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India–South Korea Relations: Economic and Strategic Dimensions

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I . Introduction

There have been ancient links between South Korea and India. In modern times, it was bifurcation of the international system into two rival blocks after 1945 that prevented regular interaction between the two countries. Transformative changes in Indian economy and foreign policy in early 1990s changed the past and the two countries started coming closer economically. The fast changing landscape of Indo Pacific security is expected to further intensify economic and strategic partnership between these countries. Since the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to make India a ‘competitive manufacturing’ hub, technical and financial assistance from South Korea will be vital for boosting Indian economy in coming years.

II . Historical Relations

The story of princess Hur has become quite famous now which links South Korea and India in ancient times. According to SamgukYusa (The Heritage History of Three Kingdoms), a Princess from Ayodhya (Suriratna) came to Korea; married King Kim Suro and became Queen Hur Hwang-ok in the year 48 AD. King Kim was founder of ancient Korean kingdom of Karack in Korea. Kim Yun-ok, wife of former South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, former President Kim Dae-jung and former President Kim Young-sam trace their ancestry to the royal couple of King Kim and Queen Hur¹⁾. Buddhism was another connecting link in the ancient times between the two countries. It is believed that

1) Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India. 2013. URL: http://www.aseanindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/51/ROK_short_brief_Jan_2013.pdf.

Buddhism came to Korean peninsula in the year 372, when the missionary monk Sun-do reached the capital of Koguryo. During the second year of the reign of King Sosurim (371–384) Buddhism was officially recognized in Korea²). The Buddhism links between India and South Korea continued till the Chosun dynasty (1392–1910) came to power in Korea in late 14th century. The Chosun rulers started supporting Confucianism while less priority was given to Buddhism. Similar things happened in India during early half of 16th century when Mughal rule (1526–1707) started. As a result, the cultural links between the two countries could not be sustained. Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore wrote a poem about Korea's glorious past in 1929. He wrote: "In the golden age of Asia, Korea was one of its lamp bearers, and that lamp is waiting to be lit once again, For the illumination of the East."

Former President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam paid a perfect tribute to the people of South Korea in his address to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea on Feb 8, 2006. He said that today, the world knows that lamp has been lit by knowledge, hard work and sweat of people of Korea³). The Korean alphabet, Hangeul, shares some similarities with Tamil language in India in making a combination of vowel and consonant to derive a letter⁴).

India's first Foreign Secretary, KPS Menon oversaw first general elections held in South Korea in May 1948 as the Chairman of the 9-member UN Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK). Modern day South Korea and India share the history of colonialism and also the fact that they were partitioned before gaining independence. Incidentally, they also share their historical date of independence i.e. 15th August. However, Korea remained in a self-imposed isolation under the Chosun

2) Kye-hyon, Ahn, 1989. 'Introduction of Buddhism to Korea', in Lewis R Lancaster and Chai-Shin Yu, ed., *Introduction of Buddhism to Korea: New Cultural Patterns*, California: Asian Humanities Press, 1.

3) Kalam, APJ, 2006. Presidential Address, URL: http://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/main_2006.pdf.

4) Kannan, Narayanan, 2008. 'Indians in Korea,' in Kesavapany et. al. ed., *Rising India and Indian Communities in East Asia*, Singapore: ISEAS Publishing, 306–307.

rulers and its rule by Japan in early 20th century kept both the states apart. Meaningful contacts between South Korea and India started during the Korean War (1950–53)⁵⁾. A resolution sponsored by India during the Korean War was accepted by both the warring sides declaring ceasefire on July 27, 1953. Both India and Korea remained estranged during the Cold War as they held deep ideological suspicion of the other and relied on USA (South Korea) and Soviet Union (India) respectively, against the perceived Chinese threat. Consular relations between South Korea and India were established in 1962. India was ignored by South Korea when it sought to organize the Asia Pacific Council in 1966 as a regional political grouping of non-communist states aiming to contain China. However, major strategic alignments in Asia in 1970s left South Korea alienated. There was rapprochement between US–China and Japan–China, apart from ongoing proximity between India and Soviet Union. South Korea tried to expand relations with India and Soviet Union. Relations with India were upgraded to Ambassador level in 1973 but its relations with India failed to develop much⁶⁾.

