

# Report on the Special Lecture on “India-Korea Partnership: Strategic Significance in the Contemporary Times”

**Date:** 18 August 2026

**Time:** 10:30 AM

**Venue:** Mata Gujri Hall, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi

Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, organised a special lecture on “**India-Korea Partnership: Strategic Significance in the Contemporary Times**” on 18 August 2026. The lecture was delivered by **Prof. Wongi Choe, Professor of Indo-Pacific Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), Seoul**.

The programme was presided over by **Prof. Jitendra Uttam, Chairperson, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**, while **Prof. Chanan Singh, Chief Executive Officer, EGROW Foundation, New Delhi and Former Senior Economist, IMF**, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. **Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Mata Sundri College for Women**, also graced the event with her presence.

The programme commenced with the introduction of the speaker and the theme of the lecture. Prof. Wongi Choe delivered an insightful lecture examining the historical, cultural, economic and strategic foundations of India-Korea relations. He highlighted the long-standing civilizational and cultural connections between the two countries, including the influence of Buddhism in Korea and India’s significant humanitarian and diplomatic contribution during the Korean War. The lecture further focused on the **economic complementarities** between India and Korea, particularly Korea’s strengths in advanced technology and high-tech manufacturing and India’s expanding market, workforce and digital ecosystem. Prof. Choe also discussed the strategic convergence between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific and the potential for India and Korea to develop stronger strategic trust.

He also addressed challenges within the partnership, including limited sustained engagement and differences in expectations concerning trade, investment and technology. The lecture concluded with an optimistic emphasis on the considerable potential of India and Korea as natural and complementary partners and the need to build stronger strategic trust for the future.

Following the lecture, **Prof. Chanan Singh**, the Guest of Honour, addressed the gathering and shared his observations on the significance of the discussion. The programme concluded with remarks by **Prof. Jitendra Uttam**, who reflected on the key insights of the lecture and emphasised the importance of continued academic engagement with contemporary international relations.

The lecture provided students and faculty with an enriching opportunity to understand India-Korea relations through the interconnected perspectives of history, culture, economics and strategic affairs, making the programme a valuable academic interaction.