

India - South Korea

India and South Korea have ancient relations in cultural and economic terms where Buddhism played a huge role. However, as the power equations are changing fast, both countries need to deepen their ties.

In recent times both countries have initiated several treaties. such as → Naval ~~and~~ logistic sharing pact, defence educational exchange, South Korean company Samsung setting largest plant in UP among others.

But the changing dynamics pushes both countries to safeguard their common interest with better and deepen ties. These interests range from :-

(i) Economic interest - though both countries have CEPA arrangement, the trade is mostly inclined towards South Korea and India faces trade deficit.

The inward looking policy of India and recent pull out from RCEP is a setback in these relations.

India should engage with South Korea to attract development in economy.

(ii) Defence engagement - Both countries are democratic and promoter of peace & freedom of ocean navigational.
As China poses threat to both countries, they have to play huge role in stabilizing Indo-Pacific and South-China sea.

India should move forward to engage with South Korea which are at backseat since early days of Korean war 1950's.

(iii) Cultural engagement - There has been a cases of stereotype and prejudices with Indian diaspora working there.

Cultural engagement are very important for long term engagement. Buddhism and active role of Indian culture centre (ICC) in Seoul are the basis to enhance culture relations.

(iv) Science and Technology - Covid 19 has shown that countries like South Korea have achieved greater success in containing the virus ~~to~~ thanks to science.
India, has to gain a lot from South Korea in all STs - IT, BT, QT, CT and NT.

South Korean president's '3P' people, prosperity and peace and its new southern policy are framework to enhance these ties.