

## **INDIA – REPUBLIC OF KOREA BILATERAL RELATIONS**

India-Republic of Korea (ROK) established diplomatic relations on 10 December 1973. Consular relations were established in 1962. Both countries formed a “Strategic Partnership” in year 2010, which was elevated to “Special Strategic Partnership” in year 2015 during the State Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Seoul. Both countries commemorated 50 years of diplomatic ties in 2023.

### **Historical Connect:**

2. According to the 13th century Korean historical text “SamgukYusa” or “Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms”, Princess Suriratna from Ayodhya, India came to Korea in the year 48 AD, married King Kim-Suro of the erstwhile Gaya Confederacy in ancient Korea and became Queen Heo Hwang-ok. Many Koreans trace their ancestry to this lineage. Some scholars believe that Buddhism reached Korea via the maritime route with the arrival of Princess Suriratna and her brother Monk Jangyu.

3. Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore composed a short but evocative poem titled, “Lamp of the East” in 1929 about Korea’s glorious past and its promising bright future, which is fondly remembered by the Koreans and finds mention in Korean school textbooks. As a result of this connection, a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was unveiled in Seoul in May 2011.

### **India’s Role in Korean War:**

4. India played an important role in the Korean peninsula after Korea's independence in 1945. Former Indian diplomat Shri K P S Menon was the Chairman of the 9-member UN Commission set up in 1947 to hold elections in Korea. India sent an Army medical unit - the 60th Parachute Field Ambulance comprising of 627 medical personnel, commanded by Lt. Col. A.G. Rangaraj during the Korean War as part of the UN Command, and treated about 220,000 patients. During the Korean War (1950-53), both the warring sides accepted a UN resolution sponsored by India, and the ceasefire was declared on 27 July 1953. Lt. General K.S. Thimayya of India, served as the Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission [NNRC] after the armistice and contributed to resolving the humanitarian issues arising out of the War. India dispatched one Brigade Group designated as Custodian Forces -India (CFI) comprising 5230 personnel to Korea, under Major General SSP Thorat which was instrumental in resolving the Prisoners of War issue.

### **High-Level Exchanges:**

5. PM Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to ROK from 18-19 May 2015, during which bilateral relationship was upgraded to ‘Special Strategic Partnership’. On the occasion of the State Visit of President Moon Jae-in to India on 08-11 July 2018, both countries

issued a statement outlining a “Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace and our Future”. First Lady of ROK Ms. Kim Jung-sook visited India from November 04-07, 2018 as Guest of Honour for the “Deepotsav Festival” and participated in the ground breaking ceremony for construction of a memorial for Queen Heo at Ayodhya.

6. PM Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to ROK from 21-22 February 2019 and unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at Yonsei University. PM Modi also gifted a Bodhi sapling to Gimhae City. He received the Seoul Peace Prize for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

7. PM Narendra Modi and President Yoon Suk Yeol had their first in-person bilateral talks on the sidelines of G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Japan on 20 May 2023 later President Yoon visited India on 9-10 September 2023 to attend G20 Summit in New Delhi. On the sidelines of G20 Summit, PM Modi and President Yoon had a bilateral meeting on 10 September 2023. President Yoon and PM Narendra Modi also met on the sidelines of ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR in October 2024.

8. PM Narendra Modi and President Lee Jae Myung met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada on June 17, 2025 and agreed to work together in sectors like commerce, investment, technology, green hydrogen, shipbuilding and more. On July 17, 2025, Presidential delegation of Special Envoys led by former Prime Minister of the ROK, Kim Boo-kyum held productive meeting with PM Narendra Modi. Later, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit on November 22, 2025 in South Africa, PM Narendra Modi met President Lee Jae Myung, and the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India–ROK Special Strategic Partnership and expand cooperation across trade, investment and advanced technologies. PM Narendra Modi met Korean President Lee Jae Myung on the sidelines of G7 Summit at Evian on 17 June 2026. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment for working together in trade, commerce and many other futuristic sectors.

