

# India-Republic of Korea S&T Cooperation: Co-Creating the Future

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## Background

India and Republic of Korea (ROK) are democratic and secular nations, sharing deep civilization and cultural linkages. India's role in the Korean Peninsula following Independence of ROK in 1945, its elections in 1947 and the Korean War provide the context for the beginning of the Consular relations between India and Korea in 1962, and establishment of the formal diplomatic ties on 10 December 1973<sup>1</sup>. In less than three years of establishing formal diplomatic relations, both countries signed the *Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the Republic of India on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology* in March 1976, which came into force in August same year. 2026 marks the golden jubilee of the S&T cooperation agreement between

the two countries. The agreement provided a comprehensive framework based on equality and mutual benefit, emphasising flexibility and expansion of areas of cooperation. It laid the foundation of exchange of scientists, researchers, specialists, scholars; information and documentation; joint activities including seminars and courses and joint R&D programmes, linking application of scientific research to industry, agriculture. The detailed and forward-looking agreement focused on cooperation between institutions, enterprises, organisations, etc., and included provisions for joint patent applications, commercialisation (in third countries as well), equipment sharing, indicating early recognition of technology transfer and knowledge and innovation ecosystem in future. It also

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1. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. India–Republic of Korea Bilateral Relations. n.d. [https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India-Republic\\_of\\_Korea26.pdf](https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India-Republic_of_Korea26.pdf)
2. United Nations. United Nations Treaty Series, Volume 1882. 1995. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201882/v1882.pdf>
3. Kim, S. “India–Korea Relations: Strategic and Economic Dimensions.” World Scientific, 2023. <https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/S2717541323400053>
4. Jain, B. M. “India–Korea Relations in a Changing World Order.” JSTOR. n.d. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48589363>
5. Indian Council of World Affairs. India–Republic of Korea Relations: Historical Perspectives. n.d. <https://www.icwa.in/WriteReadData/RTF1984/9578539943.pdf>
6. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “Joint Statement during the State Visit of President Roh Moo-hyun to India.” October 2004. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/7467/Joint+Statement+State+Visit+to+India+of+HE+Mr+Roh+MooHyun+President+of+the+Republic+of+Korea+ROK+46+October+2004>

created a continuity and institutional framework designating Korea’s Ministry of Science and Technology and India’s Department of Science and Technology as nodal agencies. The Agreement also included provisions for cost-sharing, IP protection and strategic trust, facilitation and support for easing S&T collaboration between the two countries.<sup>2</sup>

Despite these, scientific relations between the two countries remained limited during the cold-war period.<sup>3</sup> The post-Cold War era saw gradual convergence shaped by India’s economic liberalisation and emergence of ROK as a significant technology-driven industrial economy. India’s *Look East Policy* provided a wider strategic framework with a growing number of high-level visits during 1993–2002, which helped in maintaining momentum of the political relations.<sup>4</sup> India and ROK’s engagement during the period saw the entry of several Korean businesses including high technology product, largely driven by commercial and economic interests as a result of opportunities created by the opening of the Indian economy.<sup>5</sup> The 2004 Joint Statement during President Roh Moo-hyun’s visit marked the establishment of a ‘Long-Term Comprehensive Partnership for Peace and Prosperity’ which was a significant step in India-ROK science and technology cooperation. Both sides recognised S&T cooperation, including high-technology, as a priority area and agreed to exchange visits by S&T missions. The statement also highlighted prior cooperation in space (KITSAT-III, 1999), and proposed its expansion, while emphasising complementarities in ICT and electronics by combining ROK’s hardware capabilities and India’s software strengths. Additionally, cooperation in energy and environmentally sound technologies indicated a broadening of the S&T agenda into emerging global domains.<sup>6</sup> The 2005 vision document of

