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SOUTH KOREA STRIKES GOLD WITH TRUMP'S VISIT, SEALING TRADE DEAL

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The Straits Times (30 October 2025)

Wendy Teo

South Korea went on a golden offensive to charm US President Donald Trump during his visit to the East Asian country, as the two sides finally agreed on a trade deal after months of deadlock.

The two sides had not been able to agree over the modalities of Seouls pledge of US\$350 billion (S\$453 billion) in investments as part of a framework trade deal struck in July to lower US-imposed reciprocal tariffs of 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

But the deal was pretty much finalised, declared Mr Trump at a dinner on Oct 29 that followed his summit with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung in the city of Gyeongju, where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum is set to be held from Oct 31 to Nov 1.

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