9. President Lee Jae Myung paid a State visit to India from 19-21 April, 2026 marking the earliest visit to India by a Korean President after assuming office. President Lee Jae Myung was accompanied by a high level delegation including Ministers, Senior Officials and leading CEOs of Korean Companies. President Lee Jae Myung held summit meeting with PM Narendra Modi on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

10. During the State visit of Korean President to India in April 2026, both leaders unveiled “Joint Strategic Vision for India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership” for the period 2026-2030. In addition to this, three joint statements were also unveiled. These included (a) India-ROK Comprehensive Framework for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping & Maritime Logistics (VOYAGES); (b) India-ROK Joint Statement on

Cooperation in Field of Sustainability; and (c) India-ROK Joint Statement on Energy Resource Security. 15 MoUs/Frameworks were concluded in various field including economic, commerce, science and technology, environment, climate change and culture. Announcements were made regarding launch of Economic Security Dialogue (ESD); establishment of Distinguished Visitors' Programme (DVP); launch of dialogue between two Foreign Ministries on the global themes including climate change, arctic, and maritime cooperation; ROK joining Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative; ROK joining International Solar Alliance (ISA) and India joining Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); and Commemoration of the year 2028-29 as the Year of India-ROK Friendship.

### **Ministerial level Exchanges:**

11. EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Seoul on March 05-06, 2024 for the 10th India-ROK Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), which he co-chaired with Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul. The two ministers met on the sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in July 2024, at UNGA in September 2024, at G20 Summit meeting in November 2024, at G7 Foreign Ministers outreach meeting in Italy in November 2024 and at G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in February 2025.

12. Following Presidential election in ROK, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, visited India in August 2025 and had a bilateral meeting with EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar and reviewed the special strategic partnership. On the sidelines of ASEAN related meetings in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar had another meeting with the ROK Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on October 26, 2025. EAM Dr. S Jaishankar called on President Lee Jae Myung on 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 during his State visit to India (19-21 April, 2026). Earlier, the ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and ICT Kyunghoon Bae participated in the AI Impact Summit 2026 at New Delhi(19-20 February).

13. Raksha Mantri (RM) Sh. Rajnath Singh visited RoK from 19-21 May 2026 and held a bilateral meeting with the ROK Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-bak. Separately, he also met with Minister DAPA and RM along with Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs inaugurated Indian War Memorial at Paju.

14. Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman met Mr. Lee Eog-weom, Chairman, Financial Services Commission of Korea (FSC) in New Delhi on 20 April 2026. They discussed avenues to enhance cooperation and sharing of knowledge between the two countries in areas like Fintech innovation, digital payments, investment, local currency settlement and opportunities for businesses in GIFT City. In May 2023, she led the Indian delegation to attend the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Board of Directors of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in ROK. On the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers Meeting held in February 2023 in New Delhi, she

also held bilateral talks with her Korean counterpart Mr. Choo Kyung-ho later the two Ministers also met in Bengaluru on the sidelines of G20 Finance Ministers' meeting in Feb 2023.

15. Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal met Mr. Kim Jung-kwan, ROK Minister for Trade, Industry and Resources on 21 April 2026 in New Delhi. They discussed ways to leverage India-ROK partnership to create a more balanced trade relationship and to drive greater investment by Korean companies in India. CIM also met Mr. Yeo Han-koo, Trade Minister of ROK on 20 April 2026 in New Delhi. Their discussion focused on resuming and advancing CEPA upgrade negotiations, along with exploring opportunities for deeper collaboration in industrial development, green energy and digital trade. Earlier CIM met ROK Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo on March 16, 2026 in New Delhi and on March 27, 2026 at Cameroon on the sidelines of WTO MC14. CIM had met former Korean Trade Minister, Mr. Inkyo Cheong during the 12<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos on 21 September 2024.

17. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas also visited ROK in November 2025 to discuss possibilities of collaboration with ROK companies in the shipbuilding sector. He met Mr. Kim Jung-kwan, ROK Minister for Trade, Industry and Resources 20 April 2026 at New Delhi. They had discussion on collaboration as major energy consumers and ways to increase bilateral energy trade.

