REPORT

One-Day International Seminar on "India–South Korea Relations: Emerging Issues and Challenges in the Indo-Pacific"

Organised by: Department of Political Science, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi
In Collaboration with: Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi
Under the Aegis of: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Date: 3 November 2026
Venue: Mata Gujri Hall, Mata Sundri College for Women

The Department of Political Science, Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi, and under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), organised a One-Day International Seminar on **"India–South Korea Relations: Emerging Issues and Challenges in the Indo-Pacific"** on 3 November 2026 at Mata Gujri Hall.

The seminar aimed to provide an academic platform for examining the evolving India–South Korea partnership and its significance in the changing geopolitical and strategic landscape of the Indo-Pacific. It brought together eminent diplomats, distinguished academicians, foreign policy experts, researchers, faculty members and students for meaningful deliberations on contemporary developments in international relations.

The seminar was convened by **Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Mata Sundri College for Women**, with **Dr. Neetu Sharma and Dr. Avneet Kaur** as Co-Convenors. **Prof. (Dr.) Rubal Rani Sharma, Teacher-in-Charge and Head, Department of Political Science**, played an important role in coordinating the academic proceedings. The seminar received valuable institutional guidance and support from **Prof. (Dr.) Lokesh Kumar Gupta, Director, IQAC**.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was graced by **Ms. Hojeong Ko, Director, Korea Economic Cooperation Committee (KEC)**, as the Chief Guest. **Dr. Charan Singh, CEO and Founder Director, EGROW Foundation**, and **Senior Prof. Rekha Saxena, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi**, attended as Guests of Honour. The session also featured **Dr. Neerja Samajdar, Associate Professor, Centre for Korean Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies**, and **Dr. Torunika Roy, Research Associate, Korea Chair, Council for Strategic and Defence Research (CSDR)**.

In her presidential address, Principal Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur highlighted the importance of international academic engagement and collaborative platforms in understanding contemporary global developments. She emphasised the need to strengthen India's strategic partnerships and encourage young scholars to engage critically with emerging foreign policy concerns.

The dignitaries highlighted the growing relevance of India–South Korea relations and the importance of strengthening cooperation across diplomatic, economic, technological and strategic domains. Their insights set the context for the academic deliberations that followed.

Representing the collaborating institution, **Mr. Aman K. Pandey, Research Associate, ICWA**, participated in the seminar. The College placed on record its sincere appreciation for ICWA's collaboration and support in facilitating this academic initiative.

Technical Sessions

The academic programme comprised four technical sessions, each addressing significant dimensions of India–South Korea relations and the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Technical Session I: India–South Korea Bilateral Relations and Strategic Partnership

The first technical session was chaired by **Dr. Torunika Roy, Research Associate, Korea Chair, CSDR**. The session examined the evolution of India–South Korea bilateral relations, their strategic convergence and the opportunities for strengthening the partnership in the contemporary regional and global order.

Technical Session II: Maritime Cooperation, Connectivity and Regional Security

The second technical session was chaired by **Dr. Jaswant Singh, Consultant, Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**. Discussions focused on maritime cooperation, regional connectivity, security challenges and the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific maritime domain.

Technical Session III: Economic, Technological and Strategic Dimensions of Cooperation

The third technical session was chaired by **Dr. Kaushal Kumar, Chairperson and Associate Professor, Centre for Korean Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**. The session explored emerging areas of economic and technological collaboration, including trade, investment, semiconductor technology and opportunities for deeper strategic engagement.

Technical Session IV: Emerging Security Challenges, South Korea and Future Prospects

The fourth technical session was chaired by **Prof. Sonu Trivedi, Department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi**. The deliberations examined emerging security challenges in the Indo-Pacific, South Korea's role in the evolving regional order and the future prospects of India–South Korea cooperation.

Across the four sessions, participants engaged with a range of contemporary issues, including trade and investment, defence cooperation, maritime security, supply-chain resilience, green energy, technological partnerships and people-to-people exchanges. Discussions also addressed China's growing influence, North Korea's nuclear and missile programme, regional geopolitical developments and the changing strategic balance in the Indo-Pacific.

The sessions underscored the importance of sustained diplomatic engagement, strategic trust and institutional cooperation in further strengthening the India–South Korea Special Strategic Partnership.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session featured **Former Ambassador C. Rajasekhar Chinthapally, former Head of State Division, Ministry of External Affairs**, and **Prof. Sandip Kumar Mishra, Centre for East Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**.

The speakers reflected on the future trajectory of India–South Korea relations and emphasised the significance of enhanced diplomatic engagement, regional cooperation and strategic understanding for promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Participation and Academic Outcomes

The seminar witnessed participation from faculty members, research scholars, paper presenters and students representing various academic institutions. It provided an enriching platform for the exchange of ideas, presentation of research perspectives and interdisciplinary engagement with contemporary issues in international relations.

The deliberations enhanced understanding of India's evolving foreign policy priorities, the strategic relevance of South Korea as a partner and the opportunities and challenges shaping the Indo-Pacific region. The seminar also reinforced the importance of academic institutions in facilitating informed dialogue on international affairs and contemporary geopolitical developments.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Political Science expresses its sincere gratitude to **Prof. (Dr.) Harpreet Kaur, Principal**, for her constant encouragement and guidance; **Prof. (Dr.) Lokesh Kumar Gupta, Director, IQAC**, for his valuable institutional support; and **Prof. (Dr.) Rubal Rani Sharma, Teacher-in-Charge and Head, Department of Political Science**, for her academic guidance and coordination.

The Department also places on record its appreciation to the **Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi**, and its representative, **Mr. Aman K. Pandey**, for their collaboration and support. Sincere thanks are extended to all the distinguished guests, session chairs, speakers, faculty members, student coordinators and NSS volunteers whose dedicated efforts contributed to the successful organisation of the seminar.

The seminar concluded with a renewed commitment to promoting international academic collaboration and encouraging informed engagement with contemporary global and strategic developments.