III. Post-Cold War Relations

Transformative changes took place at international level as the Cold War ended in 1991. Incidentally, early 1990s also saw far reaching changes in South Korea and India which compelled them to redefine their foreign policy alignments. The June Democracy Movement (June 10 to June 29, 1987) against President Chun Doo-hwan led to country-wide

5) Jaishankar, Dhruva. 'India and South Korea: The Promise of Partnership', May 2012, *Korea Economic Institute Report*

<http://www.keia.org/publication/india-south-korea-promise-partnership>.

6) Brewster, David. 2010. 'India's Developing Relationship with South Korea: A Useful Friend in East Asia', *Asian Survey* Vol 50: 406.

protests in South Korea culminating in establishment of the Sixth Republic (current republic of South Korea). At the same time, India gave up its protectionist policies and opened up its economy to globalization, India also announced its “Look East Policy” to strengthen its economic and strategic links with the South East Asian countries. South Korea’s democratic transition coincided with India’s economic and foreign policy realignments which paved the way for better relations between the two countries. The post–Cold War interaction between South Korea and India thereafter gained momentum.

IV. Economic Relations

The trade relations between South Korea and India can be traced back to 1967, according to the South Korean Embassy website in India. However, economic relations could not progress due to Cold War politics. As mentioned earlier, India’s perceived closeness to Soviet Union and its “closed economic model of development” were in contradiction to South Korea’s close relations with USA and its market–oriented development model. Hence, the total volume of trade between the two countries was a paltry US\$718 million in 1990. However, things changed rapidly with opening up of the Indian economy and initiation of “Look East Policy” in 1991. By this time, Korea had emerged as an industrial powerhouse and was looking beyond its traditional economic partners⁷⁾. It was in this background that both countries realised the need to deepen their mutual relationship. P V Narsimha Rao, the then Prime Minister of India on his historic visit to South Korea in 1993 invited Korean investors to India. Korean companies responded to Indian Prime Minister’s invitation and did a remarkable job during India’s economic transition. They

7) Lee, Joon-gyu, 2013. ‘India – South Korea Strategic Partnership,’ Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies Special Report: 1.

backed the fundamentals of Indian economy at a time when not many were expressing confidence about it⁸⁾. They grabbed the first mover advantage in newly opened Indian economy which witnessed Samsung, LG and Hyundai grab the opportunity and become household names in India.

The bilateral investment Promotion/Protection Agreement was signed between the two countries in 1996. The economic relations have been on an upward trajectory since then and there are roughly 450 Korean companies operating in India today. Hyundai Motor India is the second largest carmaker in India and it aims to overtake Maruti Suzuki in the compact car market by the end of this decade⁹⁾. LG electronics is South Korean consumer durables giant with a market share of around 30 percent in India.¹⁰⁾ Another electronic major from South Korea, Samsung has recently overtaken Nokia to be largest seller of mobile phones in India. Its smart phones are very popular in India. As per the Brand Trust Report 2014, Samsung has emerged as the most trusted brand in India. Hyundai ROTEM contributed in construction of Delhi Metro, one of the major infrastructure projects in the Indian capital. One of the important features of the Korean companies operating in India is modification of the Japanese “flying geese” model and its application in India. This allows them to integrate Indian manufacturing in their operations in markets outside India.¹¹⁾ Indian companies have also invested in South Korea. Tata Motors had acquired Daewoo in 2004 and Mahindra and Mahindra acquired Ssang Yong Motors, fourth largest automobile maker in Korea in 2010. South Korean Steel maker, POSCO, will be investing US\$ 12,6 billion in India

8) Panda, Rajaram. 2012. ‘India and South Korea Relations: Past and Future Trends’, *Portuguese Journal of International Studies*: 66.