18. Minister of Interior and Safety of the ROK Yun Ho-jung visited India from 19-21 June, 2026 and met MoS for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha Sh. Om Birla and the members of the India-Korea Parliamentary Friendship Group.

19. MOS for External Affairs and Education, Mr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh participated in the Third Summit for Democracy-Ministerial Conference on the theme: 'AI/Digital Technology and Democracy' hosted by ROK Foreign Minister in Seoul on 18 March 2024. MoS Singh also met ROK Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul.

20. MOS for Information & Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan lead first ever ministerial delegation from India to Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in September 2025. Bharat Pavilion was setup at BIFF & Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) which highlighted WAVES Bazaar initiative of the Government. On the sidelines of BIFF, "Bharat Parv" was organized at Busan bringing in participants from international and Korean media and entertainment industry for exploring opportunity for expanding creative collaboration between Indian and Korean/global filmmakers.

21. Ministerial-level delegations from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Rajasthan visited ROK in 2023 and 2024 to explore business tie-ups. In 2025, Chief Ministers of Assam, Chhattisgarh and Punjab visited Seoul in January, August and December respectively, to promote investment in their respective states.

### **Vice Minister and Senior level Official exchanges:**

22. Sixth FPSD was co-hosted by Secretary(E) P. Kumaran and First Vice Minister Park Yoon-joon in Seoul on 13 February, 2026 which reviewed the whole gamut of the bilateral relations. After the successful conclusion of 6th FPSD, First Vice Minister Park Yoon-joon visited India and held Vice Minister level consultations with Secretary (East) P. Kumaran on March 20, 2026. Fifth FPSD was held in January 2023 (Seoul).

22. Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) Vikram Misri and 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Director of National Security Kim Tae-hyo co-chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> India-ROK Deputy NSA-level Strategic Dialogue in August 2023 in Seoul. Mr. Kim Hee-sang, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs, MoFA, ROK had a meeting with Secretary (East) in April 2025 at New Delhi. Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Ms. Eui Hae Cecilia Chung had a meeting with Secretary (East) Mr. Rudrendra Tandon on the sidelines ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Senio Officials meeting in Manila in June 2026.

23. Bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Talks were held between Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) in July 2023 (Seoul); Fourth Bilateral Consultations on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was held on 26 April 2024 (Seoul); Second edition of bilateral Cyber Dialogue was held on 28 May 2024 (Seoul); MeitY participated in the AI Global Forum and the AI Seoul Summit Ministerial Meeting held on 22 May 2024 (Seoul); Inaugural India-ROK-US Trilateral Dialogue on Critical & Emerging Technologies was held on 12 March 2024 (Seoul); inaugural India-ROK-Japan Trilateral Policy Planning was held on 21 October 2024 (Seoul); Bilateral Policy Planning Dialogue was held on 22 October 2024 (Seoul); and Third bilateral Consular dialogue was held on 07 April, 2026 (Seoul).

### **Think Tank Engagements**

24. There is a rich agenda of engagement between think tanks of India and the ROK. Third 2+2 ICWA/RIS-KNDA/KIEP Policy Dialogue focusing on “Re-imagining world order: India and ROK in a Multipolar Indo-Pacific” was held on 07 April, 2026 in India. Previous edition was held in Seoul in March 2024. Fifth ICWA – KNDA policy dialogue

was also held on 19 March 2024 in Seoul. Indian defence industry experts attended the Seoul Defence Dialogue (SDD) held in September 2024.

25. A conference on 'Bridging the Future: Exploring New Horizons in Korea-India Relations' was organized by the Embassy of India in collaboration with Sejong Institute and Asia Foundation on 27 February 2025 in Seoul. Another conference on 'Korea-India Economic Partnership Forum: Shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific' was organized by the Embassy in collaboration with Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) in March 2025 in Seoul.

