



**KOREA CENTRE**  
School of International  
Relations & Politics,  
Mahatma Gandhi University



**Centre for East Asian Studies**  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi, INDIA

**Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**  
*In Collaboration with*  
**Korea Centre, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala**

**50th Anniversary of India-Republic of Korea-Diplomatic Relations:  
Emerging Korean Studies Scholars' Conference**

September 1-2, 2023

Room No. 128, School of International Studies - II

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Korea Centre, Mahatma Gandhi University in collaboration with the Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University organised a two-day conference “50th Anniversary of India-Republic of Korea-Diplomatic Relations: Emerging Korean Studies Scholars' Conference” on September 1-2, 2023 at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The conference was attended by scholars from across India and Indian Korean Studies Scholars currently in South Korea. It provided an opportunity for scholars to discuss and promote the study of Korean studies in India. These scholars are researching a wide range of topics, from the history of Korean culture to contemporary social issues. Over the course of two days and seven sessions on various themes, the scholars had an opportunity to present their research, engage in thoughtful discussions, and network with other academics and policy experts. The event aligned with the 50th anniversary of India-Korea diplomatic relations, providing a significant historical backdrop to the conference. The conference was attended by over 20 young scholars and many subject experts.

In the inaugural session of the conference on September 1, an Introduction about the conference was given by, **Dr. Jitendra Uttam**, Assistant Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU. **Prof. Alka Acharya**, Chairperson of CEAS delivered the welcome speech. The conference was inaugurated by **Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit**, the Vice Chancellor, JNU. **Mr. Heung Kim**, Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in India delivered the special remarks. **Dr. Jojin V John**, Assistant Professor and director of Korea Centre, MGU gave the vote of thanks.



During session 1, which was themed ‘Global and Regional Transformations: Implications for India-Korea Relations’, was chaired by **Dr. Raviprasad Narayanan**, Associate Professor, CEAS. **Torunika Roy** (PhD scholar, JNU) and **Abhishek Sharma** (PhD scholar, DU), **Priyanka Yadav** (PhD Scholar, JNU), **Abhishek Kumar Singh** (PhD Scholar, Kookmin University) and **Suraj K** (PhD Scholar, CUK), presented their papers on various topics ranging from technology, transition of order, watershed strategies, hub-and-spokes model etc. Which was followed by a Q & A session with the panellists, where discussions about each paper and few recommendations for making the research paper better was given.

Session 2 was on the theme Soft Power, Narratives and New Diplomacy: Emerging Dimensions of India- Korea Relations. This session was chaired by **Dr. Sandip Mishra**, Associate Professor, CEAS, JNU. The panellists included **Abhishek Srivastava** (Assistant Professor, CIPOD, JNU), **Tilak Jha** (Associate Professor, Bennett University) **Aman Verma** (PhD Scholar, JNU). The presentation topics ranged from small states and soft power, realigning India-Korea ties, and representation of Korean War in media. The session concluded with a Q&A Session and discussions on the paper presented.





The theme of this session 3 was Global Economic Perspectives from India and Korea. The session was chaired by **Dr. Choongjae Cho**, Director, KIEP India Office. This session had two panellists- **Apurva Beniwal** (PhD Candidate, JNU) and **Tapobrata Pakrashi** (Assistant Professor, The NorthCap University). Their papers dealt with India and Korea's G20 Presidencies, IPR provisions etc. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session and fruitful discussions followed. The end of Session 3 marked the end of the first day of the conference.