9) Thakkar, Ketan. ‘Hyundai Aims to Overtake Maruti’, *Economic Times*, August 7, 2013. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-08-07/news/41167957_1_market-share-hyundai-motor-india-car-segment.

10) ‘LG Eyes Bigger Market Share’, *The Telegraph*, March 4, 2014. http://www.telegraphindia.com/1140304/jsp/business/story_18042567.jsp#.Uyp9W6iSyE4

11) Panda. Op.Cit.

to build a steel plant in Odisha with an annual production capacity of 12 million tons. This is the single largest foreign investment by any country in India. The environmental approval took eight years to come through for POSCO which shows difficulties in Indian market for outside investors. Despite these problems, POSCO demonstrated extreme resilience.

The following table shows the volume of trade between South Korea and India since 2006.

Amount in million US\$

Year	Total trade	Growth %	Indian exports to ROK	Growth %	ROK Export to India	Growth%
2007	11,224	22.35%	4,624	27.03%	6,600	19.3%
2008	15,558	39.00%	6,581	42.32%	8,977	36%
2009	12,155	-21.88%	4,142	-37.06%	8,013	-10.7%
2010	17,109	40.76%	5,674	36.98%	11,435	42.7%
2011	20,548	20.10%	7,894	39%	12,654	10.7%
2012	18,843	-8.30%	6,921	-12.3%	11,922	-5.8%
2013	17,568	-0.07%	6,183	-10.7	11,385	-4.5%

Source: Korea International Trade Association cited by Indian Embassy in Korea's website.

Automobile parts, telecom equipment, petroleum refined products, base lubricating oils, nuclear reactors, mechanical appliances and electrical machinery are the items exported by South Korea to India. India, on the other hand, exports mineral fuels/oil distillates, cereals, iron and steel to Korea. India and South Korea had agreed to increase their trade volume to US\$ 40 billion by 2015 but the target is unlikely to be met this year. The major achievement in economic relations has been operationalisation of Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2010. It is Korea's first free trade agreement with a BRICS member. Under this agreement, both the countries have agreed to lower or eliminate import tariffs on certain goods over the next 8 years. It will

also help them in expanding their investment opportunities in services sector. It will increase job opportunities for computer specialists, engineers, managing consultants and assistant English teachers. India has allowed 10 South Korean banks to open branches in India. Korean FDI to India, up to December, 2013 stood at US\$ 3.25 billion but it will go up after the environmental clearance to POSCO has been given. Negotiations are on for signing of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) has offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bangalore while Korea International Trade Association (KITA) has an office in Delhi for assisting Korean businessmen investing in India. Indian Chamber of Commerce was established in 2010 in Korea to help Korean investors interested in India. The bargaining power of Indian state governments has increased in the post-1991 era and they are directly inviting foreign investors to invest in their states¹²⁾. South Korea has substantial investments in northern Indian state of Haryana.

Despite the recent rise in trade volume, there is much scope for further improvement. According to information available on website of Indian Embassy in Korea, India's share in Korea's global trade was 0.83 in 2002 which rose to 1.63 in 2013. There is considerable scope to increase it. In 2013, India was Korea's 18th biggest source of imports while India was its 9th biggest export market. Korea's restrictive policy for agricultural imports such as fruits and vegetables is a barrier being faced by India. India needs to diversify its exports which are dominated by petrochemicals. There is tremendous scope for Korea to invest in Indian infrastructure projects. Under its 12th five-year plan (2012-2017), India needs to spend US\$ 1 trillion on its infrastructure projects. At the moment, Korean investments are concentrated in manufacturing sector, wholesale and retail trade, financial and insurance activities. In an