26. The 24<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Korea Strategic Dialogue was held from 17- 19 December 2025 in Seoul, convened by the Ananta Centre in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Korea Foundation, and the Seoul Forum for International Affairs. ROK Foreign Minister Cho Hyun delivered the keynote address during the event. A two-day digital exhibition on "Human cost of terrorism" was organized by the Embassy (24-25 March, 2026) in association with the Korea Democracy Foundation to highlight profound global impact of terrorism and reinforce the shared commitment to peace, resilience and international cooperation.

### **Parliamentary and Judiciary Exchanges:**

27. An All-Party Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble MP Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jha visited the Republic of Korea on 25-26 May 2025 for global outreach on the significance of Operation Sindoor. The delegation had interactions with Korean lawmakers, Foreign Minister and MOFA officials, Think tanks, corporate policy groups, local media, eminent Korean dignitaries and Indian Diaspora members. Rep. Gyeongjong Mo and Rep. Yongtae Kim visited India in July 2025 to study the renewable energy landscape in India and the emerging opportunities for bilateral cooperation. They met Hon'ble Chairman and other members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. They visited India's largest solar park (2.2 GW) at Bhadla, Rajasthan.

28. In July 17, 2025 delegation of Special Envoys of President Lee Jae Myung led by Kim Boo-kyum met Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In September 2025, MOS for Information & Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan met the members of the culture, sports and tourism committee and the vice chairs and the members of Korea-India Parliamentary Friendship group. Indian parliamentarian, Hon'ble member Bhubhaneswar Kalita, Chairman of the committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change participated at the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarian Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED). Ms. Jaewon Kim, Member of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

visited India (Delhi & Goa) in November 2025 to participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India, in Goa where she was invited as the “Guest of Honour” for the “Waves Film Bazaar”. To further enhance parliamentary exchanges Distinguished Visitors Program was launched during the State visit of President Lee Jae Myung (19-21 April, 2026)

29. Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Lee Hack-young along with Rep. Jeong Hyekyeong, Rep. Song Jae-bong and Rep. Bok Ki-wang visited India (29 January 2026 – 02 February 2026) and met Hon’ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh. Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee Kim Seok-ki visited India from 14-16 May and met the members of the India-Korea Parliamaentary Friendship Group. ROK National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin-pyo visited New Delhi (11-13 October 2023) to attend the P20 Summit. He held a bilateral meeting with Hon’ble Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla.

30. Hon’ble Justice of Supreme Court Surya kant visited ROK in August 2024 and met Chief Justices of Supreme Court of ROK and Constitutional Court of ROK; In August 2025, Justice K. Vinod Chandran participated as a panelist at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the AACC SRD.

### **Economic Relations:**

31. Trade and economic relations between India and Rok gathered momentum following the Implementation of CEPA in 2010. Bilateral trade between the two countries in 2025 stood at USD 25.6 billion, with India's import volume in 2025 as USD 19.2 billion, while the export volume as USD 6.4 billion. Bilateral trade in 2022 had reached record level of USD 27.8 billion. In 2024, the bilateral trade stood at USD 25.1 billion. Major items of India's exports to ROK are Light oils and preparations, Aluminum, Refined lead, mineral fuels/oil distillates (mainly naphtha), cereals, iron and steel ROK's main export items are automobile parts, telecommunication equipment, hot rolled iron products, petroleum refined products, base lubricating oils, mechanical appliances, electrical machinery parts and iron and steel products.

32. The 12th round of CEPA upgrade negotiations was held from May 25-27, 2026 in Delhi. The 13th round of CEPA upgrade negotiations are likely to take place in the end – August 2026. A Joint Declaration on Resuming & Expediting CEPA Upgrade Negotiations for Early Conclusion by first half of 2027 was announced at the Summit meeting (19-21 April, 2026). Earlier Electronics Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) was launched by CBIC Chair and Korea Customs Commissioner in 2023 in New Delhi for expediting exchange of information related to certificate of origin, smoothening the trading process.