the quadrilateral Asia-Pacific Partnership comprising Australia, China, India and South Korea further emphasised technology-driven cooperation in clean energy and climate mitigation. It highlighted the need for development, diffusion, deployment and transfer of existing and emerging technologies across a wide spectrum of areas including hydrogen, nanotechnology, advanced biotechnology, etc.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam’s visit was a landmark and the first Presidential visit from India to ROK. His speech on February 7, 2006 in Seoul reaffirmed scientific cooperation between the two countries, particularly highlighting ongoing cooperation in space and the need to explore newer avenues of cooperation in areas such as energy security, knowledge-based economy and cutting edge technologies.<sup>8</sup> The 2006 India-ROK S&T Agreement can be viewed as a supersession of the S&T agreement of 1976. It provided an institutional framework and established the Joint Committee to identify areas of cooperation, designated nodal agencies, and emphasised joint research projects and institutional linkages. The agreement expanded collaboration to academia, research institutions and industry, with a clear focus on commercialisation of technologies, setting the context for a multidimensional S&T cooperation.<sup>9</sup>

## From Strategic to Special Strategic Partnership: The S&T Dimensions of Bilateral Cooperation

In order to deepen economic and trade ties, a Joint Study Group (JSG) was established. On its recommendations, the India-ROK Comprehensive Economic Partnership was signed in 2009, which is seen as a milestone in bilateral economic ties.<sup>10</sup> Following which, the ties were

elevated to a Strategic Partnership in 2010. The Joint Statement clearly recognised the importance of science and technology cooperation, and welcomed the outcomes of the Meeting of Joint Committee on S&T held in Seoul in 2009. It further institutionalised cooperation through the proposal of a dedicated joint research fund, together with expansion collaboration in information technology, space and civil nuclear cooperation.<sup>11</sup> In 2011, Agreement for Cooperation in the peaceful uses of Nuclear Energy was signed between India and ROK.<sup>12</sup> After the elevation to a Strategic Partnership, S&T cooperation was further institutionalised through upgradation of the Joint Committee on S&T to ministerial level, operationalising USD 10 million joint R&D fund, supporting research, exchanges, workshops and collaborative programmes. Collaboration was deepened in space with focus on satellite launches, including nano-satellite missions. In the area of civil nuclear cooperation, focus centred on implementing the 2011 agreement, with greater emphasis on safe nuclear energy, reactor deployment, and technical collaboration.<sup>13</sup> The 2014 Joint Statement reaffirmed and further deepened S&T cooperation through an additional USD 10 million joint R&D fund to support joint mega projects. A transition is seen from joint research in basic science to a structured innovation partnership focused on applied R&D, ICT-led digital transformation, space collaboration, cyber security, with greater emphasis on commercialization of technologies.<sup>14</sup> Several MoUs focused on R&D cooperation, space technology, ICT and cybersecurity.<sup>15</sup>

The Strategic Partnership between the two countries was elevated to Special Strategic Partnership during the state visit of Prime Minister Modi to South Korea in May 2015, laying the way forward for a

more comprehensive and future-oriented engagement based on shared democratic values, converging regional vision as well as recognising science, technology and innovation as key priorities for cooperation. It acknowledged the joint R&D cooperation in renewable energy, material science, robotics and engineering sciences, and health sciences and emphasised academia-industry linkages, particularly in clean-tech, robotics and automation and Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and expanded cooperation in hi-tech and frontier domains, especially space sector. Apart from emphasizing on innovation-driven and application-oriented partnerships, S&T cooperation between India and ROK was also linked to sustainable development and technological advancements, aligning with mutual developmental, societal and industrial needs.<sup>16</sup>

The India-ROK S&T partnership has been implemented through exchange of scientists and delegations, joint workshops, virtual network centres, joint basic research programmes and industrial R&D collaborations. During 2009-2020, sixty-six joint projects have been completed, leading to high-impact papers and patents. A recent joint call received over 198 proposals, out of which ten projects in priority areas such as green mobility, renewable energy (including green hydrogen), ICT, Materials Science (semiconductors and displays) and quantum technologies. During 2011-2017 nine thematic workshops were organised covering issues like energy, environment, nanomaterials, healthcare, bioenergy, robotics and computational materials. These workshops play a critical role in building scientific networks and shaping joint project proposals. Based on the 2012 Steering Committee decision held in Seoul, three calls were issued which saw

7. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "Vision Statement for a New Asia - Pacific Partnership on Clean Development." n.d. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/6833/Vision\\_Statement\\_of\\_Australia\\_China\\_India\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_and\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_of\\_America\\_for\\_a\\_New\\_AsiaPacific\\_Partnership\\_on\\_Clean\\_Development](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/6833/Vision_Statement_of_Australia_China_India_the_Republic_of_Korea_and_the_United_States_of_America_for_a_New_AsiaPacific_Partnership_on_Clean_Development)
8. Kalam, A. P. J. Abdul. "Speech at the Banquet Hosted by the President of the Republic of Korea, Seoul." February 7, 2006. <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/2125/Speech+by+President+Dr+APJ+Abdul+Kalam+at+the+Banquet+hosted+by+President+of+Republic+of+Korea+Mr+Roh+MooHyun+February+7+2006+Seoul>
9. Parliament of India. India–Republic of Korea Relations. n.d. <https://eparlib.sansad.in/bitstream/123456789/523954/1/24453.pdf>
10. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "India–Republic of Korea Joint Statement: Towards a Strategic Partnership." 2010. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/3301/India\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_Towards\\_a\\_Strategic\\_Partnership](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/3301/India_Republic_of_Korea_Joint_Statement_Towards_a_Strategic_Partnership)

<sup>11</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “Agreements Signed during the Visit of the President of India to the Republic of Korea.” n.d. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/5026/Agreements\\_signed\\_during\\_the\\_visit\\_of\\_the\\_President\\_of\\_India\\_to\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/5026/Agreements_signed_during_the_visit_of_the_President_of_India_to_the_Republic_of_Korea)

<sup>12</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “India–Republic of Korea Joint Statement: Deepening the Strategic Partnership.” 2013. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/19070/India\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_Deepening\\_the\\_Strategic\\_Partnership](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/19070/India_Republic_of_Korea_Joint_Statement_Deepening_the_Strategic_Partnership)

<sup>13</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “India– Republic of Korea Joint Statement for Expansion of the Strategic Partnership.” 2014. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/22752/India\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_for\\_Expansion\\_of\\_the\\_Strategic\\_Partnership](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/22752/India_Republic_of_Korea_Joint_Statement_for_Expansion_of_the_Strategic_Partnership)

<sup>14</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “List of Documents Signed during the State Visit of the President of the Republic of Korea to India.” January 2014. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/22750/List\\_of\\_Documents\\_signed\\_during\\_the\\_state\\_visit\\_of\\_President\\_of\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_to\\_India\\_1518\\_January\\_2014](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/22750/List_of_Documents_signed_during_the_state_visit_of_President_of_Republic_of_Korea_to_India_1518_January_2014)

the participation of Indian and Korean students. Recognising India’s strength in basic research and ROK’s applied research, both sides established a new mechanism of cooperation through a multi-disciplinary joint R&D Network Centre focused on Robotics at IIT Delhi, and Computational Materials Science and Engineering at JNCASR, Bengaluru. A third centre was launched at IIT Indore focusing on cyber physical systems targeting AI, IoT focused on agriculture, energy, water, and transport. Along with these mechanisms, India-Korea Research Internship Programme was also launched following the decision taken during the S&T Ministers Steering Committee meeting held in Seoul in 2012. However, due to limited uptake, this programme has been on hold for some time. In order to promote innovation and techno-entrepreneurship, a MoU for launching the Applied R&D Programme was concluded in 2014. This Programme aimed to support business-led collaborative R&D projects between India and Korean companies, working with R&D/Academic organisations from both countries. In India, on behalf of DST, the Global Innovation and Technology Alliance (GITA) implemented this programme. Against the last three joint calls, five projects in the domain of robotics, clean tech, automation and renewable energy have been selected for joint funding.

