

CITY

Korea holding K-Wave to heal lockdown fatigue in India

A Subramani | Sep 1, 2020, 14:18 IST

Tuesday



CHENNAI: As part of its elaborate Korean cultural outreach programme in India, South Korean consulate in Chennai has lined up month-wise themes for the whole year.

The lockdown-exhausted south India will now be infused with Korean Wave (K-Wave), which includes films, drama, food and K-pop, said the consulate-general of Republic of Korea in Chennai. K-Pop and K-Drama are widely known and extremely popular in Hong Kong, Malaysia, China,

Vietnam and Indonesia, it said.

Accordingly, the month of August was devoted for K-movies, wherein film review contests were organised and posters were publicised in association with Indo-Cine Appreciation Foundation.

In September, there will be K-Deama review contest for which brochures have been brought out. It is held in association with Indo-Korean Cultural Centre. InKo Centre, in association with the consulate-general of Republic of Korea, has invited participants to rank the K-Drama currently on in India, and has announced that top 3 winners will get prizes. An early bird prize will be given to first 50 entries.

October will see K-Food cookery competition where Indian chefs with online videos will encourage viewers to be as creative as possible with an 'Indian twist.' November will be the month of K-Pop in South India. In November-December period, K-Movies will be screened as part of film festivals.

From politics and period pieces to crime shows and romance, the 'Korean Wave' is the new attraction

By ASHAMEERA AIYAPPAN

Korean dramas have steadily fostered a connect between India and South Korea through the medium of entertainment. K-Dramas, as they are popularly referred to, have struck a chord with Indians for many reasons, primarily cultural similarities between the two, such as the respect both show towards the elderly, commitment in relationships, bonding through food, prioritising family duties and allegiance towards the community—all things showcased through their scripts. Add to that relatable storytelling, a polished cast and opulent sets. If you've not watched one till now, it's high time. Here are some K-Dramas (popular, new and upcoming ones) worth watching.

CHIEF OF STAFF

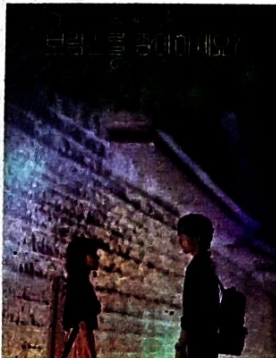
Platform: **Netflix**
Release: **June 2019**

A political drama, *Chief of Staff* documents the journey of an ambitious assistant—Jang Tae-joon—and how he plays the power game from behind the scenes. With a star-studded cast comprising Lee Jung-jae, Kim Kap-soo and Shin Min-a, the show has found favour with global audiences. While two seasons have been aired so far (with the second airing in December, last year), the show hasn't been officially renewed for a third season yet.

CRASH LANDING ON YOU

Platform: **Netflix**
Release: **December 14, 2019**
Also known as *Fall on You*, it can be thought to be the biggest hit this year from the industry. This love story be-

Hello Hallyu



Stills from various K-Dramas airing across platforms



The daughter-in-law of a powerful family, Ji Eun-Soo, gets convicted for the murder of her husband. After the sentence, she begins to search for her daughter and attempts to become a part of her life again. This emotional drama stars actors Lee Yoo-ri and Yeon Jung-hoon.

RECORD OF YOUTH

Platform: **Netflix**
Release: **September 7**

This young-adult romance will see Park So-dam, who charmed audiences worldwide in Academy Award-winning *Parasite*, play the lead with Korean star Park Bo-gum. The series is eagerly awaited as it marks the return of these two actors to the small screen. *Record of Youth* will revolve around a model who harbours aspirations to become an actor. Reports suggest that the series has been picked up by Netflix for global audiences.

THE SCHOOL NURSE FILES

Platform: **Netflix**
Release: **September 25**
As the name suggests, it is about the adventures of a nurse with supernatural powers. A Netflix Original, the series has the *My Dear Desperado* star Jung Yu-mi and Nam Joo-hyuk of *Coffee Friends* fame in key roles. Based on the 2015 award-winning novel, *School Nurse*

Ahn Eun-young, this series is directed by Lee Kyoung-mi who earlier directed an episode of the anthology—*Persona*—for the streaming platform.

TALE OF THE NINE-TAILED

Platform: **Viu**
Release: **October**
Also known as the *Tale of Gumiho*, this urban-fantasy drama will tell the tale of a male Gumiho (a mythical creature, part of Korean legends and tales), that has settled in the city. A TV producer is on his trail to hunt him down. The series stars Korean actor Lee Dong Wook (*Guardian: The Lonely and Great God*) and Kim Yong Ji, who was recently seen in Netflix's *The King: Eternal Monarch*.

BIRTHCARE CENTER

Platform: **Viki**
Release: **November**
Starring Uhm Ji-won (*The Cursed, Missing*), this series is about older women having children. While Hyeon-jin is the youngest board member at work, she is the oldest mother at a postpartum care centre. The show revolves around her and the other mothers, as they adjust to motherhood. While the show was initially supposed to air in August, the pandemic pushed the release to November.

SWEET HOME

Platform: **Netflix**
Release: **To be announced**
Director Lee Eung-bok, known for the series *Mr Sunshine*, has adapted a popular Korean horror cartoon as a series for Netflix. Cha Hyun-soo moves into a new apartment after losing his family and begins to witness strange happenings as people turn into monsters based on their desires. Hyun-soo is played by Song Kang, who starred in Netflix's hit series *Love Alarm*. This graphic-heavy series is speculated to be Netflix's most expensive K-Drama production yet. While a date hasn't yet been confirmed, reports suggest it is expected to release in the last quarter of 2020.

DO YOU LIKE BRAHMS?

Platform: **Viki**
Release: **August 31**
A musical drama featuring two students, *Do You Like Brahms?* stars popular Korean actor Park Eun Bin with *Dr Romantic*-fame Kim Min Jae. The romantic series revolves around the lives of students who study at a prestigious music academy. The show has created interest already on account of the lead pair's charisma.

LIES OF LIES

Platform: **Viu**
Release: **September 4**

Rank your favourite K-dramas

How invested are you in the romantic entanglements of high-schooler Jan-di from *Boys Over Flowers*? Or in the paragliding mishap that dropped a South Korean heiress in North Korea (*Crash Landing On You*)?

InKo Centre invites you to rank your favourite Korean or K-dramas. You can pick your top three Korean drams currently on air in India, and explain in 75 words or less, why these shows are your choice, what about them appealed to you, and if and why they have binge-potential.

The top three winners of this competition will win prizes, courtesy the Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea, Chennai. Even if you do not find a place in the top three winners' slots, the first 50 entries will also get an Early Bird prize.

Send your entries to kr.drama2020@gmail.com by September 20. The top 10 Korean dramas as reflected by this competition, as well as the winning entries, will be published at www.inkocentre.org on October 1.