33. During the Summit meeting in April 2026, India and ROK agreed to establish their first ministerial-level economic cooperation platform, the "Industrial Cooperation Committee," and to expand the annual trade volume from the current USD 25 billion to USD 50 billion by 2030. The two sides announced broadening of cooperation beyond existing economic ties to cover strategic industries such as critical minerals, nuclear power, clean energy, artificial intelligence (AI), shipbuilding, and finance. A Business Forum led by Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) and FICCI from both sides was held in New Delhi during the Summit, which saw the participation of around 600 Korean and Indian companies, including Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor Group, LG, POSCO Holdings, HD Hyundai and others, and signing of 20 private MoUs in areas such as shipbuilding, digital, and energy.

34. ROK, is 16 largest FDI investor of India. As per K-Exim data, the total investment made by ROK into India amounted to USD 685 million in 2025. Cumulative investment since 1980 stands at around USD 10 billion. Majority of the investments have come from manufacturing. India and ROK launched the initiative 'Korea Plus to promote and facilitate Korean investments in to India. There are more than 670 large and small Korean firms operating in India. Six major Korean Banks have overall 20 branches in India. These include KEB Hana, Kookmin, Shinhan, Woori, Nonghyup and IBK. Hana bank opened its 2 new branches in Mumbai and Devanahalli (near Bengaluru) in December 2025. KB Securities opened its office in Mumbai on December 1, 2025. Korea Investment Corporation (KIC), the sovereign national fund of ROK, opened its first branch in India (Mumbai) in April 2024.

35. Mirae Asset is another Korean financial entity present in India, featuring as the only foreign company amongst the top 10 Asset management Companies in India. Mirae Asset is also present in GIFT City since 2023. Korean Re, a Korean reinsurance company, also opened its India branch in the GIFT City in January 2026, and is scheduled to start full-fledged operations in April 2026. During the Summit in April, a maiden edition of Financial Forum was organized by Financial Services Commission (FSC) and Council on International Financial Cooperation (CIFIC), along with Ministry of Finance on April 20, 2026. The forum aimed at strengthening cooperation in the financial sector between India and ROK, including banking, capital markets and fin-tech, and also included the signing of 2 MoUs for digital payment integration, and for cooperation between Korea's FSC and India's International Financial Centres Authority (IFSCA). The forum saw the participation of financial authorities and institutions from India and ROK both, including Korea Financial Services Commission, SEBI, IFSCA, KFTC, NPIL, and others.

36. Investment from India to ROK are to the tune of approx. USD 52 billion led by Tata Daewoo and Aditya Birla Group (Novelis). Tata Motors acquired Daewoo



Commercial Vehicle Company for USD 102 million in March 2004. The State Bank of India opened a branch in Seoul in January 2016 to provide wide range of services including loan services and project financing for Korean and Indian companies.

37. The Indian Chamber of Commerce in Korea [ICCK) comprising of Indian and Korean companies play a constructive role in promoting trade and investments linkages between the two countries. India-Korea Fast Track Mechanism (FTM) was launched in August 2024 to expedite the resolution of issues and concerns of Korean investors and enhance their ease of doing business in India and has held two meetings so far.

38. Trade and investment promotion visits, including from state governments in India are frequent. Delegation led by Energy Minister of Karnataka Mr KJ. George visited Seoul in August, 2025. A delegation led by Sh. Sandeep Poundrik, Secretary, Ministry of Steel visited ROK in July 2025 and met Deputy Minister for Industrial Policy, MOTIR Mr. Seung-ryul Lee. Dr Abhilaksh Lekhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries visited ROK in November 2025 and delivered presentation on India's Fisheries and aquaculture initiatives at the National Representatives meeting held at Incheon. He also met Deputy Minister for Fisheries Policy Mr Choi Hyun-ho.

