

Korea Chair Bulletin

INDIA - SOUTH KOREA

Indian Institute sends Delegation Strengthening Indian animation

The Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) joined a Ministry of Information & Broadcasting delegation to South Korea and Japan to strengthen India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) ecosystem. The delegation studied global best practices in gaming, animation, broadcasting, digital media, AI, creative education, and content incubation to support India's proposed Content Creation Labs, talent development, original intellectual property creation, and international competitiveness in the creative technology sector. [Read more](#)



Korean Semiconductor opening facility in India

South Korea's Seoul Semiconductor is exploring its first manufacturing facility in India, with discussions underway with Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat. The company is considering incentives under the \$13-billion India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0, likely beginning with an advanced packaging unit. The move reflects India's growing appeal as a semiconductor manufacturing hub, supported by expanding automotive, infrastructure, and smart-city demand, while strengthening bilateral technology and investment cooperation. [Read more](#)

South Korea eases Visa Policies and Costs to encourage Indian Tourists, among others

South Korea has announced measures to attract more international visitors, particularly from China, India, and the United States, by easing visa policies and reducing travel costs. The government is extending visa fee waivers for group tourists from key markets, simplifying entry procedures, and expanding tourism incentives as part of a broader strategy to revive inbound tourism, strengthen local economies, and capitalize on growing interest in Korean culture, entertainment, shopping, and leisure travel. [Read more](#)

Jaishankar and Cho Hyun discuss deepening India-South Korea ties

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun in Seoul to advance the India-South Korea strategic partnership. Their discussions focused on implementing outcomes from President Lee Jae-myung's April visit to India, particularly in trade, investment, finance, defence, shipbuilding, technology, clean energy, startups, fintech, and cultural exchanges. They also reviewed regional and global developments, agreeing to maintain close coordination on geopolitical and economic challenges. [Read more](#)

Prime Video India partners with CJ ENM to bring in Korean Content

South Korean entertainment company CJ ENM has signed a multi-year strategic content partnership with Prime Video India to expand the reach of Korean content in India. Under the agreement, over 100 CJ ENM titles, including 26 new series, will be released on the platform over the next two years with English subtitles and Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu dubbing. The partnership aims to capitalize on growing Indian demand for Korean entertainment and strengthen cultural exchange between the two countries. [Read more](#)



TOP NEWS FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA

South Korea's Economic Growth Strategy for the Second Half of 2026.

South Korea has raised its 2026 GDP growth forecast to 3.0%, the strongest in five years, supported by an 800 trillion won (\$580 billion) expansionary budget aimed at accelerating AI-led growth. The government plans major investments in artificial intelligence, semiconductor manufacturing, data centres, and advanced technologies to strengthen industrial competitiveness. The announcement boosted investor confidence, with semiconductor stocks gaining prominence as South Korea positions itself as a global AI and chip powerhouse. [Read more](#)

SK's MFA facing Data Breach

A major cyberattacks on South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs compromised the personal data of nearly all current and former diplomats, exposing around 10,000 records after hackers infiltrated the Korea National Diplomatic Academy's online training system. The breach, which remained undetected for almost ten months, exploited a zero-day vulnerability and security misconfigurations. Authorities are investigating possible state-backed involvement, including a potential North Korean link, amid growing national security concerns. [Read more](#)

SK fines U.S Large-Scale Enterprise Coupang

A dispute over South Korea's record 625 billion won (\$423 million) fine on U.S.-listed e-commerce giant Coupang has become a test of U.S.-South Korea relations. Washington argues the penalty and subsequent investigations reflect discriminatory treatment of an American-owned company, while Seoul insists the action was based solely on consumer protection following a massive data breach. The controversy now risks spilling into broader bilateral trade, investment, and strategic cooperation. [Read more](#)

Youth Employment falls below 60%

South Korea's youth employment rate for people in their 20s has fallen below 60% for the first time in five years, reaching 59.4% in May 2026. The decline reflects worsening labour market conditions despite overall employment remaining relatively stable. Around 621,000 young adults were either unemployed or not actively seeking work, with analysts citing corporate restructuring and the growing adoption of artificial intelligence as key factors reducing entry-level job opportunities. [Read more](#)



