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North Korean Leader Participates in the Chinese Victory Day

On September 3, 2025, the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un [participated](#) in the 80th anniversary of the Victory Day in Beijing. The Victory Day event in China commemorates the defeat of imperial Japan and the end of World War II. The North Korean leader [visited](#) China in his armored train and joined with the other leaders of states participating in this multilateral gathering. Kim's participation in this event was significantly reported in the North Korean and international media. Notably, this was his first visit to China after a gap of six years. Earlier, there were speculations that North Korea's relations with China have soured in the recent years. However, the visit by Kim to China reflects a [warming](#) up of ties between the two countries. Remarkably, Kim Jong-un was seen together with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. On the other hand, Kim Jong-un's visit to China and his participation in a multilateral event raised [concerns](#) in South Korea. The South Korean media reported that Pyongyang's attendance in a multilateral diplomatic event was first of its kind after Kim Jong-un came to power in North Korea in the year 2011. There were also apprehensions in South Korea that China may tacitly give [recognition](#) to the North Korean nuclear weapons programme. Reportedly, the term "denuclearisation" was missing during the meeting between Xi Jinping and Kim Jong-un in Beijing.

South Korean President's Speech at the United Nations

The South Korean President Lee Jae Myung attended the 80th United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week at New York in September 2025. Notably, in September, South Korea was holding the rotating [presidency](#) of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and is currently its non-permanent member since 2024. Seoul took the post of UNSC presidency for the fifth time since it became a member of the United Nations in 1991. President Lee was also reported to [preside](#) over a discussion in the UNSC on the issue of "Artificial Intelligence and International Peace and Security". President Lee Jae Myung [shared](#) the South Korean experience of overcoming the martial law and restoration of democracy in the country at the United Nations. In his key note speech at the UN General Assembly on September 23, Lee [talked](#) about the peace efforts on the Korean Peninsula by Seoul and he floated the idea of "Exchange, Normalisation, and Denuclearisation" as a strategy for reconciliation and cooperation between South and North Korea. He also discussed about the steps taken by the South Korean government to ease tensions with Pyongyang, such as suspending anti-North Korean regime propaganda broadcasting and leaflet campaigns. President Lee appreciated the role of the United Nations in helping South Korea in its industrialisation, democratisation and preserving its national identity. Interestingly, South Korea was liberated from the Japanese colonial occupation in the same year when UN was established.

United States Detains South Korean Citizens

In September 2025, the authorities in the United States [detained](#) hundreds of South Korean nationals at a battery manufacturing factory run by Hyundai Motor Company and LG Energy Solution Ltd in the state of Georgia. This issue raised serious concerns in South Korea as the country has pledged to invest hundreds of billion dollars in the United States. According to the American immigration officials these South Korean nationals were working in this electric vehicles manufacturing facility illegally without proper visa and documents. The South Korean government [responded](#) to the arrest of the South Korean nationals in the United States and instructed the officials to resolve the issue as soon as possible. Seoul regretted the manner in which the South Koreans were detained by the American authorities. The South Korean President Lee Jae Myung [said](#) that this incident would have “significant impact” and might deter the South Korean companies from investing in the United States in the future. He also highlighted the contradiction in the need for skilled workers in the United States and Washington’s immigration policy under the second Donald Trump administration. Reportedly, this would impact South Korean investments in the shipbuilding, semiconductors, automobiles and several others sectors in the United States. Later, it was reported that the South Korean nationals were [released](#) from the detention centre in the United States and they returned to South Korea by a chartered flight.

South Korean Tourism Industry

Tourism sector has been an important part of the South Korean economy. In this regard, South Korean government has been putting efforts to promote tourism industry. The popularity of the South Korean popular culture or “K-pop” has been [driving](#) the tourism industry in the country and the visit of the foreign tourists to South Korea has surged. It was also reported that South Korea will provide visa-free [entry](#) for up to 15 days to the group tourists from China on a temporary basis till June 2026. This strategy is to attract more Chinese tourists to visit South Korea. According to another report, South Korea [created](#) a new task force to further advance the tourism sector in the country. This new strategy was touted as a major initiative of the Lee Jae Myung administration to harness the potential of the South Korean tourism industry amidst a rising interest in the Korean culture across the world. Reportedly, South Korea is also competing with Japan to attract more international tourists. Also, South Korea has emerged as a major hub of medical tourism and people from various countries visit South Korean hospitals for medical treatment. According to a [report](#) in South Korean media in September, approximately one million foreigners visited Seoul in 2024 for medical tourism. The Lee Jae Myung administration has also been [promoting](#) domestic tourism as a measure to boost consumption in the country.