The convergences between India’s *Act East Policy* and South Korea’s *New Southern Policy* also signified the bilateral ties. The ‘Future’ section of the 2018 India and Republic of Korea Vision for People, Prosperity and Future focused largely on science and technology cooperation through joint collaborative research, experience sharing and development of technologies in areas such as renewable energy, material science, robotics,

engineering and health science. The Vision document also underlined the establishment of dedicated platforms such as the ‘India-Korea Centre for Research and Innovation Cooperation’ (IKCRI) and ‘Korea-India Future Strategy Group’.<sup>17</sup> The quadripartite MoU to establish a Korea-India Future Strategy Group was signed in 2018 in order to expand and enhance cooperation in applied science, commercialisation of technology and industrial innovation. Within this mechanism, both sides have co-funded nine collaborative enterprise-led joint R&D projects so far in the domain of digital transformation, future manufacturing, future utilities and healthcare. Several thematic MoUs were signed on future cooperation in research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Five out of the eleven MoUs signed were science, technology and innovation, spanning frontier domains such as AI, big data, IoT, smart factory, 3D printing, electric vehicle, biotechnology, bioeconomics, ICT and telecommunications, as well as industrial R&D, reflecting a focus on technology-driven partnership and co-innovation, with greater emphasis on commercialisation and industry 4.0 collaboration.<sup>18</sup> The MoU signed for Startup cooperation in 2019 indicate an effort to connect innovation ecosystems of the two countries, called for setting up of the Korea Start-up Centre.<sup>19</sup> A multilayered innovation ecosystem evolved around the Centre which included accelerator programmes (KSC India), institutional platforms liked India-Korea Startup Hub (2019) provides a platform for connecting startups, investors, and incubators, and physical incubation space like the India-Korea SMEs and Startup Centre in Gurugram, providing a co-working space, incubation and ecosystem access.<sup>20</sup>

## State Visit of the ROK President: Outcomes and Beyond

The state visit of the President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Lee Jae Myung, to India during 19-21 April 2026, followed a series of high-level dialogue between the two sides in 2025 including the meetings on the margins of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis and the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, which had already set the tone for deeper engagement. The Korean delegation to India during the recent visit included senior ministers and officials, and leading CEOs, indicating not just political and strategic importance but also strong economic and technology angles. The outcomes of the visit included four joint statements, five MoUs/Frameworks and six announcements. The joint statements focused on Special Strategic Partnership, Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics, Sustainability and Energy resources Security. In four joint statements and fifteen MoU/Frameworks signed, there are direct, indirect and incidental S&T components.<sup>22, 23, 24, 25, 26</sup>

The partnership between the two countries is institutionally multi-layered and multi-dimensional as it encompasses critical technological cooperation, defence co-development, digital economy, climate and energy transition collaboration beyond political, trade and economic cooperation. India and Republic of Korea is a key Indo-Pacific and technology partnership, significant for regional stability, maritime security and supply chain resilience. India with its large market, skilled workforce and growing digital economy and ROK with its advanced manufacturing, high-tech industries and as an important actor in the global supply chain, together, can build a resilient industrial and technology

ecosystem. Science and Technology cooperation is one of the central pillars of the new strategic vision, effectively acting as the engine of future cooperation. It was decided that the Joint Committee Meeting of S&T Ministers will be held this year. The newly launched India-ROK Economic Security Dialogue focuses on supply-chain resilience and advancing cutting-edge technologies based on mutual strategic trust.

