Ambassador Lee Seong-ho welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Korea Pavilion at Semicon India 2025. During the visit, the Ambassador reaffirmed Korea's commitment to being a trusted partner in advancing India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat, highlighting opportunities for collaboration in semiconductor innovation, technology partnerships, and strengthening bilateral economic ties. [Read more](#)



India beat Korea 4-1 to win Asia Cup

India's men's hockey team claimed their fourth Asia Cup title by defeating defending champions South Korea 4-1 in the 2025 final at Rajgir, Bihar. Goals were scored by Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh (twice), and Amit Rohidas. This historic win ends an eight-year wait and secures World Cup qualification for India. [Read more](#)

South Korean firm to establish India's first footwear plant in TN: Govt

South Korea's Hwaseung Footwear Group will invest Rs 1,720 crore to build its first non-leather footwear factory in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. This strategic facility is expected to generate 20,000 direct jobs and marks a major milestone in the state's manufacturing sector. The announcement followed the TN Rising Investors Conclave where 41 MoUs pledged Rs 32,553 crore investment. [Read more](#)



TOP NEWS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA



North Korea's Kim likely conditioned China visit on dropping denuclearization call: Minister

South Korea's unification minister Chung Dong-young suggested Monday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may have insisted China omit denuclearization references as a condition for attending last week's Beijing military parade. Kim, standing alongside Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin, signaled North Korea's confidence as a nuclear state and reportedly pledged support for China's stance on Taiwan during his rare diplomatic visit.

[Read more](#)

ICE raid surfaces risks as Korea Inc. eyes large-scale investment in United States

A US immigration raid at Hyundai and LG Energy Solution's electric vehicle battery plant in Georgia on September 4, 2025, led to the detention of about 475 workers, mostly South Koreans. LG Energy's top HR executive was sent to secure their release, with operations now delayed two to three months. The raid heightened visa scrutiny, disrupting Korean firms' US investments and prompting government negotiations for detained workers' safe return.

[Read more](#)

South Korea's former first lady Kim Keon Hee indicted for bribery

Kim Keon Hee, wife of South Korea's ousted former President Yoon Suk Yeol, has been indicted for bribery and other charges amid expanding investigations into the country's martial law crisis, special prosecutors said. Both Yoon and Kim are jailed, with Yoon facing trial on insurrection charges following his failed martial law attempt in December 2024. Kim expressed regret but vowed to face trial without excuses. The charges against her include stock fraud and suspected bribery involving influential figures. Former Prime Minister Han Duck-soo was also indicted for abetting the martial law attempt and perjury. [Read more](#)

Park Ji-won: Kim Ju-ae not successor, son studying abroad

Democratic Party lawmaker and former National Intelligence Service Director Park Ji-won dismissed claims that Kim Jong-un's daughter, Kim Ju-ae, is being groomed as his successor. Speaking on YTN Radio, Park argued historical precedent in socialist states women rarely succeed leaders. He suggested Kim Ju-ae's public appearances conceal Kim's son studying abroad. Park viewed recent diplomatic encounters with North Korea as positive despite some ignored greetings, calling the visit a success. [Read more](#)

Deadly Nipah virus classified as first-tier infectious disease in South Korea

South Korea has classified Nipah virus infection as a first-tier infectious disease, marking the highest alert since introducing the four-tier system in 2020. Patients must now undergo immediate reporting, isolation, contact tracing, and epidemiological investigation. Nipah virus, first identified in Malaysia in 1998, spreads from animals like fruit bats to humans. With a fatality rate of 40-75%, no vaccine exists. Korea preemptively strengthens monitoring due to outbreaks in India and Bangladesh. [Read more](#)



SECURITY



Kim Jong-un 'normal state' image masks hereditary succession

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un attended China's military parade for its 80th Victory Day anniversary, shedding the rogue state image and acting as a normal leader. He introduced his daughter Kim Ju-ae, seen as a successor announcement. Kim held bilateral talks with Putin, broadcast live, marking a diplomatic milestone for North Korea. [Read More](#)

South Korea Faces Shrinking Military Amid Demographic Crisis

South Korea's military faces a steep decline, with active-duty forces projected to fall from 450,000 today to just 270,000 by 2040, raising concerns over its ability to deter North Korea's 1.1 million-strong army. Experts warn the country may struggle to meet the minimum defense ratio and urge measures such as female conscription, longer service terms, and advanced technology adoption to maintain national security. [Read more](#)

US, South Korea, Japan Launch Dual Drills Amid North Korean Threats

South Korea, the US, and Japan began two major military exercises Monday — Freedom Edge, a five-day trilateral drill, and Iron Mace, a nuclear-response planning exercise. The drills aim to strengthen deterrence against North Korea's missile and nuclear threats. Pyongyang issued rare coordinated statements from Kim Yo-jong and Pak Jong-chon, warning of "clearer and more intensified" counteractions if the allies continue military pressure. [Read more](#)

