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South Korea Nominates Han Seong-sook as Prime Minister

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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HOW

WHY IN NEWS

South Korean President **Lee Jae-myung** nominated **Han Seong-sook**, the former chief executive of internet giant Naver and the incumbent Minister for SMEs and Startups, as the country's next **Prime Minister** on **June 7, 2026**. Her nomination, subject to a National Assembly confirmation hearing, signals an **AI and technology-led growth agenda** and would make her South Korea's second woman Prime Minister.

THE NOMINATION

DETAIL	INFORMATION
Nominee	Han Seong-sook
Background	Former CEO of Naver; Minister for SMEs and Startups
Nominated by	President Lee Jae-myung
Date	June 7, 2026
Status	Subject to National Assembly confirmation
Significance	Would be South Korea's second woman PM; signals a tech and AI-led agenda

In South Korea's presidential system, the **President nominates the Prime Minister, who must be confirmed by the National Assembly**. The PM assists the President and oversees government ministries, but executive power rests largely with the President.

WHY A TECH EXECUTIVE AS PM

Elevating a former internet-company chief executive to the premiership reflects how central **artificial intelligence and the digital economy** have become to national competitiveness. South Korea, a global leader in semiconductors and electronics, is positioning technology at the heart of its growth strategy, a signal with relevance for India's own digital-governance and AI ambitions.

INDIA AND SOUTH KOREA

ASPECT	DETAIL
Relationship status	Special Strategic Partnership (upgraded in 2015)
India's framework	Part of India's Act East Policy
Cooperation areas	Trade, technology, semiconductors, defence, shipbuilding
Trade pact	India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), 2010 (under review)

A tech-focused leadership in Seoul could deepen India-Korea cooperation in semiconductors, electronics manufacturing and AI, areas central to India's own industrial strategy.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims

- South Korea nominated **Han Seong-sook** (ex-Naver CEO) as Prime Minister on **June 7, 2026**
- In South Korea, the **President nominates the PM**, confirmed by the **National Assembly**
- India-South Korea ties: **Special Strategic Partnership** (2015); India-Korea **CEPA** (2010)
- South Korea is part of India's **Act East Policy** outreach

Mains Angles

- 1 **GS2 Bilateral Relations:** Examine the scope for deepening India-South Korea cooperation in semiconductors, technology and defence under the Special Strategic Partnership.
- 2 **GS2 Comparative Governance:** Discuss what the elevation of a technology executive to the premiership signals about AI-led national strategies, and the lessons for India.

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Nominee	Han Seong-sook
Role	Prime Minister of South Korea (nominee)
Background	Former Naver CEO; Minister for SMEs and Startups
Nominated by	President Lee Jae-myung
Date	June 7, 2026
Confirmation	By the National Assembly
India-ROK ties	Special Strategic Partnership (2015)
Trade pact	India-Korea CEPA (2010)

Sources: *CNBC, MEA, The Hindu*

Source: South Korea Nominates Han Seong-sook as Prime Minister — Ujyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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