The Joint Strategic Vision for India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership transforms India-ROK cooperation into a high-tech strategic partnership centred on AI, digital and emerging technologies, semiconductors, space, defence innovation, fintech integration, and critical mineral technologies. With a shared vision of *AI for All and MANAV* principles and joint focus on research collaboration in AI, talent development and responsible and inclusive AI, the launch of India-Korea Digital Bridge Framework is a significant initiative focusing on AI, data governance systems and digital businesses ecosystems, while recognizing the role of enabling technologies, including semiconductors, in supporting digital innovation and cooperation. This Framework will amplify the synergy between the two countries in the domain of technology partnership. ROK's established strength in semiconductors as ROK accounts for approximately 73 percent of the global memory semiconductor market share, driven by companies such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix, is expected to complement India's ambitions to build a domestic chip ecosystem.<sup>27</sup>

India's strength in design talent as India boasts roughly 20 per cent of the world's chip design talent, creation of diverse use case applications and dedicated focus on developing a full-

<sup>15</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "India–Republic of Korea Joint Statement for Special Strategic Partnership." May 18, 2015. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/25261/India\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_Joint\\_Statement\\_for\\_Special\\_Strategic\\_Partnership\\_May\\_18\\_2015](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/25261/India_Republic_of_Korea_Joint_Statement_for_Special_Strategic_Partnership_May_18_2015)

<sup>16</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "India and Republic of Korea: A Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace and Our Future." 2018. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30041/India\\_and\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_A\\_Vision\\_for\\_People\\_Prospersity\\_Peace\\_and\\_our\\_Future](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30041/India_and_Republic_of_Korea_A_Vision_for_People_Prospersity_Peace_and_our_Future)

<sup>17</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "List of MoUs / Documents Signed between India and the Republic of Korea." 2018. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30040/List\\_of\\_MoUsDocuments\\_signed\\_between\\_India\\_and\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_during\\_the\\_State\\_Visit\\_of\\_President\\_of\\_Korea\\_to\\_India](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/30040/List_of_MoUsDocuments_signed_between_India_and_the_Republic_of_Korea_during_the_State_Visit_of_President_of_Korea_to_India)

<sup>18</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. "List of MoUs / Documents Signed during the Prime Minister's Visit to the Republic of Korea." 2019. [https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31077/List\\_of\\_MoUsDocuments\\_signed\\_between\\_India\\_and\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea\\_during\\_the\\_State\\_Visit\\_of\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_to\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Korea](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31077/List_of_MoUsDocuments_signed_between_India_and_the_Republic_of_Korea_during_the_State_Visit_of_Prime_Minister_to_the_Republic_of_Korea)

<sup>19</sup>. Press Information Bureau, Government of India. “India–Republic of Korea Relations.” 2019. <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1566597&reg=3&lang=2>

<sup>20</sup>. Startup India. “India–Korea Startup Hub.” n.d. [https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/international/India\\_Korea\\_startup\\_hub.html](https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/international/India_Korea_startup_hub.html)

<sup>21</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “India–Republic of Korea Bilateral Documents.” n.d. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41062>

<sup>22</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “Joint Strategic Vision for India–ROK Special Strategic Partnership.” n.d. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41066/Joint+Strategic+Vision+for+India+ROK+Special+Strategic+Partnership>

<sup>23</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “India–ROK Comprehensive Framework for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics.” n.d. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41065/India+ROK+Comprehensive+Framework+for+Partnership+in+Shipbuilding+Shipping+and+Maritime+Logistics>

<sup>24</sup>. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. “India–Republic of Korea Joint Statement on Cooperation in Sustainability.” n.d. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41067/India+Republic+of+Korea+Joint+Statement+on+Cooperation+in+the+field+of+Sustainability>

stack semiconductor value chain through incentives under its national missions on AI and Semiconductor. India Semiconductor Mission has approved ten semiconductor projects with a cumulative investment of approximately INR 1.6 trillion so far, while ROK’s advancing its own “K-Semiconductor Belt” strategy to secure next-generation chip leadership; is expected to make this partnership a win-win proposition for both the countries, as they leverage each other’s strength and expertise. It is interesting to note that ROK unveiled an ambitious plan in December 2025 to invest 700 trillion won (USD 534 billion) to bolster its semiconductor sector and gain an edge in the global chip race shaped by artificial intelligence (AI), aiming to shift from a memory-dominated industry to a more balanced, innovation-driven ecosystem spanning the entire semiconductor value chain. At a policy briefing titled ‘Vision and Strategy for K-Semiconductors in the AI Era,’ held at the presidential office in Yongsan, President Lee Jae Myung and ministers outlined the government’s mid-to long-term blueprint for securing chip supremacy. The bilateral collaboration comes at a time when both countries are seeking to reduce dependence on concentrated supply chains and build resilience in critical technologies, particularly chips and AI infrastructure.

