

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA

Titan Intech Partners with Korean Firm for Advanced Display Technologies

Titan Intech has signed an MoU with Korea's Media Information Communication to jointly develop and transfer advanced LED, Mini-LED, MIP, SMD, and LCD display technologies. The collaboration includes FPGA/SoC-based LED control systems, Android controller boards, and passenger information systems. Titan Intech also secures a seven-year mLED Master Suite license and exclusive manufacturing rights in India, strengthening its TitanView and TitanPro lines and supporting "Make in India." [Read more](#)

India and South Korea to Deepen Economic and Security Cooperation

India and South Korea agreed to strengthen cooperation in the economy, defence, and technology during talks between PM Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae Myung on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg. The leaders discussed boosting ties in shipbuilding, future-oriented industries, AI, and defence collaboration. They also emphasized cultural and people-to-people exchanges and instructed officials to advance working-level discussions. PM Modi invited President Lee to visit India.

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Korean Lawmaker Jaewon Kim Highlights India-Korea Cultural Bonds, Calls for Cinema Collaboration

South Korean lawmaker Jaewon Kim described Ayodhya as a deeply symbolic place, citing her lineage from an Indian princess and emphasising the historic cultural ties between India and Korea. She called for a stronger B2B platform to boost bilateral cinema cooperation and stressed the need for stronger copyright protection aligned with global norms. Kim also performed "Vande Mataram" at IFFI Goa, receiving a standing ovation. [Read more](#)



India Beat South Korea 1-0 to Open Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 Campaign

India began their Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 campaign with a 1-0 win over South Korea in Ipoh, Malaysia. Mohammed Raheel scored in the 15th minute after India dominated early possession. Despite South Korea's counterattacking chances, goalkeeper Mohith HS made key saves to preserve the lead. India continued to press but couldn't add a second goal, ultimately securing a hard-fought victory. They next face Olympic champions Belgium on Monday. [Read more](#)

Hardeep Singh Puri Pushes India-Korea Shipbuilding Cooperation to Advance Maritime Vision 2047

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held a series of high-level meetings in South Korea on 13-14 November 2025 to deepen shipbuilding and maritime cooperation under India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. He visited HD Hyundai Heavy Industries' Ulsan shipyard and met top Korean shipbuilders, stressing India's rising demand for crude, LNG and ethane vessels and the opportunity to "Make in India for the World." Discussions focused on leveraging Korea's advanced ship design and smart shipyard technologies to expand India's commercial fleet, strengthen domestic shipyards, and advance joint manufacturing of LNG and crude carriers.

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TOP NEWS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA

North Korea Rejects G7 Denuclearization Call, Reaffirms Nuclear Resolve

North Korea denounced the G7 foreign ministers' call for its complete denuclearization, with Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui calling the demand hostile and an infringement on the country's constitution. In a KCNA statement, Choe said Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal is a "firm and unwavering" choice amid external threats and insisted the G7 has no authority to dictate its security policies. She stressed that the DPRK's nuclear status will remain unchanged regardless of international pressure. [Read more](#)



President Lee Returns from Middle East and Africa Tour Focused on Global South Partnerships

President Lee Jae Myung returned to Seoul after a 10-day trip to the UAE, Egypt and Turkey, conducted alongside his participation in the G20 Summit in South Africa. The tour aimed to deepen economic cooperation in defense, nuclear energy, infrastructure and cultural industries. In Cairo, Lee unveiled the SHINE initiative to strengthen Korea's engagement with the Middle East. The trip capped a year of active multilateral diplomacy, following Lee's participation in the G7, UNGA and APEC. [Read more](#)

APEC Summit in Gyeongju Emphasizes Cooperation After Trump-Xi Trade Truce

The 2025 APEC summit in Gyeongju ended with leaders stressing economic cooperation after a Trump-Xi agreement to ease the U.S.-China trade war overshadowed the event. The joint statement reaffirmed commitment to the Putrajaya Vision 2040 and acknowledged challenges facing global trade. Xi positioned China as a supporter of free trade ahead of talks with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, whose denuclearisation push drew criticism from North Korea. The summit also focused on AI, demographic decline, and cultural industries. [Read more](#)

