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South Korea's Response to Floods in Nepal

In September, the South Korean government [held](#) an intense search-and-rescue operation for the South Korean citizens affected by the massive floods in Nepal. Reportedly, about nine South Koreans were missing in this disaster and were said to be working at the construction site of the Upper Trishuli-1 (UT-1) hydropower plant in Nepal. The (South) Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) was utilising all available means to find these South Korean workers and other people affected in the landslides and floods. The workers from South Korea were reported to be the employees of the Doosan Enerbility and Korea South-East Power companies. Apart from rescue operations, the South Korean government also [provided](#) aid and relief supplies to the victims of floods in Nepal. These relief measures worth 130 million won (US\$ 95,850) included goods, such as 36,000 emergency thermal blankets and 2,320 heavy-duty thermal blankets. Earlier, South Korea had pledged US\$ 1 million in humanitarian aid to the victims in Nepal where disaster occurred on 26 August 2026. The first-aid kits, drinking water, health and hygiene items from South Korea were also provided to the victims. The South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun made a three-day [visit](#) to Nepal to meet his Nepali counterpart and take a survey of the ground situation there. Cho also met with the officials engaged in rescuing people affected by the floods and supported the relief work from South Korea.

North Korea Ends Goal for Korean Reunification

In September, the South Korean media reported that the North Korean regime has completely [dropped](#) the idea of reunification with South Korea. In late December 2023, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un had declared that his country would no longer seek the reunification of the two Koreas. Notably, the Korean Peninsula was divided in 1945 soon after its liberation from the Japanese colonial occupation (1910-1945) by the United States and Soviet Union along the 38th parallel. However, several attempts to reunify the Korean Peninsula had failed. The Kim Jong-un regime in Pyongyang expressed its frustration in dealing with South Korea and normalise relations with Seoul. North Korea has also demolished road and railway infrastructures which once connected the two Koreas and symbolised the Korean national reunification. In the more recent development, Pyongyang has reportedly [erased](#) all references about Korean reunification from the official document of the North Korean Workers' Party. The Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS), a government-funded think tank in South Korea examined the revisions made by Pyongyang on the Korean reunification issue and it claimed about the rising authority of the leadership of Kim Jong-un in North Korea. Apparently, the changes regarding Kim regime's stand on reunification with South Korea were made during North Korea's 9th Party Congress in February this year. Notably, North Korea has also dropped the demand for removal of US troops from South Korea.

Indian Cultural Festival in South Korea

The Indian Embassy in South Korea [organised](#) the annual *Sarang* festival to showcase the rich cultural traditions of India during 15-22 September 2026. Reportedly, this was the 12th edition of the *Sarang* festival in South Korea and its main attraction was the Odissi classical dance from the Indian state of Odisha. This traditional dance art was performed in the six different cities of South Korea. This Indian cultural event in South Korea was initiated in 2015 and it aims to showcase the South Korean audiences about Indian art forms, such as dance, traditional music, festivals, cuisine and movies. Notably, the year 2026 has witnessed active bilateral [interactions](#) between India and South Korea as President Lee Jae Myung made his first state visit to New Delhi in April. Later in May, Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited South Korea to deepen defence industrial cooperation between the two countries. In June, the Indian Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar visited South Korea to participate in the Jeju Forum. Also, this year, two rounds of negotiations between New Delhi and Seoul were held to upgrade the India-South Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Both India and South Korea have been deepening their partnership in space research, artificial intelligence, digital payment system and semiconductors. India is also collaborating with South Korea to honour the legendary Indian Princess who married a Korean King in 48 AD.

North Korea-United States Talks

In September, it was reported in the South Korean media about the possibility of a [meeting](#) between the President of the United States Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. According to the recent assessment of the South Korean National Intelligence Service (NIS), there were signs of engagement between Washington and Pyongyang in the coming times. Earlier, Trump had expressed his desire to have dialogue with the North Korean regime and had directed Pentagon to scale down the joint military exercises between the United States and South Korea, which according to him are detrimental in building relations with Pyongyang. On the other hand, the South Korean President Lee Jae Myung had also floated the idea to officially end the Korean War (1950-1953) and normalise relations with North Korea. Notably, the Korean War ended with an armistice and the two Koreas are still in the state of military conflict with each other. The NIS revealed this [information](#) during a meeting of the South Korean National Assembly's Intelligence Committee and it also informed about the possibility of the succession of Kim Jong-un's daughter Kim Ju-ae as the next leader of North Korea. According to another report, the United States might seek the [return](#) of the remains of about 5,300 American soldiers from North Korea who died during the Korean War, in case there is a deal between the two countries.