Beyond these, the visit emphasised on space collaboration between the two countries. India-ROK Space Day was announced in collaboration with IN-SPACE in Bengaluru on 20 April 2026 to promote collaboration among startups in the space sector, research institutes and industries. The statement also underlined the need to explore collaboration in satellite navigation systems. The partnership significantly deepens technology-led cooperation across defence, fintech, and advanced industries

with expansion of co-development models like the K9 Vajra and new platforms like the Korea-India Defence Accelerator which aims to take forward the collaboration in futuristic defence technologies. Alongside, emphasis is also on integration of digital payments systems between India’s UPI ecosystem and Korea’s financial infrastructure to drive financial interoperability. The joint statement focuses on building a robust technology-industrial base, through collaboration across critical minerals supply chains including AI for geological mapping and exploration and its recovery through e-waste and mine tailings. Further, there is also emphasis on collaboration in green manufacturing, and energy-climate technologies such as green hydrogen and nuclear energy together with strengthening linkages between scientific institutions and human capital of both countries. To anchor collaboration between the two countries in a global clean energy and green growth framework, Republic of Korea is joining the International Solar Alliance and India is joining the Global Green Growth Institute.<sup>28</sup>

The *India-ROK Framework for Partnership in Shipbuilding, Shipping and Maritime Logistics* also emphasises collaborative R&D on green shipping technologies, autonomous vessels and port automation.<sup>29</sup> The India-ROK Sustainability Joint Statement also builds on climate, environmental and sustainable development science cooperation framework covering carbon systems, clean energy technologies, ocean, marine, Arctic research and Polar cooperation as well as global platforms such as ISA and GGGI<sup>30</sup> The Energy Resource Security statement focuses on supply-chain and energy-trade cooperation with incidental reference to technology.<sup>31</sup>

## Conclusion and Way Forward

India and the Republic of Korea (ROK) have unveiled a Joint Strategic Vision for 2026–2030 during the State visit of ROK President Lee Jae Myung to India. The vision outlines an ambitious roadmap to deepen the India–ROK Special Strategic Partnership across political, economic, technological, and cultural domains. The Joint Strategic Vision (2026–2030) marks a shift from economic ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership spanning across domains such as digital and emerging technologies, space, climate and energy cooperation.

*Digital Integration and Next-Gen Tech:* The India-Korea Digital Bridge is a new initiative targeting critical and emerging technologies (CET). It establishes joint task forces focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), data governance, and semiconductor design and fabrication guided by the principles of “AI for All” and “MANAV”.

*Space Cooperation:* India and the ROK agreed to enhance space cooperation by establishing an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) - Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) Joint Working Group and promoting collaboration through initiatives like the India–ROK Space Day held in Bengaluru on 20th April 2026.

*Climate Change and Energy Security:* Energy Resource Security: ROK welcomed India’s participation in the *Pax Silica* initiative, while India appreciated ROK’s leadership in Forum on Resource Geostrategic Engagement (FORGE). The FORGE is a United States-led multinational initiative launched in February 2026 to secure and diversify

global supply chains for critical minerals. India is a supporter and participant of FORGE. Both agreed to enhance cooperation on securing critical materials like naphtha during supply disruptions and expand bilateral trade in such resources. The two nations established a framework under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement to cooperate on carbon credit trading and joint emissions reduction projects. ROK officially joined the India-headquartered International Solar Alliance (ISA), while India reciprocated by formally joining the Seoul-headquartered Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), cementing a two-way institutional climate partnership.