39. Ministerial-level delegations from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Rajasthan visited ROK in 2023 and 2024 to explore business tie-ups. Director MoPSW led delegation, and CEO, NICDC visited Rok from February 19-20, 2026 to participate in the Korea India Economic Cooperation Conference hosted by MOTIR and organized by Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), held on February 20, 2026. They presented the opportunities in India in the areas of shipbuilding, ports and harbour and industrial townships in India. Chief Ministers of Assam, Chhattisgarh and Punjab visited Seoul in January, August and December 2025 respectively, to promote investment in their respective states. In July 2026, Minister of IT, Electronics and Communications, Real Time Governance and HRD, Government of Andhra Pradesh visited RoK on MOFA's invitation for business and Ministerial meetings.

40. Mr Yeo Han-koo, Korea's Trade Minister visited India and met the HCIM on March 13, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to set a mandate for the Chief Negotiators on both sides to reach a mutually beneficial conclusion of the long-pending CEPA upgrade negotiations. Both the Ministers again met in Cameroon on the sidelines of WTO-MC 14 on March 27,2026.

41. PMO held the Korea Week in June 22 – 25, 2026 following Korean President's State visit to India. Korea Week is a platform designed to strengthen industry – government engagement between India and Korea to foster a more conducive business environment for Korean companies in or interested in India. Following this, on June 29,

2026, Korean MOFA held a round-table with a few Indian companies to encourage further Indian investments into Korea.

#### Defence Relations:

42. India - ROK defence relations have strengthened in recent years. Various bilateral mechanisms have been instituted to take forward engagements in armed services, defence policy and defence industry domains. Service level talks across the three arms of the military are held biennially.

43. Under high level exchanges, the visit of Hon'ble RM to RoK was held from 19-21 May 2026. Apart from bilateral meetings, important MoUs were co-signed by both sides. A Defence Industry Round Table was organised in Seoul on 20 May 26, co-chaired by the Hon'ble RM and Minister DAPA. Commemoration Ceremony of first Indian War Memorial was conducted on 21 May 26 at Imjingak Peace Park, Paju, in august presence of Hon'ble RM and Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. The Indian War Memorial showcases the contributions of India during the Korean War.

44. Army Staff Talks were held in September 2024 in India. ROK Army Chief Park Jeong-hwan visited New Delhi in September 2023 to attend the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs' Conference. General Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) visited ROK in November 2023 and held meetings with Chief of Staff, ROK Army and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of ROK Armed Forces.

45. Air Force Staff Talks were held in November 2024 in ROK. Chief of Staff, ROK Air Force, General Lee Youngsu, undertook an official visit to India on 17-21 March 2024 and met Chief of Indian Air Force and the Defence Secretary and discussed new areas of cooperation in field of aerospace, AI and cyber technologies.

46. Navy Staff Talks were held in April 2023 in India. Navy and Coast Guard ships have been visiting each other's ports on a regular basis and have also been holding joint exercises. Inaugural India and ROK bilateral naval exercise was successfully conducted from 13-16 Oct 2025 in ROK. INS SAHYADRI from Indian Navy and ROKS NOJEOKBONG from ROK Navy undertook the exercise. ROK Navy ship Gang Gam-chan (destroyer) participated in International Fleet Review (IFR-2026) and Exercise MILAN-2026 from 17-26 Feb 26 at Vizag, India. ROK Navy delegation headed by Commander of ROK Navy Logistic Command participated in IFR-26 and & 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Chiefs Conclave from 17-21 Feb 26. ROK ship Dae Jo Yeong (destroyer) made three port calls at Mumbai and Goa in March and April 2026 to seek logistic support.

47. Chief of Korea Coast Guard, Commissioner General Kim Yong Jin visited India from 20-24 July 2025 and met Director General Indian Coast Guard. The two sides

signed a MOU on 'Cooperation in Maritime Search & Rescue' on the sidelines of 13th High Level Meeting. A delegation from Korea Coast Guard participated in 10th NATPOLREX Exercise conducted by Indian Coast Guard in October 2025, while ICG delegation participated in Capacity Building Training in ROK in June 2025. ICG Ship SUJAY visited ROK in September 2024.