12) 'Hooda invites Korean firms to invest in Haryana,' *Times of India*, July 19, 2012.
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/Bhupinder-Singh-Hooda-invites-Korean-firms-to-invest-in-Haryana/articleshow/15038276.cms?referral=PM>

interview to DNA newspaper published on December 24, 2013, Seok-Gu Jang, the consul general at the Consulate General of South Korea in Mumbai said that many Korean companies which had invested in China want to relocate themselves as labor has become expensive there. They plan to make competitive products as labor is cheaper in India and many of them have already been doing market surveys in India. This shows that India will continue to be an attractive destination for the Korean companies in future as well. India has the potential to be regional hub for Korea to do business in South Asia and Middle East¹³). Huge Indian market offers vast opportunities to export-driven and capital-technology intensive Korean economy. India's core competencies include IT and software, agriculture, industry, space, pharmaceuticals and services. This model of economic complementarity has been beneficial for both the countries and will increase mutual benefits in future.

Seamul movement that originated in South Korea in 1970s is a good example for India in its efforts for rural development and modernization. India, where around 70 percent population resides in rural areas faces an uphill task to provide them with better standards of living. Various estimates peg poverty between 30 to 40 percent in India. Seamul movement was a participative approach to eliminate poverty from rural areas in South Korea. It was very successful movement as the per capita income which stood at US\$ 100 in 1968 shot to nearly US\$ 1000 by 1977. A2008 survey by a South Korean newspaper revealed that nearly 40 percent Koreans believed the Seamul movement was the most significant event in the last 60 years. Seoul Olympics of 1988 was at second position with 30 per cent answering for it¹⁴).

13) Parthasarathi, Nagesh, 'India Regional Hub for Korean Firms,' *Korea Times*, January 24, 2008. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2009/08/198_17866.html.

14) Verma, Shrey. 'Restructuring NREGA will transform India's rural landscape,' *Niti Central*, January 20, 2014. <http://www.niticentral.com/2014/01/20/restructuring-nrega-will-transform-indias-rural-landscape-181388.html>.

V. Strategic Relations

Strategic relations between South Korea and India started a decade ago. In East Asia, India's bilateral relations with South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan are influenced by the common factor of having China as a neighbour. India's growing strategic links with South Korea were evident in the "Agreement on Long Term Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" signed during former Korean President Roh's visit to India in 2004¹⁵⁾. Next year, the two countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in defence industry and logistics. Another MoU in 2006 facilitated cooperation between Coast Guards of the two countries and joint exercises in July the same year. Since 2006, the Coast Guards of both the countries are focusing on maritime cooperation that includes preventing piracy, armed robbery, trafficking in arms, smuggling, illegal migration at sea and combating marine pollution. South Korea was granted the status of an observer in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 2006. The year 2007 marked the first ever visit of a South Korean Defence Minister to India and he held a dialogue with his Indian counterpart. The former Indian Defence Minister A K Antony made a reciprocal visit in 2010. The high watermark of the security relations also came in 2010, when South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and Indian PM Manmohan Singh upgraded the mutual relations and signed a "strategic partnership". The strategic partnership was a result of convergence between India's revitalized 'Look East Policy' and 'New Asia Initiative' launched by Korean President Lee. This initiative was launched in 2008 aiming to expand South Korea's role as an emerging middle power (*junggyun-guk*) by assuming a pivotal role in representing the interests of Asian

15) Batabyal, Anindya, 'Looking East: South-East Asia and ASEAN,' in David Scott ed., *Handbook of India's International Relations*, London: Routledge, 144.

