



Indian Council of World Affairs  
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

December 18, 2013

## Press Release

### Book Release

on

### **“India and Republic of Korea: Engaged Democracies”**

(Written by Ambassador Skand R. Tayal)

(17 December, 2013)

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) organised a book release event on “India and Republic of Korea: Engaged democracies” authored by Ambassador Skand R. Tayal, India’s former ambassador to South Korea, on December 17, 2013. The book was released by India’s External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid. Members of the diplomatic community, academicians and strategic experts participated in the event which marked the beginning of series of single authored books by ICWA.

Shri Nagendra Kumar Saxena, Acting Director General of ICWA, chaired the session and thanked Honorable Minister for adjusting his busy time schedule to unveil the book. Ambassador Tayal enunciated the major themes covered in his book. He stated that the book covers the history of two thousand years of India-Republic of Korea (ROK) relationship and touches almost all the aspects of their bilateral engagements.



*Honorable External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri Salman Khurshid releasing the book.*

Honorable External Affairs Minister (EAM) appreciated the research and endeavors put in by Ambassador Tayal in finalizing the book. In his remarks, EAM observed that Buddhism remains a common linkage between India and Korea since ancient times. He also highlighted the fact that Rabindranath Tagore’s ideas inspired Koreans during their freedom movement. He

also highlighted the constructive role played by India following the 1951 Korean War. Focusing on recent developments in bilateral relationship, the EAM noted that between the years 1993 and 2003, several landmark visits of top political leaders from both the sides have taken place. As a result of sustained political engagements, India and ROK signed Strategic Partnership Agreement and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Highlighting major developments in India-ROK relations in economic field, External Affairs Minister expressed satisfaction that the bilateral trade between the two countries has touched US\$ 20 billion. However, he pointed out that the trade balance remains in ROK's favour and hoped that Korean investment in India would help bridge the gap. While concluding his remarks, External Affairs Minister once again thanked Ambassador Tayal for contributing the book on India-ROK relations and hoped that both diplomatic and academic community will benefit from his valuable contribution.

South Korean ambassador to New Delhi, Mr. Lee Joon-Gyu, in his remarks observed that though India and ROK remain geographically apart, common democratic values bind them together. He also noted that during 2008 to 2011 India-ROK bilateral relationship achieved major milestones as during this period both the countries signed Strategic Partnership agreement and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. He also expressed satisfaction that bilateral cooperation has flourished between the two countries and their perceptions and interests on regional and international issues converge. In his concluding remarks he termed Ambassador Tayal, a true friend of Korea and expressed his sincere gratitude for contributing the book on India- Republic of Korea relationship.



*Honorable External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri Salman Khurshid speaking at the event*

\*\*\*\*\*