48. Contract for additional 100 K9 Vajra was signed on 04 Apr 2025 between Hanwha Aerospace and L&T, India. A Roadmap for Defence Industries Cooperation was signed between the two countries in September 2020. For the consecutive 2nd Year, India Pavilion was established at Korea Defence Expo, KADEX-2024, to represent India's defence manufacturing capabilities among the foreign defence players. Important MOUs on defence industry joint ventures were signed between Indian & ROK defence companies during Aero-India on 10-11 February 2025 at Bengaluru and another MOU on joint venture was signed on 05 Dec 2025 in India while the third was signed on 20 May 26 during Defence Industry Round Table.

49. A delegation from National Defence College visited ROK in June 2026 on a study tour while delegation from College of Defence Management visited ROK in October 2024 and from Army War College in November 2025 in ROK.

Cultural Relations, S&T, Tourism and Education:

50. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) has a number of MoUs with Korean universities, associations and some cities for furthering cultural collaboration. In 2021, SVCC signed an MoU with the Gimhae city and ICCR for cultural cooperation which envisages construction of the Gimhae India Cultural Exchange Centre in Gimhae. SVCC signed MoUs with the Seongdong Foundation of Arts and Culture [SDFAC] and Samsung Welstory in 2024 and with Eunpyeong Foundation of Arts and Culture [EFAC] and Busan University of Foreign Studies [BUFS] in 2025 to further foster cultural exchanges between India and ROK.

51. In March 2014, a Bodhi Tree sapling was officially presented to ROK at a ceremony in Korea National Arboretum and a bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the Hongbeop-sa temple in Busan in July 2014. Additionally, in 2014, a statue of Mahatma Gandhi was installed at the Yeonji Park in Gimhae, a section of which has been developed as India-Korea Friendship Park based on the life experiences of Mahatma Gandhi. During his State Visit to ROK in 2019, PM Modi gifted a Bodhi Tree sapling and a bust of Mahatma Gandhi, which were installed at Yonsei University, Songdo Campus, Incheon.

52. As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, a Korea-India Peace Park was unveiled on June 3, 2019 and 150 trees planted at the historic Independence Park, Seodaemun district in Seoul. In May 2021, a 3.3 feet bronze statue

of Lord Buddha was gifted by ICCR to the Tongdo-sa Temple, the head temple of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. In February-March 2023, a group of around 100 Korean Buddhist monks of Jogye order completed a 43 days walking pilgrimage to sacred Buddhist sites in India. The Embassy, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation, participated in the Seoul buddhist Expo from April 2-5, 2026.

53. As a part of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative of "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam", 50 plum trees were planted by the Embassy and the Indian diaspora at Boramae Park, Seoul in March 2025.

54. For the first time, a ministerial level delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan participated at the 30th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) (September 17–26, 2025) and the Asian Contents & Film Market (ACFM) (September 20–23, 2025) was held in Busan. India set up a Bharat Pavilion at both BIFF and ACFM to highlight India's capabilities in film production, post-production, incentives being offered, and to promote India as a filming destination. This marked a significant milestone in India – ROK collaboration in the field of media, entertainment, culture, gaming, AVGC and emerging technologies.

55. In October 2025, as part of the 11th edition of Sarang - The Festival of India in ROK, the Embassy collaborated with a number of local partners to organise art exhibitions, Indian classical dance performances, music, films, and culinary related activities. In November 2025, the Embassy also organised the 13th Indian Film Festival across ROK including Seoul, Yangsan, Gwangju, Incheon, Miryang, Busan. Embassy also hosted the 21st edition of "Celebrating India" in collaboration with the North-East Institute of Fashion Technology (NEIFT).

56. The Embassy organised the inaugural India Day on May 16, 2026 at Yeouido Hangang Park, marking its first large-scale outdoor cultural festival. The event showcased India's rich cultural heritage and contemporary achievements through non-stop cultural performances, interactive activities, and exhibitions. Dedicated booths were also established to display textiles/ hand looms from Hand looms Export Promotion Council (HEPC), premier coffee varieties from Coffee Board of India and region-specific ODOPs. The Indian diaspora also participated in large numbers to transform the venue into a "Mini India", offering a unique opportunity for attendees to immerse themselves in the richness of Indian culture.