countries in international fora¹⁶⁾. Further, President Lee was Chief Guest at the 61st celebration of India's Republic Day which marked the growing closeness between the two countries. The joint statement issued after the partnership said "considering that the ROK-India partnership is a factor for peace and stability in Asia as well as between the two countries, the two leaders decided to enhance bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership". Both countries also agreed to strengthen dialogue and exchanges in the area of defense through regular high-level military exchanges. They also agreed to explore the possibilities of joint venture cooperation in research & development, and manufacturing of military equipment including through transfer of technology and co-production. Viewing India's aim of modernizing its Armed Forces, Korean technology would be necessary for developing state of the art weaponry. Further need was expressed for greater cooperation between the navies and coast guards in areas pertaining to the safety and security of international maritime traffic. Both countries gave adequate importance to Science and Technology and a dedicated fund of US\$10 million (with a contribution of US\$5 million by each side) to promote joint research was created¹⁷⁾. This also led to India posting its permanent Defence Attache in Seoul in 2010, a charge that was earlier handled by Indian Defence Attache stationed in Tokyo.

During the visit of our President, Pratibha Patil to South Korea in 2011, India and South Korea signed 'peaceful nuclear energy cooperation agreement'. This permitted Korean companies to enter Indian market, build nuclear power stations and supply nuclear reactors to India. Korean companies possess technical know-how to build earthquake resistant plants at cheaper price which can help India in its quest to increase its energy production through nuclear power.

16) Lee, Sook-Jong, 'South Korea as New Middle Power Seeking Complex Diplomacy', 2012, *EAI Security Initiative*, Working Paper 25.

17) 'Korea, India to Upgrade Strategic Partnership', *Korea Times*, January 25, 2010. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/issues/2014/02/211_59652.html.

South Korea has developed a world-class civil nuclear power plant which contributes up to 40 per cent of the total electricity of the country, the safety standards of which has the IAEA stamp of approval¹⁸⁾. South Korea can also help India in developing its renewable energy potential as it has cutting edge technology in wind power turbine and solar cells. The Indian PM visited South Korea in 2012 and this was followed by visit of Shivshankar Menon, India's National Security Adviser (NSA) to Seoul in June-July 2013. Military to military contacts have been stepped up as well. India's former Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne visited Korea in July 2013. This visit was complimented by the visit of General Sung II Hwan, South Korean Air Force Chief of Staff, to India in November 2013. There has been increase in exchange of military officers for various courses and study tours. Students from the National Defence College (NDC) and the Army War College (AWC) of India visited Korea in October 2013. Prior to it, the Korean National Defense University delegation visited India in September 2013. Indian defence companies held "Aerospace and Defence Exhibition" (ADEX-2013) in Seoul to showcase their indigenously manufactured weapons. This underlines strategic importance of Korea to India and marks it as one of the central pillars of its "Look East Policy". Further the Korean President Park Geun-hye visited India in January this year. The two countries signed an agreement on 'Protection of Classified Military Information' further deepening their defence relations. They also agreed to launch a 'Cyber Affairs Dialogue'. Further National security organisations of the two countries will further enhance their cooperation. It is of interest to note that Samsung Techwin's 155 mm Self Propelled Gun is undergoing evaluation trials in India for induction in the Indian Artillery.

Indigenization forms an important aspect of our Defence Procurement Policy. Our Indian Navy has a requirement of about 160 ships. Our shipyards need technological knowhow which South Korea can provide

18) Kim, Jinwoog. 2011. 'On India-South Korea Relations', *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies Special Report* 2011: 1.

as it is the world's second largest ship builder. With Korean assistance all types of war ships can be built by India indigenously. Currently, India has signed a deal with South Korea to buy eight minesweepers in its Navy fleet. Further Korea is looking for international partners for its space program and Indian cost-effective expertise should be an attractive proposition.

The current geo political environment needs India and South Korea to cooperate strategically. According to Sukjoon Yoon, South Korea, a genuine middle-power can exert only limited and selective influence upon the great powers. However, by networking with other middle powers such as India, the impact of South Korea would be enhanced exponentially¹⁹). He further adds that regional rivalry between USA-China and China-Japan has diplomatically marginalized other states impacting their ability to build partnerships based on trust and limiting the scope to build strategic partnerships. China is a neighbor to both the countries and this brings about similarities in their approach to China. China's assertive behavior in South China Sea, East China Sea and the Yellow Sea is a cause of concern for Korea. Declaration of new Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) by China in November last year is a big concern for Korea, as it overlaps with 3,000 square km of Korea's ADIZ. South Korea's concerns over maritime boundary dispute with China find a parallel in India as it shares more than 4,000 km of unresolved border with China. Further, both the countries have estranged relations with their nuclear-neighbours who are assisted by China.