India and the ROK agreed to enhance cooperation for Global Good in multilateral forums such as the G20, especially in light of the ROK’s upcoming presidency in 2028. India and the ROK share strong complementarities in the field of human resources. The two countries have reaffirmed their commitment to leverage each other’s scientific and technological prowess, and to strengthen linkages between their scientific institutions and human capital. The renewed India-ROK engagement comes against the backdrop of intensifying geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions, which have exposed vulnerabilities in global technology dependencies. Both nations are increasingly looking to diversify sourcing of critical minerals and semiconductor components, while building domestic capacity in advanced technologies like AI. The strong India-ROK S&T Cooperation is an imperative and vital for building synergies. The State visit of ROK President Lee Jae Myung to India in April 2026 has set the tone for a truly “futuristic partnership” between India and ROK.

<sup>25</sup> Prime Minister’s Office, Government of India. “India–Republic of Korea Joint Statement on Energy Resource Security.” n.d. [https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/india-republic-of-korea-joint-statement-on-energy-resource-security/](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/india-republic-of-korea-joint-statement-on-energy-resource-security/)

<sup>26</sup> Indian Council of World Affairs. India–Republic of Korea Relations: Historical Perspectives. n.d. <https://www.icwa.in/WriteReadData/RTF/1984/9578539943.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Korean Chip Industry: Data Reports 2026: <https://wifitalents.com/korean-chip-industry-statistics/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41066/Joint+Strategic+Vision+for+IndiaROK+Special+Strategic+Partnership>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41065/IndiaROK+Comprehensive+Framework+for+Partnership+in+Shipbuilding+Shipping+and+Maritime+Logistics>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/41067/India++Republic+of+Korea+Joint+State-ment+on+Cooperation+in+the+field+of+Sustainability>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2253979&reg=3&lang=1>



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विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

RIS specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. It is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. Through its following centres/forums, RIS promotes policy dialogue and coherence on regional and international economic issues.



The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.



AIC at RIS has been working to strengthen India’s strategic partnership with ASEAN in its realisation of the ASEAN Community. AIC at RIS undertakes research, policy advocacy and regular networking activities with relevant organisations and think-tanks in India and ASEAN countries, with the aim of providing policy inputs, up-to-date information, data resources and sustained interaction, for strengthening ASEAN-India partnership.



CMEC has been established at RIS under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W), Government of India. CMEC is a collaboration between RIS and Indian Ports Association (IPA). It has been mandated to act as an advisory/technological arm of MoPSW to provide the analytical support on policies and their implementation.



FITM is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and RIS. It has been established with the objective of undertaking policy research on economy, intellectual property rights (IPRs) trade, sustainability and international cooperation in traditional medicines. FITM provides analytical support to the Ministry of Ayush on policy and strategy responses on emerging national and global developments.



BEF aims to serve as a dedicated platform for fostering dialogue on promoting the concept in the Indian Ocean and other regions. The forum focuses on conducting studies on the potential, prospects and challenges of blue economy; providing regular inputs to practitioners in the government and the private sectors; and promoting advocacy for its smooth adoption in national economic policies.



FIDC, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India’s development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.



FIRD aims to harness the full potential and synergy between science and technology, diplomacy, foreign policy and development cooperation in order to meet India’s development and security needs. It is also engaged in strengthening India’s engagement with the international system and on key global issues involving science and technology.



As part of its work programme, RIS has been deeply involved in strengthening economic integration in the South Asia region. In this context, the role of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) is very important. SACEPS is a network organisation engaged in addressing regional issues of common concerns in South Asia.



Knowledge generated endogenously among the Southern partners can help in consolidation of stronger common issues at different global policy fora. The purpose of NeST is to provide a global platform for Southern Think-Tanks for collaboratively generating, systematising, consolidating and sharing knowledge on South South Cooperation approaches for international development.



DST-Satellite Centre for Policy Research on STI Diplomacy at RIS aims to advance policy research at the intersection of science, technology, innovation (STI) and diplomacy, in alignment with India’s developmental priorities and foreign policy objectives.

— Policy research to shape the international development agenda —

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