57. To commemorate the 12th International Day of Yoga, the Embassy organised Yoga events across ROK including in Jeju (June 7), Busan (June 13), Seoul (June 14), and Nami Island (June 27). The main celebration was held at Gwanghwamun Square, Seoul, on June 21, with the support of Viveka Yoga. In the lead-up to the main event, curtain raiser events were organised at Namsan-gol Hanok Village (April 7), at Hyosung Office

(May 22), Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) (May 27), and Wonkwang Digital University (June 28).

58. India and ROK has robust S&T cooperation where several Joint R&D projects have been undertaken in various domains such as Green mobility, ICT, Material science, etc. India extended the invitation of the AI Impact Summit 2026 to the ROK and in the runup to the Summit, Embassy organised an AI Roundtable conference in collaboration with the National Research Council of S&T of the ROK on January 19, 2026. The ROK Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and ICT Kyunghoon Bae participated in the AI Impact Summit 2026 (19-20 February) and held a bilateral meeting with the Minister MeitY Ashwani Vaishnaw on its sidelines. The ROK also endorsed the Summit declaration. During the Leaders Summit (19-21 April, 2026) Framework for India-Korea Digital Bridge was launched along with MoU of S&T cooperation.

59. To promote tourism, Embassy participated in major Korean travel fairs, including Seoul International Travel Fair 2025 (SITF) and organised tourism-focused seminars and roadshows in both online and offline format in partnership with State Governments of Assam, Goa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Embassy has also regularly engaged with eminent universities and institutions to explore student exchanges and academic and research collaborations. The Embassy hosted a tourism roadshow “Incredible India – Explore the Extraordinary” on 16 March 2026 at Sevit Island, which brought together approximately 120 stakeholders from the Korean travel industry, media and travel writers.

60. During the ROK President Lee Jae Myung’s State Visit to India in April 2026, India and ROK agreed to expand educational cooperation through exchanges, joint research, scholarships and stronger university partnerships, while agreeing to promote Korean and Indian language learning.

61. During the visit, India and the ROK also extended their Cultural Exchange Programme (2026–2030) and signed MoUs on Cultural and Creative Industries as well as on Sports. India also announced the donation of 200 artifacts to ROK to be housed at the Gimhae-India Cultural Exchange Centre in Gimhae and declared the 2028-29 as the Year of India-ROK Friendship.

## **Startups**

62. In February 2019, India and ROK signed an MoU on Startup Cooperation. On the basis of this MOU the India-Korea SME and Startups center was established in Gurugram. The MoU was signed between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and ROK Ministry of SMEs and Startups. Identified areas of collaboration are information

sharing and establishment of the "India-Korea Startup Centre" which is operational and serving as a resource for Indian and Korean startups looking for information.

63. A delegation of DPIIT and Startup India led by Additional Secretary DPIIT, Arti Bhatnagar participated as a partner country in COMEUP Startup festival along with some Indian startups in December 2024. Later, a 26 member strong delegation including 11 startups led by Korea Institute of Startup & Entrepreneurship Development (KISED) and Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) participated in the "Startup Mahakumbh" organized in New Delhi from 4-6 April 2025. In December 2025, at the COMEUP Startup festival in Seoul, Indian startup "Konnnect" was selected as the overall winner among more than 2,500 teams from 97 countries.

### **Indian Community:**

64. The total number of Indian nationals living in ROK is estimated to be around 18,000. The majority of the Indians living in Korea are students, scholars, professionals and their families. During the past few years, many professionals, mainly in the areas of IT, shipping and automobile have come to ROK. A large number of them are working with large companies like Samsung, LG, Hyundai TATA Daewoo, TCS, Coupang etc. There are also a significant number of Indian students and academicians in Korean universities. Majority of the Indian students and scholars are pursuing post-graduate and Ph.D programs, mostly in the fields of STEM. Several Indian diaspora associations are active in the Republic of Korea.

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**(As on July 14, 2026)**