North Korea hosts Children's Camp for China and Russia

North Korea has welcomed schoolchildren from China and Russia to the Songdowon International Children's Camp, marking a revival of trilateral youth exchanges amid strengthening ties between the three countries. The camp, long viewed as a tool for political indoctrination and propaganda, has attracted international scrutiny over allegations of hosting forcibly transferred Ukrainian children. China's participation, absent in recent years, signals growing informal cooperation with Pyongyang and Moscow. [Read more](#)



SECURITY/NORTH KOREA

South Korea joins Australia air drill

South Korea's Air Force has deployed six KF-16 fighter jets, a KC-330 aerial refuelling tanker, and around 100 personnel to Australia for Exercise Pitch Black 2026, one of the Indo-Pacific's largest multinational air combat drills. Running until early August, the exercise will involve complex missions including air interdiction, defensive counter-air, and aerial refuelling, aiming to enhance interoperability, operational readiness, and defence cooperation with partner air forces from 16 participating nations. [Read more](#)

South Korea and Japan further Defence Ties & Denuclearization

Japan and South Korea agreed to deepen defence cooperation during defence ministers' talks in Seoul, reaffirming their shared commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The two sides decided to revive joint maritime search-and-rescue exercises, expand exchanges between their air force aerobatic teams, and strengthen coordination on regional security. The agreement reflects growing defence collaboration in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and the region's evolving security environment. [Read more](#)

Trump shifting to NK's nuclear programme, says SK President Lee

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung said U.S. President Donald Trump intends to shift attention to North Korea's nuclear programme following the conclusion of a nuclear agreement with Iran. Speaking after their G7 meeting, Lee said he urged Trump to pursue a phased, dialogue-based approach to denuclearization. The remarks signal a possible revival of U.S.-North Korea diplomacy, though experts caution that Pyongyang's expanded nuclear capabilities make renewed negotiations far more challenging than before. [Read more](#)

US-Korea Shipbuilding Cooperation

U.S. President Donald Trump announced enhanced cooperation between the U.S. Navy and South Korean shipbuilders, highlighting South Korea's advanced shipbuilding capabilities in supporting American naval modernization. The initiative will expand collaboration on warship construction, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO), with companies such as Hanwha Ocean and HD Hyundai Heavy Industries expected to play a larger role. The move aims to strengthen U.S. naval readiness while deepening bilateral defence-industrial cooperation and supply chain resilience. [Read more](#)



SK Navy man's body found near NK border

A South Korean Navy seaman who went missing during a patrol near the maritime border with North Korea was found dead after an intensive search operation in the East Sea. The sailor disappeared under unclear circumstances while serving aboard a naval vessel, prompting authorities to investigate the cause of death. The incident has drawn attention to the operational risks faced by military personnel patrolling the tense inter-Korean maritime boundary. [Read more](#)



SCI-FI/ENVIRONMENT/INVESTMENT/SOCIETY

Popular Band BTS headlines FIFA halftime show

BTS made history by headlining the first-ever halftime show at a FIFA World Cup final, performing alongside global stars including Madonna, Shakira, and Justin Bieber during the 2026 FIFA World Cup final in New Jersey. The group performed their hit Dynamite and delivered a full-group performance before a global audience. BTS described the experience as a dream, highlighting the event's message of love, unity, and cultural exchange through music and sport. [Read more](#)

Hyundai Workers create first Labour Union

Employees at Hyundai AutoEver, the IT services arm of Hyundai Motor Group, have established a labour union under the Korean Chemical, Textile and Food Workers' Union, citing excessive workloads, opaque compensation, subjective performance evaluations, and the unilateral abolition of remote work. The move reflects growing labour activism within South Korea's IT sector, following recent unionization efforts at Samsung SDS and other technology firms, amid increasing demands for improved workplace conditions and employee representation. [Read more](#)



