

Raksha Mantri holds bilateral talks with Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea in Seoul

Both Ministers reaffirm resolve for stronger defence ties & rule-based Indo-Pacific

India & South Korea sign agreements for cooperation in Defence Cyber, Training & UN Peacekeeping domains

RM exhorts Korean to jointly develop and produce advanced technologies with India

“Trusted partnerships between technologically capable nations acquire immense strategic importance; India & RoK uniquely positioned to work together in changing global landscape”

Posted On: 20 MAY 2026 5:16PM by PIB Delhi

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea (RoK) Mr Ahn Gyu-back held comprehensive bilateral discussions in Seoul on May 20, 2026. The two Ministers reviewed the entire spectrum of defence cooperation and discussed ways to further expand collaboration in areas such as industry, production, maritime security, emerging technologies, military exchanges, logistics & regional security.





Both sides acknowledged the growing convergence between India's Act East Policy and RoK's regional strategic vision, reiterating their commitment to strengthening defence ties in line with the shared objectives of maintaining a free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were inked in key areas of defence cooperation, reflecting the expanding scope and depth of the bilateral partnership. Agreements were exchanged on promoting cooperation in the field of Defence Cyber; training between India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University; and UN Peacekeeping Cooperation, making the partnership stronger and multidimensional.



Raksha Mantri also met Minister Defense Acquisition Program Administration, Republic of Korea Mr Lee Yong-chul, with both leaders agreeing to harness the symbiotic efforts to create avenues for joint development, joint production and joint exports. A roadmap to unlock the potential of the India-Korea Defence Innovation Accelerator Ecosystem (KIND-X) to synergise the innovation ecosystems of the two countries was discussed.

Shri Rajnath Singh, later, chaired the India-RoK Defence Industry Business RoundTable, which brought together senior government officials and leading defence industry representatives from both countries. The interaction provided an important platform for exploring new opportunities in defence manufacturing, co-development, co-production and supply chain partnerships.

Addressing the business leaders, Raksha Mantri highlighted India's growing defence industrial ecosystem and the opportunities available under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's initiatives aimed at promoting indigenous defence manufacturing and global partnerships. He invited Korean defence

companies to strengthen engagement with Indian industry and contribute towards long-term mutually beneficial collaboration. He appreciated the enthusiasm of Korean and Indian companies to jointly play a pivotal role in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



“The success of India-Korea industrial cooperation in the commercial sector demonstrates the enormous potential of long-term trusted partnerships between the two countries. The time has now come to extend this successful model into the defence sector, where technology, innovation, manufacturing capability, and strategic trust are becoming increasingly interconnected. Korea’s technological excellence, combined with India’s scale, talent, manufacturing ecosystem, and innovation capabilities, creates a powerful foundation for cooperation. Together, our two countries can jointly develop and produce advanced technologies and defence systems for the future. Trusted partnerships between technologically capable nations acquire immense strategic importance. India and RoK are uniquely positioned to work together in this changing global landscape,” said Shri Rajnath Singh.

Raksha Mantri highlighted that defence manufacturing is no longer confined only to conventional platforms and equipment, as modern defence ecosystems are powered by advanced electronics, artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber technologies, sensors, semiconductors, quantum technologies, advanced materials, and space-based capabilities. He added that the future of defence will increasingly depend upon the ability to innovate rapidly and integrate technologies across multiple domains. This, he stated, is precisely where India and RoK possess enormous potential for collaboration.



Shri Rajnath Singh stressed that India possesses a vibrant innovation ecosystem comprising start-ups, MSMEs, private industry, academia, research institutions, and public sector enterprises. “Young Indian entrepreneurs are increasingly contributing to advanced technology domains including unmanned systems, AI-enabled platforms, cyber security, advanced communications, and defence software systems. The future of India–Korea defence cooperation lies in innovation-led collaboration,” he said.

During the event, two agreements between L&T, India and Hanwa Co Ltd were also signed, signalling a promising future for India-Korea defence innovation and technology partnership. The agreements are expected to facilitate enhanced collaboration between the defence industries of both countries and promote technology cooperation and capacity building.

Interacting with the Indian diaspora in RoK, Raksha Mantri underscored the rise in India’s global stature due to unprecedented progress under the leadership of PM Modi. “12-13 years ago, India was perceived as a weak nation, but, today, due to the transformation the country has undergone in the last decade, the world carefully listens to what we have to say. We’re now emerging as a global power that offers solutions to the world. Whether internal or external security, our policy has undergone a fundamental transformation; it has become assertive, bold, consistent, and decisive,” he said.



Shri Rajnath Singh described Operation Sindoor as a testament to India’s transformation into a strong, confident & capable nation. “The operation was proof that India will not tolerate terrorism in any form. As a responsible nuclear power, we firmly adhere to a policy of *No First Use*. However, there are times when people mistake our restraint and commitment to peace for weakness. While India remains committed to its *No First Use* policy, it will not tolerate any form of nuclear blackmail. This is New India,” he said.

Raksha Mantri reiterated the Government’s commitment to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing, stating that the all-time high figures of approx. Rs 1.54 lakh crore worth of defence production and nearly Rs 40,000 crore worth of defence exports in Financial Year 2025-26 are results of persistent efforts. He added that defence exports are poised to reach Rs 50,000 crore within the next 1-2 years, while defence production is projected to rise to Rs 1.75 lakh crore in the next couple of months.



Raksha Mantri began his visit to RoK, the final leg of his two-nation tour, by laying a wreath at the Korean War Cemetery in Seoul to pay homage to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the Korean War. He conveyed India's solidarity with the people of RoK and stated that their courage, dedication & spirit of patriotism remain an enduring source of inspiration.

VK/Savvy

(Release ID: 2263304) Visitor Counter : 877

Read this release in: Urdu , हिन्दी , Marathi , Tamil , Malayalam