Poland's defense sector makes push in dual-use innovation with Korea as a partner

Poland is prioritizing dual-use innovation in its defense-industrial strategy, with South Korea as a key partner, showcased at the 2025 International Defence Industry Exhibition in Kielce. Targeting 4.7-5% of GDP for defense, Poland promotes AI-powered systems and advanced textiles for military and civilian markets. Startups like Quantum Quest aim for civilian-driven growth before pivoting to defense, while firms like Unifeq use Korean textiles. South Korea remains Poland's top Asian investor in defense, supporting joint development and technology transfer. [Read more](#)



Defense chiefs of S. Korea, Japan agree to explore cooperation on advanced technologies

South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani met in Seoul on September 8, 2025, marking the first visit by a Japanese defense chief in a decade. They agreed to boost bilateral security cooperation and trilateral ties with the US, focusing on advanced technologies like AI, unmanned systems, and space. The ministers pledged regular personnel exchanges and joint efforts against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT/SOCIETY

South Korea presses US for expanded nuclear fuel rights

South Korea is seeking uranium enrichment and reprocessing rights comparable to Japan's, discussed during the August 25 summit between President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump. Under the 2015 nuclear cooperation agreement, South Korea needs US consent for enrichment and reprocessing. Korea aims to revise or negotiate new terms to boost energy security amid reliance on imported fuel, especially from Russia, and geopolitical concerns. [Read more](#)

Korea aims to become top 3 AI power with new presidential committee

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung launched the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy Committee to position Korea among the world's top three AI powers. The committee, including government and private experts, will coordinate AI policies across sectors. Lee emphasized AI's critical role in economic growth, national strength, and security, pledging \$72 billion in AI investments. [Read more](#)

U.S. proposes annual quotas for Samsung, SK Hynix semiconductor exports

The Trump administration is reviewing export controls on U.S.-made semiconductor manufacturing equipment to Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix's Chinese factories, proposing annual shipment approvals instead of indefinite waivers under the Verified End-User (VEU) program. This change aims to maintain factory operations but adds administrative burdens. U.S. officials emphasize shipments won't support facility upgrades or expansions in China. [Read More](#)

Ministry of Environment proposes 60% greenhouse gas cut by 2035

South Korea's Ministry of Environment proposed a draft plan for the 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut greenhouse gas emissions by over 60% from 2018 levels, sparking controversy. Critics argue it ignores technological and industrial limits and reflects political preferences. Options range from 40% to 67% reductions, with the final target expected near 50%. The 2030 NDC target has been deemed a failure so far. [Read more](#)



Gangneung drought declared disaster, 75% of households' water restricted

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung declared a state of disaster in Gangneung, Gangwon Province, due to severe drought and the main reservoir's water level dropping below 15 percent. The government implemented strict water restrictions, locking 75% of residential meters, and mobilized firefighting resources for water supply. This marks Korea's first disaster declaration from a natural drought, highlighting a historic water crisis in the region. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

The Warzone, in [South Korea's Hypersonic Cruise Missile Emerges in New Test Photos](#), highlights progress on advanced weapons like the Hycore, with potential land, sea, and air launch applications

The Korea Herald, in [Lee vows to achieve national unity as he marks 100 days in office](#), covers President Lee Jae Myung's commitment to national unity after marking 100 days in office.

The Korea Herald, in [Kim holds talks with China's Xi in Beijing: State Media](#), reports on when North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Beijing for their first talks in six years, signalling renewed ties between them.

South Korea Herald, in [Kim Jong-un Pledges Full Support to Russia in Meeting with Putin](#), details how Kim Jong-un, meeting Vladimir Putin in Beijing, pledged full support for Russia, offering military aid and inviting Putin to Pyongyang.

The Korea Times, in - [Military eyes updated drone playbook for new era of warfare](#), explains that South Korea's military is drafting a unified drone warfare manual to standardize operations across all branches amid rising unmanned threats.

Asiatoday, in [Seoul says Korea-Japan ties will remain positive despite Ishiba's resignation](#), stresses shared commitment to stable ties while declining comment on Japan's domestic politics.

Asiatoday, in [Woo meets Kim briefly, urges Xi to attend APEC](#), reports on National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik attending China's Victory Day in Beijing, greeting Xi Jinping, Kim Jong-un, and Vladimir Putin.

Al Jazeera, in [South Korea hosts US, Japan for joint air and naval exercise Freedom Edge](#), reports on the advanced defense cooperation against North Korea, which condemned the exercises as reckless and threatened negative consequences.

KBS World, in [Kim Yo-jong: N. Korea's Key Foreign Affairs Spokesperson](#), highlights that Kim Yo-jong, sister of Kim Jong-un, wields major influence in North Korea as a key policymaker and spokesperson.

The Chosun Daily, in [Airport workers to strike nationwide until Chuseok](#), highlights the poor conditions for workers, but Incheon Airport assures essential staff will prevent flight cancellations or major disruptions.



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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