US Supports South Korea's Enrichment, Reprocessing Plans

The United States has formally backed South Korea's pursuit of civil uranium enrichment and spent-fuel reprocessing for the first time, marking a major shift in bilateral nuclear cooperation. The endorsement, included in a joint fact sheet after the Lee-Trump summit, allows Seoul and Washington to begin negotiations on easing current limits under the 123 Agreement. Seoul views these capabilities as critical for energy security, managing rising spent-fuel stocks, and strengthening its global nuclear industry. [Read more](#)

South Korea Submits US Investment Bill, Secures Retroactive Auto Tariff Cut

South Korea's ruling Democratic Party has submitted a special bill to implement its 350 billion dollar US investment pledge and lock in a tariff cut on Korean autos from 25 percent to 15 percent, applied retroactively to November 1. The bill establishes a Korea-US strategic investment framework and fund, but the opposition warns it could burden taxpayers and weaken Seoul's leverage. Debate continues over whether the deal requires National Assembly ratification. [Read more](#)



SECURITY/NORTH KOREA

Russia's Nuclear Submarine Technology Could Sharply Elevate North Korea's Threat

North Korea is developing larger submarines to carry advanced SLBMs, but has lacked nuclear propulsion. New reports indicate Russia may have supplied reactor modules from decommissioned submarines, accelerating Pyongyang's ambitions. Such assistance builds on earlier Russian technology transfers and comes as North Korean forces support Russia in Ukraine. A nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine would allow longer, quieter patrols, enabling North Korea to threaten the US mainland and forcing South Korea and Japan to rethink undersea deterrence.

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North Korea Fires Artillery Rockets During US Defense Chief's DMZ Visit

North Korea fired more than 10 artillery rockets into the Yellow Sea on Saturday and again on Monday, coinciding with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's visit to the DMZ with South Korean Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the launches are under analysis and highlighted allied readiness. The Saturday launch occurred the same day as the Lee-Xi summit. Experts suggest Pyongyang used advanced 240mm MLRS to send a strong political message. [Read more](#)

Korean-Built Submarine Ahn Mu Joins U.S. Navy Drills in Guam

The Republic of Korea Navy will participate in a monthlong joint antisubmarine exercise with the U.S. in Guam, deploying its domestically-built 3,000-ton submarine ROKS Ahn Mu for the first time. The Silent Shark exercise will also include Korea's P-3 maritime patrol aircraft, while the U.S. contributes submarines and P-8A patrol aircraft, enhancing joint maritime defense capabilities.

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South Korea to Transfer Retiring Submarine to Poland to Support Defense Bid

South Korea plans to transfer its retiring 1,200-ton submarine, ROKS Jang Bogo, to Poland free of charge, as part of efforts to support Korean defense firm Hanwha Ocean's bid for Poland's Orka submarine procurement project. The vessel, Korea's first naval submarine, has served for 34 years and will now aid defense exports and military cooperation. [Read more](#)

South Korea Signs MOU to Advance Testing of Unmanned Maritime Systems

South Korea's Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Agency for Defense Development and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology to enhance testing capabilities for unmanned surface vehicles (USVs). The agreement includes sharing test equipment, conducting joint research, and providing staff training, reflecting the growing importance of unmanned systems in future maritime warfare. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT/SOCIETY

South Korea Aligns Emissions Trading System with NDC Target to Reduce Corporate Burden

South Korea will operate its greenhouse gas emissions trading system in line with its minimum 2035 NDC target of 53–61% reduction from 2018 levels, aiming to ease costs for domestic industries. The government plans to recognize overseas carbon reduction projects, provide additional emission permits for facility expansion, and invest 5 trillion won (\$3.4 billion) in carbon neutrality R&D, while supporting facility upgrades and industry partnerships for low-carbon production. [Read More](#)

