

Concept Note

2023 is a landmark year for India-South Korea relations, since it marks 50 years of their diplomatic ties. In recent years, the India-Republic of Korea (RoK) partnership has advanced significantly, evolving into a truly multifaceted connection. This progress has been driven by a substantial alignment of interests, reciprocal positive sentiments, and frequent high-level interactions.

Against this background, this event aims to initiate a discussion on the India-South Korea bilateral partnership, the complementarities and differences in their Indo-Pacific outlooks, and how they can build a stronger bilateral, minilateral and multilateral connect. Through an exploration of the various sectors spanning the India-ROK partnership, it looks to shed light on the potential for greater collaboration between the two middle powers through the ambit of their Indo-Pacific policies. As major Asian economies, with an emerging political will to expand their defence and security cooperation, both countries are poised to jumpstart their cooperation in trade and defence. In March 2023, Indian and South Korean air crews interacted with each other at a multilateral air exercise in the UAE. Building on such interactions, this event seeks to delve into a discussion of how both partners can transform their warm friendship into a strong, strategic and global partnership. In particular, it focuses on how minilateral forums – the increasingly popular instruments of international cooperation and governance – can help bring about such a transformation.

This event falls under the MOU signed in 2022 between the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) and the Stockholm Centre for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA) of the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) to engage in academic research and collaboration. With addresses by high-level dignitaries – including India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), Secretary (East) of Ministry of External Affairs, Ambassador of India to ROK, and Ambassador of Korea to India, and former Foreign Minister of South Korea – this event hopes to take forward a future-oriented India-ROK partnership.

Centre for Air Power Studies

Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) was established in 2001 as an autonomous defence research and analysis body for research and focused analyses on

issues related to national security, defence, and aerospace issues in the evolving strategic and international security environment. Its objectives is to facilitate a greater understanding of these issues amongst the Armed Forces, the strategic community, and the public, besides contributing to policy generation and decision-making.

CAPS has a multidisciplinary faculty with rich expertise in security and defence fields. This comprises senior retired and serving Armed Forces officers from the three services besides academic scholars from national universities and retired members from the Armed Forces and government organisations.

Institute for Security & Development Policy

The Institute for Security and Development Policy is a Stockholm-based non-profit and non-partisan research and policy organization. ISDP's work aims at providing strategic analysis and practical solutions to assist decision-makers in both public and private sectors to achieve their goals.

The Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA) is a Center at ISDP that focuses on the politics, economics and society of South Asia, as well as security and development in the Indo-Pacific region. Keeping in mind the emerging importance of South Asia in global affairs, the SCSA-IPA seeks to contribute to building a knowledge base familiar with regional dynamics in Stockholm & elsewhere in Europe.

*This event is supported by Korea Foundation as part of the Korea Foundation-funded ISDP project "Framing an India-South Korea Connect in Indo-Pacific: Minilateralism to Multilateralism", wherein Dr. Jagannath Panda (Head, SCSA-IPA) is the principal investigator and Dr Choong Yong Ahn (Distinguished Professor, Chung-Ang University, Seoul) is the co-investigator.



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CAPS-ISDP Joint International Seminar

on

India and South Korea in the Age of Indo-Pacific: Why Minilateralism Matters?



Friday, 25 August 2023

Conference Hall, Air Force Auditorium

Subroto Park. New Delhi

Programme

0830 – 0900 h Registration & Tea

0900 – 1000 h **Inaugural Session**

Welcome Remarks

Dr. **Jagannath Panda**

Head, Stockholm Centre for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA), ISDP, Sweden

Introductory Remarks

Air Marshal **Anil Chopra**

PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)
Director General, Centre for Air Power Studies

Keynote Address

General **Anil Chauhan**

PVSM UYSM AVSM SM VSM
Chief of Defence Staff

Special Address

Shri **Saurabh Kumar**

Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs

Inaugural Address from Embassies

H.E. **Chang Jae-bok**

Ambassador of ROK to India, New Delhi

Amb. **Amit Kumar** (online)
Ambassador of India to South Korea, Seoul

1000 – 1005 h **Book Release**

“Air Power and Strategic Balance: The Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal”

Editor: Air Marshal **Anil Chopra**
PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)

Associate Editor: Air Commodore **SP Singh**
VSM (Retd)
Ms **Neha Mishra**

1005 – 1030 h **Tea Break**

1030 – 1145 h **Session I: Why Indo-Pacific Matters to India and South Korea**

Chair: Prof. **Ahn Choong Yong**

Distinguished Professor, Graduate School of International Studies, Chung-Ang University, South Korea

India's Indo-Pacific Strategy: Where does South Korea stand?

Ms **Mahima Duggal**

Associate Fellow, CAPS &
Associated Research Fellow, ISDP

India in South Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy

Minister **Lim Sang-Woo**

Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of South Korea in India

Identifying Common Nuclear Concerns

Dr **Manpreet Sethi**

Distinguished Fellow, CAPS

India-South Korea Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

Captain **Sarabjeet Singh Parmar** (Retd)

Distinguished Fellow
United Service Institution of India (USI)

1145 – 1300 h **Session II: Minilateralism and the New Supply Chain Connect: India & South Korea**

Chair: Amb **Ujal Singh Bhatia**

Former Indian Permanent Representative to the WTO, Former Chairman and Member of the Appellate Body of the WTO

India-ROK Ties in the Indo-Pacific: An Economic Security Perspective

Dr. **Jojin John**

Assistant Professor, School of International Relations and Politics, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

India in South Korea's Supply Chain Diversification Strategy

Prof. **Cho Choong Jae**

Director, Delhi Office, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)

Quad Plus and Korea Inc. in the Future of Supply Chain Diversification

Ms. **Eerishika Pankaj**

Head, Organisation for Research on China & Asia (ORCA), New Delhi

Taiwan Flashpoint: India-Korea Joint Options in the Region

Dr. **Manoj Kumar Panigrahi**

Assistant Professor, Centre for Northeast Asian Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University

1300 – 1430 h **Lunch Break**

1430 – 1450 h **Special Address by Prof. Yoon Young-Kwan, Emeritus Professor, Seoul National University & Former Foreign Minister of South Korea** [online]

1450 – 1600 h **Session III: Minilateral Security Frameworks and India-South Korea Ties**

Chair: Air Vice Marshal **Anil Golani** (Retd)

Additional Director General, CAPS

India, South Korea and the Security Architecture in the Indo-Pacific

Dr **Sriparna Pathak**

Associate Professor, Centre for Northeast Asian Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University

India and the Indo-Pacific in South Korea's Security Landscape

[online]

Prof. **Wooyeal Paik**

Associate Professor, Yonsei University, South Korea

Air Power Balance in the Indo-Pacific and India-ROK Ties

Air Cmde **SP Singh** VSM (Retd)

Senior Fellow, CAPS

1600 – 1615 h **Concluding Session**

Summarizing Remarks

Prof. **Ahn Choong Yong**

Distinguished Professor, Chung-Ang University

Vote of Thanks

Air Marshal **Anil Chopra**

PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)

Director General, CAPS

CAPS Book Release

“Air Power and Strategic Balance: The Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal” edited by Air Marshal Anil Chopra
PVSM AVSM VM VSM (Retd)

ISDP Special Paper Release

“Pivotal States, Global South, and India-South Korea Relations”, edited by Prof Chong Yong Ahn and Dr Jagannath Panda