

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA

India Invites South Korea to Expand Investment and Strategic Cooperation

India has called for deeper economic cooperation with South Korea in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, shipbuilding, clean energy and critical minerals. Speaking at the Global Business Forum in Seoul, Indian Ambassador Gourangal Das highlighted India's strong economic growth and ongoing reforms that are creating new opportunities for foreign investors. He encouraged Korean companies to expand beyond traditional sectors and collaborate in advanced manufacturing, green technologies, biotechnology and maritime logistics, reflecting the growing strategic partnership between the two countries. [Read more](#)



Modi and Lee Pledge to Deepen India-South Korea Partnership

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-myung met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit and agreed to deepen cooperation across economic, cultural and social sectors. The leaders discussed expanding ties in trade, commerce and emerging technologies under the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership for 2026-2030. During the summit, Modi also stressed the importance of dialogue, diplomacy and international cooperation in resolving global conflicts and ensuring maritime security and stable global trade routes. [Read more](#)

India and South Korea Partner on Small Modular Nuclear Reactors

India's Fairwood Nuclear and South Korea's SK Securities have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the development of small modular reactor (SMR) projects. The partnership aims to explore financing, technology cooperation and project development opportunities in the emerging nuclear energy sector. The agreement reflects growing India-South Korea cooperation in clean energy and advanced technologies, with SMRs increasingly viewed as a promising solution for low-carbon electricity generation and future energy security needs in both countries. [Read more](#)

Korean Contemporary Art Exhibition 'Aqua Paradiso' Opens in Delhi

The Korean Cultural Centre India has launched *Aqua Paradiso*, a contemporary art exhibition in New Delhi that explores water as a source of life, sensation and ecological interconnectedness. Featuring works by Korean artists Kwon Hyewon, BOO Jihyun and eco orot, the exhibition uses media art, installations and videos to address themes of nature, recycling and climate change. Running until August 19, the exhibition aims to strengthen cultural ties and foster dialogue between India and South Korea through art and shared environmental values. [Read more](#)

India and South Korea Strengthen Defence and Strategic Cooperation

During his visit to Seoul, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back to expand bilateral defence cooperation. The two sides signed agreements on defence cyber cooperation, military training and UN peacekeeping, while also exploring joint development and production of advanced defence technologies. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to a free and rules-based Indo-Pacific and emphasised deeper collaboration in innovation, manufacturing and defence industries, reflecting the growing strategic partnership between India and South Korea. [Read more](#)



TOP NEWS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea and Italy Eye "New Industrial Order" at Rome Business Roundtable

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met with business leaders from 30 companies at a Rome roundtable, emphasizing South Korea and Italy as "optimal partners" for economic cooperation. Building on a summit with Italian President Mattarella, where bilateral ties were elevated to a special strategic partnership, both sides explored collaboration in AI, semiconductors, energy, and healthcare. Notable attendees included Samsung Chairman Lee Jae-yong and Ferrari CEO Benedetto Vigna, signaling strong corporate interest in deepening bilateral industrial ties. [Read more](#)

South Korea Secures Stable Oil Supply with Saudi Arabia MoU

South Korea and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen long-term cooperation in the energy sector. Industry Minister Kim Jung-kwan and Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman formalized the agreement, covering crude oil stockpiling, pipeline infrastructure, and AI-driven energy innovation. The deal aims to ensure stable supplies of crude oil and naphtha amid global supply chain instability. Minister Kim also held meetings with Saudi investment and industry officials, and plans to continue his regional tour with visits to Qatar and the UAE. [Read more](#)

South Korea Becomes First Asian Nation to Sign PNR Data-Sharing Deal with EU

South Korea has signed an initial agreement with the European Union to share Passenger Name Record data, becoming the first Asian nation to do so. The deal covers flight itineraries, baggage details, and traveler information, aiding in border screening for high-risk individuals. Previously limited by data protection regulations, the agreement will help combat smuggling of drugs and firearms. Both sides aim for full implementation by the first half of 2027. [Read more](#)

Seoul and Washington Reaffirm North Korea Denuclearization Goal at Nuclear Consultative Group Meeting