Though both India and South Korea have issues with China, yet they have prioritized 'cooperation' over 'confrontation' in their policies with China. The overall nature of their strategic relations is based on maritime security, freedom of navigation, maintaining stable balance of power and working for open and inclusive security architecture. This also explains the trilateral cooperation between South Korea, India and

19) Yoon, Sukjoon Yoon, 'South Korea's middle power strategy,' *Bangkok Post*, January 30, 2014. <http://www.bangkokpost.com/opinion/opinion/392221/south-korea-middle-power-strategy>.

Japan, India is an emerging power and it has a legacy of promoting democracy and peace in the world. India is a partner with South Korea in the “denuclearization of Korean peninsula”. India and South Korea remain committed to open and inclusive security architecture in South East Asia and can further increase their cooperation. Along with Japan, the two countries have already instituted a trilateral dialogue. There is need to take the mutually generated bonhomie to regional and international organizations and showcase better understanding of global issues. The two countries can also cooperate in regions like Central Asia. India has historical relations with the region and along with South Korean technology; both can better access this energy-rich region.

VI. Educational and Cultural Relations

The educational ties between South Korea and India are gradually expanding. One Indian professor is stationed in Seoul to teach Hindi in Hankuk University on deputation through Indian Council for Cultural Relations. One professor from Korea is stationed at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi to teach Korean language. Korean Federation of Science and Technology gives a chance to Indian scholars from various science fields to visit Korea²⁰. JNU has Centre of Korean Studies in its School of Languages which offers bachelors, masters program and it has started offering M Phil/PhD programs in Korean since 2013. School of International Studies in JNU offers some courses on Korean foreign policy at masters level. Its Centre for East Asian Studies offers M Phil/PhD programs on Korean domestic politics and foreign policy. Delhi University has Department of East Asian Studies where Korean language is taught along with M Phil/PhD on Korean

20) Kannan, Narayana, Op.Cit.

politics and foreign policy.

According to Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Madras University has also opened a Department of Korean Studies encouraged by the sizeable presence of Koreans including Hyundai Motors in Chennai. Indian studies department is there in Hankuk and Pusan University. Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology has signed MoUs with Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Technology and Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. Governments on both sides have scholarships for students to study in India and Korea.

An Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) was established in South Korea in 2011. A Festival of India in Korea was held from June 2011 to March 2012. In December 2012, Korean cultural centre was opened in New Delhi. Korean wave or Hallyu is spreading in North–East Indian states. Korean channels like Arirang and KBS are aired by cable operators. South Korea’s famous pop star, Psy’s recent hit “Gangnam Style” was a huge hit in India with kids copying the dancing style. The first Korea–India music festival and cultural event was held in Nagaland in 2008. It saw a huge turnout with people queuing up to meet popular. Korean artists like Ilac and VJ Isak²¹). Even Indian films are getting popular in South Korea. Films like ‘Three Idiots’, ‘Black’ and ‘My Name is Khan’ were loved by Koreans²²). Indian film star Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed goodwill ambassador for South Korea last year. A sapling of the sacred Bodhi tree from Bodh Gaya has been handed over to South Korea by India recently. India is getting popular among Korean tourists. Around 1, 00, 000 Koreans visited India in 2012. This is a big number considering that around 4,000 Koreans visited India in 1991²³).

21) Chitransh, Anugya, ‘Korean wave takes Indian kids in its sway,’ *Times of India*, June 3, 2012. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Korean-Wave-takes-Indian-kids-in-its-sway/articleshow/13753051.cms>.