PPP gains New Leader as former President Yoon gets Prison

South Korea's main opposition People Power Party (PPP) has elected Jung Jeom-sik as its new floor leader amid efforts to rebuild after recent electoral setbacks and internal divisions. The leadership change comes as former President Yoon Suk Yeol was sentenced to an additional two years in prison for violating political funding laws by accepting illicit opinion polls during his 2022 campaign, further deepening the party's political and reputational challenges. [Read more](#)

SK exits World Cup; President Lee directs investigation

South Korean President Lee Jae-myung ordered a government investigation into the national football team's shock 2026 FIFA World Cup group-stage exit after losses to Mexico and South Africa. Criticising the team's leadership and opaque coaching appointment process, Lee called for a thorough review of the Korea Football Association and sports administration. Head coach Hong Myung-bo subsequently resigned, accepting responsibility, as public anger intensified and demands for structural reforms grew. [Read more](#)

UNESCO Committee hosted in Busan signs Declaration

The 48th UNESCO World Heritage Committee unanimously adopted the Busan Declaration on World Heritage during its inaugural session in Busan, South Korea. The declaration calls for stronger international cooperation to protect cultural and natural heritage from growing threats such as climate change, armed conflict, disasters, and rapid urbanization. It also promotes responsible use of digital technologies in heritage conservation. The session entails discussions and agreements regarding world heritage activities, funds, and capacity building strategies. [Read more](#)



10 MOST READ ARTICLES

Reuters in [South Korea's Lee accused of skirting his own loan curbs with sale of apartment](#) highlights allegations that President Lee Jae Myung circumvented his administration's tightened mortgage lending rules through the sale of his apartment, intensifying scrutiny over the consistency of the government's housing policy.

Korea JoongAng Daily in [Naver seeks Brookfield investment for AI factory, with Nvidia talks set in North America](#) underscores Naver's efforts to secure investment from Brookfield and deepen cooperation with Nvidia to accelerate the development of AI infrastructure and strengthen South Korea's artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Reuters in [SK Hynix set to benefit as South Korea's ruling party seeks to ease capital-raising rules](#) highlights the ruling party's proposal to relax capital-raising regulations, a move expected to facilitate financing for semiconductor firms such as SK Hynix amid growing AI-driven investment demands.

Reuters in [UAE's ADNOC expands energy partnership with South Korea](#) underscores the expansion of energy cooperation between ADNOC and South Korea through agreements covering LNG, hydrogen, and strategic energy collaboration, reinforcing long-term energy security ties.

Reuters in [South Korea starts 24-hour trading of dollar-won](#) highlights Seoul's launch of round-the-clock trading in the dollar-won market, aimed at improving foreign exchange market accessibility, liquidity, and global competitiveness.

AP News in [South Korea enforces law against false information, sparking censorship fears](#) highlights the implementation of legislation targeting false information online, while raising concerns among critics over its potential implications for freedom of expression and government censorship.

Al Jazeera in [South Korean court jails former first lady for seven years in bribery case](#) underscores the conviction and seven-year prison sentence handed to former First Lady Kim Keon Hee in a bribery case, reflecting South Korea's ongoing efforts to hold high-profile political figures accountable.

Goldman Sachs in [South Korea's Growing Role in Humanoid Robot Development](#) highlights South Korea's emergence as a leading hub for humanoid robotics, driven by advances in artificial intelligence, semiconductor capabilities, and strong industrial manufacturing expertise.

CBC News in [Matchmaking and cash: South Korea's plan to avoid population decline](#) underscores government initiatives, including financial incentives and matchmaking programs, aimed at encouraging marriage and increasing birth rates to address South Korea's demographic decline.

South China Morning Post in [Jeju plan to allow Chinese tourist drivers stokes safety backlash in South Korea](#) highlights public opposition to a proposal allowing Chinese tourists to drive in Jeju, with critics citing road safety concerns and broader sensitivities surrounding tourism policy.





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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