South Korea and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to denuclearizing North Korea at the sixth Nuclear Consultative Group meeting in Seoul. Both sides pledged to strengthen extended deterrence amid North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile capabilities. The US reiterated its commitment to defend South Korea using its full military arsenal, including nuclear options. The meeting comes amid concerns that China's recent summit with Kim Jong-un conspicuously omitted any reference to denuclearization. [Read more](#)



Pope Leo XIV Open to North Korea Visit to Promote Peace

Pope Leo XIV is willing to play a role in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula and could visit North Korea if Pyongyang extends an invitation, according to Cardinal Lazzaro You Heung-sik. Speaking in Rome during a special Mass attended by South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, the cardinal said the decision ultimately rests with North Korea. Seoul hopes to leverage the Vatican's influence to ease inter-Korean tensions and encourage broader diplomatic engagement, including with the United States. [Read more](#)



SECURITY/NORTH KOREA

US Approves \$292 Million Advanced Air-to-Air Missile Sale to South Korea

The United States has approved the sale of 70 AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles to South Korea in a \$292 million deal. The package includes guidance systems, spare parts, and technical support, with RTX Corp. serving as principal contractor. The missiles, compatible with South Korea's F-15K, KF-16, and F-35A fighters, will enhance air defense capabilities and deter regional aggression, strengthening interoperability with US forces amid ongoing aerial threats from North Korea. [Read more](#)

Xi-Kim Summit Sparks Concern Over China-North Korea Military Ties

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to North Korea has raised eyebrows after Beijing explicitly called for strengthened "military exchanges" between the two countries, a formulation rarely used publicly. Chinese Defense Minister Dong Jun notably accompanied Xi during the visit. Analysts are divided on its implications, with some warning of deeper military coordination and others suggesting China seeks better insight into North Korea's weapons modernization. Significantly, neither side mentioned North Korea's nuclear program during the summit. [Read more](#)

Lee Urges Trump to Lead North Korea Peace Efforts at G7 Sidelines

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung urged US President Donald Trump to spearhead a peaceful resolution of the North Korean issue during a brief exchange at the G7 summit in Evian-les-Bains, France. Trump expressed willingness to engage. The interaction follows Trump's cryptic social media post featuring Kim Jong-un, fueling speculation of renewed US-North Korea diplomacy. Later, Lee and Trump held an in-depth conversation at the summit dinner, reinforcing bilateral ties. [Read more](#)



North Korea and Vietnam Deepen Security Ties with Pyongyang Talks

North Korea and Vietnam held high-level security talks in Pyongyang, with Public Security Minister Pang Tu-sop meeting Vietnamese counterpart Luong Tam Quang to discuss expanding law enforcement cooperation. The meeting is the latest in a series of exchanges between the two nations, following Vietnamese Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung's visit last month and a landmark summit between Kim Jong-un and Vietnamese President To Lam in October — the first by a top Vietnamese leader to North Korea in 18 years. [Read more](#)

North Korea Declares Denuclearization "Irreversibly Finalized," Dismisses US-South Korea Talks

North Korea has firmly rejected calls for denuclearization, declaring it an "irreversibly finalized" matter following the US-South Korea Nuclear Consultative Group meeting that reaffirmed the goal. An unnamed foreign ministry spokesperson condemned the talks as a "fantastic daydream," asserting that no pressure from the US, Japan, or South Korea would alter North Korea's status as a nuclear weapons state. Pyongyang also criticized the recent US-Japan Extended Deterrence Dialogue over similar denuclearization language. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT/SOCIETY

South Korea Probes War Memorial Body Over Chinese Propaganda Site Inclusion

South Korea's defense ministry has launched an internal investigation after the Korea War Memorial Organization included a Chinese memorial hall in Dandong, known for promoting Beijing's narrative of the Korean War, in an overseas teacher training itinerary. The facility portrays China's intervention as support for North Korea against US-led forces. Defense Minister Ahn Gyu-back ordered a thorough probe, calling the inclusion a "grave error," after the organization removed the site following public backlash over a controversial promotional poster. [Read more](#)



South Korea to Host Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in 2027 for First Time in 32 Years

South Korea will host the 49th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Incheon in May 2027, marking the country's first time chairing the event in 32 years. The meeting will cover environmental protection, climate change response, tourism regulation, and scientific research cooperation in Antarctica. South Korea recently served as vice chair at the 28th ATCM in Japan. The country joined the Antarctic Treaty in 1986 and gained consultative party status in 1989. [Read more](#)