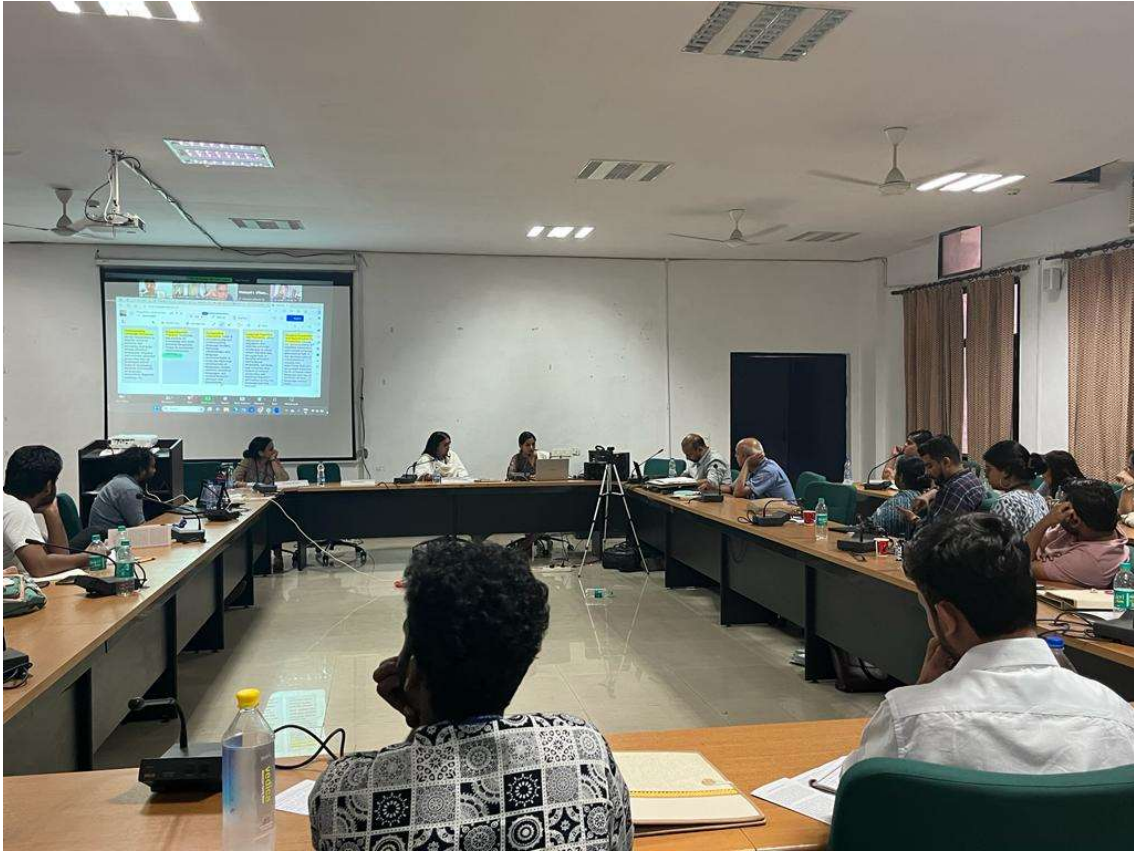
Day 2 (September 2) began with Session 4. Gender and Migration Issues in South Korea was the theme of this session. **Dr. Sudhakar Vaddi**, Assistant Professor, CEAS, JNU chaired the session. The session had four panellists- **Madhuri R** (Research Associate, Korea Centre), **Rekha J** ( M.A Student, MGU), **Arya Prasad** (PhD Scholar, JNU), and **Muhammed Unais A V** (M.A Student, MGU). The topics included feminist and anti-feminist movements in South Korea, Indian Labourers in South Korea, and immigration policies of South Korea. After the presentations, discussions on the uniqueness of Korean society, status of women and migrant labourers happened.



Session 5 commenced, chaired by **Dr. Jitendra Uttam**, Assistant Professor, CEAS, JNU. Mapping the Korean Wave and its Implications was the theme for session 5. This session had the most number of panellists with five presenters. The panellists were **Sheryl Puthur** (Assistant Professor, Mount Carmel College), **Mohd Bilal K** (M.A Student, JNU), **Pallavi Kumari** (M.A Student, JNU), **Lakhan Bir Meena** (PhD Scholar, JNU), and **Sagorica Rani** (M.A Student, JNU). The topics included juxtaposing Korean dramas and fairy tales, K-pop and consumerism, webtoons, pansori and Indian Culture in Korea. Similar to the previous sessions, this session was also followed by a Q&A session. The *Hallyu* wave and its nuances were discussed in detail.

Session 6 was on the theme of Social Issue in India and Korea: Comparative Perspective. This session was chaired by **Dr. Ritu Agarwal**, Associate Professor, CEAS, JNU. The session had two presenters- **Sujit Kumar Choudhary** (Associate Professor, MGCUB), and **Rahul Robinson** (PhD Scholar, JNU). Topics were based on religious orientation, and the burnout society concept. Lengthy discussions on these concepts followed the session which was informative for all those who were present.





The theme of the final session of the conference was Comparative Literature and Korean Language Education. The session was chaired by Dr. Neerja Samajdar, Associate Professor, CKS, JNU. The session had 4 panellists- **Rajesh Kumar** (Seoul National University), **Hemant Raj** (Independent Researcher), **Deepshikha** (PhD Scholar, JNU), **Kumari Rohini** (Assistant Professor, JMI). The topics ranged from comparing literature from Korea and India, similarities in languages, and teaching methods and techniques used to teach Korean.





To sum up, the Emerging Korean Scholar's Conference proved highly successful, highlighting the exceptional abilities and pioneering research of young scholars across various disciplines. This event not only encouraged academic dialogue but also nurtured the bright prospects of Korean Studies in India, instilling inspiration and enthusiasm among participants for forthcoming collaborative endeavours.

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