

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA

Rang De Korea 2025 brings Seoul's culture to New Delhi

Rang De Korea 2025, held in New Delhi, attracted thousands of visitors with a programme of music, dance, food and contemporary cultural showcases that displayed Korea's creative scene. The festival strengthened people to people ties, promoted cultural exchange, and provided a platform for Korean artists and businesses to connect with Indian audiences and partners, helping deepen mutual understanding and soft power engagement. [Read more](#)

New Delhi and Seoul explore joint initiatives in electronics, EV parts and digital supply chains

Senior trade and commerce officials from India and South Korea held talks to explore joint initiatives in electronics manufacturing, electric vehicle components and trusted digital supply chains. The discussions emphasised building resilient supply networks, boosting investment and collaboration in advanced manufacturing, and identifying areas for industrial cooperation that could support jobs, exports and technology transfer between the two economies. [Read more](#)

Hangeul Day celebrations at Jawaharlal Nehru University inaugurated by Ambassador Seongho Lee

On 8 October, Ambassador Seongho Lee delivered inaugural remarks at a three-day Hangeul Day event co-hosted by the ROK Embassy and Jawaharlal Nehru University. Hangeul Day, observed on 9 October each year, commemorates the creation and proclamation of Hangeul by King Sejong the Great in 1443. The festival (8–10 October) featured Korean traditional fan dance, K-pop performances, and student contests in calligraphy, singing and essay-writing with participants from JNU, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia. [Read more](#)



India, South Korea launch maiden bilateral naval exercise with INS Sahyadri's port call at Busan

India and South Korea inaugurated their first bilateral naval exercise when Indian frigate INS Sahyadri made a port call at Busan, signalling the start of the harbour phase before joint sea drills. The deployment underscores deepening maritime cooperation, practical interoperability between the two navies, and expanding defence ties that aim to boost regional maritime security and crisis response capacity. [Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh delegation studies sustainable-city and tourism models at Nami Island

An Andhra Pradesh government delegation visited Nami Island and Seoul to study Korean approaches to sustainable city planning, eco-tourism and cultural heritage management. The delegation sought practical lessons on public space design, tourism infrastructure and public private partnerships, with the aim of adapting selected Korean models for tourism development and urban regeneration projects back in Andhra Pradesh to attract investment and increase visitor numbers. [Read more](#)



TOP NEWS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Cambodia scam fallout continues as mass repatriations and public anger grow

South Korea is grappling with the fallout from a large scam operation centred in Cambodia, which prompted mass repatriations and growing public anger over crimes targeting Korean nationals abroad. The episode prompted government and civil society debate about overseas labor protections, consular support and law-enforcement coordination, while officials worked to repatriate victims and investigate transnational criminal networks involved in fraud and human trafficking. [Read more](#)

North Korea reports new hypersonic projectile tests, raising regional security concerns

North Korea said it successfully tested two hypersonic projectiles, calling the weapons an important addition to its arsenal. The announcement heightened concerns across the region about Pyongyang's accelerating weapons development and prompted calls for reinforced deterrence and closer security consultations among South Korea, the United States and regional partners as officials assess the technical and strategic implications. [Read more](#)

APEC business events to showcase South Korean firms' global competitiveness and tech edge

South Korea will host a series of APEC-related business events to spotlight domestic firms' technological strengths and boost exports, with programmes in Gyeongju and Seoul showcasing AI, mobility, robotics, shipbuilding, defense and future energy. The KCCI-led APEC CEO Summit will convene around 1,700 participants, including senior executives such as Jensen Huang (Nvidia), Matt Garman (AWS), Simon Kahn (Google APAC), Jane Fraser (Citigroup) and Joaquin Duato (Johnson & Johnson). Industry-led forums by HD Hyundai, Hanwha Aerospace, SK Group and KHNP and a K-Tech Showcase aim to promote partnerships and investment in advanced industries. [Read more](#)



ROK-US 'Freedom Flag' exercise scaled back ahead of APEC summit

South Korea announced that the joint ROK-US naval exercise "Freedom Flag" was reduced in scope to accommodate security and logistical preparations for the upcoming APEC summit, shortening manoeuvres and limiting some at-sea activities. Officials described the change as a temporary adjustment to prioritise summit security while maintaining high-level military coordination and readiness between Seoul and Washington. [Read more](#)



Anti-China rallies surge in Seoul amid new visa-free tourism policy

Anti-China demonstrations have increased sharply in central Seoul and neighbourhoods with large Chinese communities after a visa-free entry policy for Chinese tour groups was introduced, with protesters staging rallies, tearing banners and confronting tourists. Authorities warned against hate speech and violence, and the Seoul police pledged stricter enforcement to protect visitors and public order as tensions between nationalist groups and local Chinese residents rise. [Read more](#)



SECURITY/NORTH KOREA



Hyunmoo-5 “monster missile” and its implications for the peninsula

The Guardian’s explainer describes the Hyunmoo-5 as South Korea’s largest conventional ballistic missile, built to strike hardened underground targets and bolster conventional deterrence. The piece outlines capabilities, deployment plans and strategic tradeoffs, and assesses how the weapon may alter deterrence dynamics with North Korea while raising questions about escalation and regional stability. [Read more](#)



S. Korea launches 1st 3,600-ton naval attack submarine

South Korea launched its first 3,600-ton Changbogo-III Batch-II submarine, ROKS Jang Yeong-sil, in Geoje on Oct. 22. The 89-metre diesel-electric boat features upgraded combat and sonar systems, lithium-ion batteries for longer submerged endurance, improved stealth and more vertical-launch capability — strengthening Seoul’s underwater deterrence and boosting its defence-export ambitions.