South Korean Students Demand NEC Reform Over Ballot Shortages, Reject Political Exploitation

Student bodies from 18 universities across South Korea issued a joint declaration condemning ballot shortages during the June 3 local elections as a grave constitutional violation. At least 91 polling stations faced shortages, leaving many voters disenfranchised. Students demanded a National Assembly investigation, structural reforms at the National Election Commission, and an independent oversight body. They also firmly warned both liberal and conservative parties against exploiting the incident for partisan gains, calling it a fundamental question of democracy and sovereignty. [Read more](#)

South Korea's Inflation Risks to Persist Into Next Year, Warns Bank of Korea

The Bank of Korea has warned that high inflation risks will persist well into next year, with consumer price inflation exceeding its 2% target for three consecutive months. Governor Shin Hyun-song signaled potential rate hikes, citing elevated oil prices, a high exchange rate, and growing wage pressures. The BOK also flagged that large bonuses at Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, driven by the AI boom, could further amplify inflation across other sectors. [Read more](#)

Korea Media Watchdog Vows Regulatory Overhaul to Foster Healthier Media Environment

Korea Media and Communications Commission chief Kim Jong-cheol pledged bold regulatory reforms to promote a healthier media landscape, including overhauling outdated broadcast advertising and programming rules. Speaking at a press conference marking his first six months in office, Kim announced plans for a public-private media development committee to restructure funding systems across broadcasting and telecommunications. The KMCC is also monitoring broadcaster JTBC following related company bankruptcies, and is expected to soon formalize fines against Google and Apple over in-app payment violations. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

The Hacker News in [Fake Microsoft Alerts Used to Deploy North Korean NarwhalRAT Malware](#) reports that North Korea-linked hacking group ScarCruft is deploying a new Python-based malware called NarwhalRAT via spear-phishing emails disguised as fake Microsoft Account security alerts, capable of keystroke logging, screenshot capture, audio recording, and data theft.

Al Jazeera in [South Korea's booming stock market mints generation of novice investors](#) states that South Korea's benchmark KOSPI has nearly doubled in value, the best-performing major index worldwide, drawing millions of first-time investors, as AI-driven demand for memory chips from Samsung and SK Hynix fuels a historic stock market boom.

The NK News in [Seoul unveils plans to redraw military boundary near North Korean border](#) states that South Korea plans to redraw its Civilian Control Line southward, opening hundreds of square kilometers of restricted border land to civilian use for the first time in decades.

Bloomberg in [Space X Drew \\$800 Million From Korean Investors on Trading Debut](#) reports that South Korean retail investors snapped up nearly \$800 million worth of SpaceX shares on its Nasdaq debut, making it the most purchased US stock among Korean investors in a single day, dwarfing even US retail demand of just \$117 million.

News on Air in [South Korean & US commences joint aerial exercise 'Buddy Squadron'](#) reports that South Korea and the US launched their joint aerial "Buddy Squadron" exercise at Osan Air Base, featuring KF-16, F-35A, FA-50, and F-16 fighters, with this year's sessions doubling in scale and sorties despite being reduced from eight to four annually.

The Korea Herald in [Seoul expects favorable EU response on steel quota concerns: Lee](#) states that the South Korean President Lee Jae-myung expressed optimism about securing favorable EU steel tariff terms following direct talks with EU leaders during his recent European tour.

NK News in [Dutch warship completes mission to monitor North Korean sanctions evasion](#) states that the Dutch Navy frigate HNLMS De Ruyter completed a surveillance mission off Japan in early-to-mid June, monitoring North Korea's illicit ship-to-ship transfers in violation of UN Security Council sanctions.

NK News in [South Korea, Japan stress Korean Peninsula security, resume maritime drills](#) states that South Korea and Japan's defense ministers met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, pledging to strengthen bilateral and trilateral cooperation with the US for Korean Peninsula stability, and agreed to resume joint maritime drills.

NBC News in [Ousted South Korean President Yoon gets 30-year prison term for drone flights over Pyongyang](#) reports that the ousted South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to an additional 30 years in prison for ordering drone flights over Pyongyang.

Defense News in [South Korea goes full steam ahead on nuclear-powered submarines](#) reports that South Korea is pushing ahead with plans to build nuclear-powered submarines to bolster its naval capabilities and regional deterrence.



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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