22) Ghosh, Avijit, ‘South Korea loves Bollywood dramas but wants fewer songs,’ *Times of India*, December 3, 2012. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/South-Korea-loves-Bollywood-dramas-but-wants-fewer-songs/articleshow/17461275.cms>.

23) Indian Tourism Statistics. 2012. <http://tourism.gov.in/TourismDivision/AboutDivision.aspx?Name=Market%20Research%20and%20Statistics>.

According to BBC World Service Poll 2011, 66 percent of South Koreans held positive views about India and was the most favorable country to India in the poll. In 2010, 56 percent Koreans gave their thumbs up to India²⁴).

VII. Conclusion

The future of South Korea–India relations looks bright. The trade relations between the two countries are likely to scale new heights in years to come. India offers good opportunity to Koreans for trade and investment. South Korea is associated with hard work and technology in India and it will continue to inspire Indians in their efforts to transform their country from traditional to modern society. Both countries share the values of democracy, market driven economy and multi-polar Asia. For Korea, relations with India are a tool to balance US, China and Japan. For India, Korea is an important pillar of its “Act East Policy” and helps India gaining influence in South–East Asia. Further Korea can provide India with technology needed for modernizing its Armed Forces. Both countries are eager to play larger role in Asia and changing dynamics of Asian security has brought both of them together. Leaders of both countries are likely to intensify the strategic partnership for providing strategic balance in Asia. During PM Modi’s recent visit to Korea in May 2015, both countries elevated their relations to ‘special strategic partnership’. India has infused much needed vigor and energy in its ‘Look East Policy’ and renamed it ‘Act East Policy’. South Korea will be one of the important pillars for the success of this policy.

24) BBC World Service Poll, 2011. http://worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/articles/views_on_countriesregions_bt/680.php?lb=brglm&pnt=680&nid=&id=#india.

요 약

한국-인도 간 관계: 경제적 및 전략적 측면에서의 평가

라지 쿠마르 샤마*

한국과 인도 간 관계(이후 한국-인도 관계)는 오랜 역사를 통해 정치, 사회, 경제 및 전략적 측면에서 지속적으로 발전되었다. 특히 인도의 “동방정책(Look East Policy)” 채택과 한국의 “중견국 외교(Middle-power diplomacy)” 선언 간 동질성을 모색하는 차원에서 최근에 더욱 긴밀히 발전되고 있다. 즉 최근에 이르러 갑자기 발전된 관계가 아니라는 논지이다. 이에 본 논문에서는 한국과 인도 간 관계를 역사적 시각, 탈냉전 이후 시각, 경제적 시각 및 교육 및 문화적 그리고 지정학적 시각에서 평가하고자 한다. 특히 역내 중견국(middle power) 대표적 국가를 활용한 긴밀한 전략적 협력을 강조하고자 한다. 이를 위해 2004년 노무현 대통령의 인도 공식 방문 이후 2015년 1월 박근혜 대통령의 방문까지의 양국 간 전략적 협력 관계를 조명해 본다. 이에 따라 양국 관계는 이미 공개된 바와 같이 이는 사이버, 방산, 군사협력 및 정보교환 등의 분야로 구체화되고 있다. 일부는 이를 중국을 견제하는 양국 간의 협력이 라고 평가하나, 본 논문은 특정 국가를 지목하기보다, 역내 중견국으로서의 전략적 관계 증진을 통한 역내 이익 보호에 있다고 평가한다. 특히 양국 간을 지리적으로 연결하는 해양을 통한 해양협력에 대한 논의를 추가한다. 예를 들면 역내 자연재난 구조작전(DR operation) 및 인도주의 지원작전(HA operation) 해양협력과 현재 진행되고 있는 아덴만 해적퇴치작전(Anti-piracy naval operation)이다.

키워드: 인도, 한국, 중견국, 동방정책, 중견국 외교, 해양협력

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