[Read more](#)

Seoul hosts first World North Korean Rights Convention in 20 years

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](#)



Korea and Estonia sign MOU on Chunmoo multiple-rocket launcher cooperation

South Korea and Estonia signed a memorandum of understanding supporting Tallinn’s acquisition of the Chunmoo multiple rocket launcher system, signalling deeper defence-industrial cooperation. The agreement, announced during defence talks, covers procurement support, training and broader arms-industry collaboration as Estonia modernises its forces amid rising regional security concerns. [Read more](#)

Public support for Korean unification falls below majority for first time

A new Korea Herald poll found public backing for Korean unification slipped to under 50 percent for the first time, reflecting growing public scepticism about costs, security risks and the political will for reunification. Analysts link the decline to economic anxieties, demographic pressures and a perception that peaceful unification is increasingly unlikely. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT/SOCIETY



Wage gap between regular and non-regular workers hits record high in South Korea

A report by TheKoreaHerald revealed that the wage gap between regular (permanent) and non-regular (contract/temporary) workers in South Korea has reached its highest level on record. The disparity is largely attributed to an increase in non-regular employment among older workers and structural labour-market shifts, raising concerns about the country's social cohesion and inclusive growth. [Read More](#)



Jeju targets 2035 carbon-neutrality with green hydrogen and V2G expansion

According to TheKoreaTimes, Jeju Island has laid out bold plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035, aiming to raise the renewables share from 20% currently to 70%; scale green hydrogen production five-fold; and commercialise vehicle-to-grid (V2G) systems with bidirectional EV charging. The island hopes to serve as a model export case for clean-energy transitions abroad. [Read more](#)



South Korea's gender-equality ministry reboot after a year in limbo

The Korea Times reported that South Korea's ministry dedicated to gender equality underwent a reboot after more than a year of uncertainty, with renewed leadership and focus on addressing delays in policy implementation, resource allocation and regulatory reform. The overhaul reflects wider recognition of gender issues' role in economic growth, demographic trends and societal well-being. [Read more](#)

South Korea lags in global AI talent race, experts warn

An article in the "Market & Money" section of the Chosun flagged that South Korea is falling behind major peers in building artificial-intelligence talent. Experts cited weak industry-academia linkages, underdeveloped foundational education and slow scaling of research labs as key obstacles. The piece urges strengthened collaboration and rethinking of talent ecosystems if Korea is to compete globally in AI. [Read more](#)

South Korea's birth rate can rise via tax incentives, Harvard professor says

According to an article in the English version of TheChosunIlbo, Harvard University professor JosephHenrich pointed to the Roman Republic's tax policies and early Christian cultural shifts as possible models for boosting South Korea's low fertility rate. He argued that tax incentives, family-friendly social norms and broader cultural renewal might help revive Japan- and Korea-style demographic stagnation. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

[AP News](#) in *US, South Korea and Japan launch joint air and naval exercises* underscores Seoul's efforts to counter North Korea's missile threat and enhance trilateral deterrence coordination.

[Reuters](#) in *South Korea to increase defense budget by 8.2 percent next year* highlights President Lee Jae Myung's focus on drones, robotics, and indigenous weapons systems to strengthen self-reliant defense capabilities.

[Reuters](#) in *North Korea likely received Russian assistance in submarine development* underscores Seoul's concern about Pyongyang's advancing SLBM technology amid growing Moscow-Pyongyang defense ties.

[Stars and Stripes](#) in *South Korea seeks to regain wartime operational control from the US* reflects Seoul's aim to enhance strategic autonomy and command sovereignty over its armed forces.

[US Department of Defense News](#) in *US and South Korea conduct joint CBRN response training* highlights strengthened coordination to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats on the peninsula.

[Meta-Defense](#) in *South Korea's pursuit of strategic autonomy* examines Seoul's growing investment in defense industry, ISR systems, and missile shields amid uncertainty over US regional commitment.

[Reuters](#) in *Kim Jong Un inspects new naval destroyer* highlights North Korea's push to strengthen its naval power and the regime's emphasis on maritime deterrence capabilities.

[Yonhap News Agency](#) in *N. Korea operating 4 political prison camps* highlights the ongoing operation of four major political prison camps in North Korea that hold up to 65,000 detainees under harsh forced labor conditions.

[Reuters](#) in *US and South Korea report progress on wartime command transfer* highlights the allies' commitment to a modernized joint defense posture amid ongoing tensions with Pyongyang.

[Reuters](#) in *Seoul hopes improved North Korea-China relations can aid denuclearization* shows South Korea's diplomatic balancing amid deepening ties between Pyongyang and Beijing.



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.

Prof. C Raja Mohan - Distinguished Fellow & ROK Chair, CSDR

Torunika Roy - Research Assistant, ROK Chair, CSDR



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