

Comparative Studies between Korean and Indian Culture

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Korean and Indian cultures are rich and diverse, with unique customs, traditions, and values. Here are some comparative studies between Korean and Indian culture:

Family values: Both Korean and Indian cultures place a strong emphasis on family values. In both cultures, family ties are highly respected, and filial piety is considered important. Family members often live together or in close proximity, and the elderly are typically given great respect.

Respect for elders: In both Korean and Indian cultures, respecting and taking care of elders is deeply ingrained. Older family members are considered to have wisdom and experience, and their opinions are often sought and valued. They are accorded a high level of respect in both societies.

Traditional attire: Both Korean and Indian cultures have unique traditional attires that hold significant cultural and social significance. In Korea, the traditional attire is known as hanbok, which is worn during special occasions and festivals. In India, traditional attire varies depending on the region, such as sarees, turbans, dhotis, and lehengas, and they hold cultural and religious significance.

Food culture: Korean and Indian cuisines are distinct and have their own flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques. Korean cuisine is known for its emphasis on fermented foods, such as kimchi, and its love for rice and noodles. Indian cuisine, on the other hand, is famous for its diverse flavors, spices, and regional variations, such as curry, naan, and dosas.

Social hierarchy: Both Korean and Indian cultures have a strong emphasis on social hierarchy and respect for authority. In Korea, Confucianism has influenced social hierarchy, where age, rank, and social status hold significance. Similarly, in India, the caste system has historically influenced social hierarchy, where people are classified into different castes based on their occupation and birth.

Religion: Religion plays a significant role in both Korean and Indian cultures. In Korea, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Shamanism are prominent religions, while in India, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Sikhism are major religions. Religion influences various aspects of life, including customs, traditions, festivals, and social norms.

Language: Language is an important aspect of culture, and both Korea and India have their own unique languages. Korean language, known as Hangul, is the official language of South and North Korea, while India has a diverse linguistic landscape with over 122 major languages and numerous dialects spoken across the country.

Art and aesthetics: Both Korean and Indian cultures have a rich history of art and aesthetics. Korean art is known for its minimalistic and elegant style, seen in traditional crafts, pottery, painting, and architecture. Indian art, on the other hand, is known for its intricate designs, vibrant colors, and diverse styles, seen in various art forms such as painting, sculpture, dance, and music.

Education: Education is highly valued in both Korean and Indian cultures. Both countries have a strong emphasis on academic achievement and believe in the importance of education for personal and societal advancement. High academic standards, rigorous examinations, and a competitive educational environment are common in both cultures.

Festivals: Both Korea and India have a rich tradition of festivals and celebrations. Korean festivals such as Lunar New Year (Seollal), Chuseok (harvest festival), and Dano (spring festival) are celebrated with traditional rituals, food, and performances. Similarly, Indian festivals such as Diwali (festival of lights), Holi (festival of colors), and Navratri (nine nights festival) are celebrated with religious ceremonies, music, dance, and cultural activities.

Historical Link between Korean and Indian Culture

Millions of Koreans trace their origins to Suriratna, a princess from Ayodhya who had married the Korean king Kim Suro, a diplomat from the country said, adding that a memorial to the princess would soon be upgraded.

At a two-day international conference organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the deputy head of the South Korean embassy Ahn Min Sik said the shared heritage between India and his country began in 48 AD with the Ayodhya princess marrying the Korean king.

If there's any country that is closer to India in terms of the shared history, the language, it is Korea,' said the ICCR President Lokesh Chandra, adding that the legend has helped in strengthening Indo-Korean relations.

'Our history shows the mutual support and partnership these two countries had enjoyed. This has led to an increasing value to our extending partnership in economic, political and cultural entities,' Anil Wadhwa, secretary in the ministry of external affairs said while addressing the conference.

An official statement from the ICCR pointed out that Suriratna had travelled for three months from Ayodhya to Korea by sea and married the Korean king, thus marking the beginning of the Garak clan in Korea.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Seoul in May had also reiterated the importance of this legend in his speech.

'The relationship between the two countries goes back to the first century when an Indian Princess travelled from the kingdom of Ayodhya to Korea by a boat. She married the Korean King Suro and became the first queen of South Korean kingdom. Several Koreans trace their lineage to her,' Mr Modi had said at the India-Korea CEOs Forum.

This tale of the Ayodhya princess was also mentioned in 'SamgukYusa' or 'The Heritage History of the Three Kingdoms', a treasured work in Korea which was written in the 13th century.

The book finds a reference to the princess (Suriratna), who after marriage had become Queen Heo Hwang-ok.

The statement from ICCR also mentioned some of the famous descendants of Queen Heo as General Kim Yoo-shin, who had first unified the Korean Kingdom in the 7th century, former president and Nobel Laureate Kim Dae-jung and former prime minister Kim Jong-pil, among others.