South Korea Sees 15th Consecutive Monthly Rise in Births in September

In September 2025, South Korea recorded 22,369 births, up 8.6% from the previous year, marking the 15th straight month of rising births. The total number of births from January to September reached 191,040, the largest increase in the first nine months since 2007. The country's total fertility rate rose slightly to 0.85. Officials attribute the trend to increased marriages, supportive government policies, and a growing population of women in their early 30s. In September, marriages jumped 20.1% year-on-year, while divorces rose 5.7%, and deaths declined 3.9%, resulting in a natural population decrease of 5,732. [Read more](#)

Over 70,000 Sign Petition to Cancel Aespa Japan Performance

Over 70,000 people have signed a petition to cancel K-pop group Aespa's appearance on Japan's NHK Red and White Singing Contest due to the inclusion of Chinese member Ningning. The petition cited potential offense over historical tensions, including a past post by Ningning referencing an atomic bomb-shaped lamp. NHK confirmed she did not intend to mock victims, while SM Entertainment declined further comment. Rising Japan-China tensions may impact K-pop activities. [Read more](#)



South Korea's Space Industry Seeks Global Collaboration

At the 2026 Satellite Communications and Space Technology Conference in Seoul, AP Satellite CEO Lee Sung-hee highlighted that Korea's space market holds under 1% of the global share, urging companies to connect internationally for sustainable growth. He stressed long-term business models, industry-government-academia cooperation, and adapting to rapid technological changes. The International Space Summit next year will expand global partnerships, supporting Korea's vision to become a leading space and aerospace power. [Read more](#)

SK Telecom and Samsung Collaborate on 6G AI RAN

SK Telecom and Samsung Electronics signed an MOU to jointly develop AI-powered radio access networks for next-generation 6G. The partnership will focus on AI-based channel estimation, distributed MIMO transmission, and AI-RAN scheduler and core network technologies. SK Telecom will provide network data and infrastructure, while Samsung advances AI models and algorithms. The collaboration, under the AI-RAN Alliance, aims to position Korea at the forefront of 6G innovation globally. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

Korea Herald in [4th Nuri mission moves toward commercial spaceflight](#) underscores Seoul's efforts to transition from a government-led program to a private-sector-driven space launch ecosystem.

Korea Times in [South Korea's older adults work longest hours among OECD members](#) highlights Seoul's challenges in addressing low pensions, early retirement, and economic pressures on the aging workforce.

Korea JoongAng Daily in [North Korea plans luxury cruise ship launch on Taedong River](#) highlights Pyongyang's efforts to boost domestic tourism and develop riverfront destinations, including Nampho and Kalma coastal resort.

Korea Herald in [South Korea reports largest birth increase in 18 years underscores](#) government data showing rising marriages and fertility among women in their 30s.

Korea Herald in [South Korea reports human rights chief urges government to help North Korean POWs in Ukraine come to South Korea](#) underscores calls for diplomatic efforts and UN monitoring to prevent forced repatriation.

Korea Times in [Sanctions watchdog links North Korean hackers to 1.65 billion dollars in crypto theft this year alone](#) highlights Pyongyang's growing reliance on sophisticated cyber networks to evade sanctions, launder stolen assets, and fund its weapons programs.

Korea Times in [Korea to kick off annual Hoguk defense exercise next week](#) notes Seoul's push to strengthen joint operational readiness and deepen interoperability with USFK amid heightened security concerns.

Korea Times in [North Korean soldier crosses heavily fortified border into South](#) underscores rising instability at the MDL and highlights Seoul's efforts to manage security risks while assessing Pyongyang's internal pressures.

Chosun Ilbo in [Seoul Hosts First World North Korean Rights Convention in 20 Years](#) highlights renewed global pressure on Pyongyang as defectors unite to demand camp dissolution, information access, and an end to forced repatriations.

Korea JoongAng Daily in ['Submarine war' with Germany heats up in race for Canadian contract](#) highlights Seoul's bid to leverage rapid delivery and advanced diesel-electric capabilities to challenge Berlin's entrenched NATO advantage.



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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