



NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: March 14, 2026 - March 21, 2026

This report was produced using open-source intelligence analysis. The assessment is grounded in publicly available reporting and should be cross-referenced with primary sources. RSS feed articles are listed in the annex for reference.

Executive Summary

North Korea demonstrated a heightened state of military readiness and defiance during the period of March 14-21, 2026, marked by a significant ballistic missile launch in response to ongoing U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises. Pyongyang's actions underscore its unwavering commitment to expanding its nuclear and strategic weapons programs, as highlighted by the recent 2026 U.S. Threat Assessment, which also noted a substantial increase in operational tactical warheads. Diplomatic engagement with the United States and South Korea remains at a standstill, with North Korea prioritizing strengthened ties with Russia and China, signaling a deepening alignment with "anti-imperialist" nations. The regime's advanced cyber operations continue to pose a significant threat, serving as a crucial funding mechanism for its illicit weapons development. Overall, North Korea's security posture is characterized by an assertive military modernization drive, a formalized hostile stance towards South Korea, and a strategic pivot towards its traditional allies.

Key Security Developments

- Ballistic Missile Barrage in Response to Allied Drills

On March 14, 2026, North Korea launched approximately 10 short-range ballistic missiles into the East Sea (Sea of Japan) from the Sunan area near Pyongyang. This major show of force occurred on the sixth day of the 11-day annual U.S.-South Korea "Freedom Shield" military exercises, which Pyongyang views as rehearsals for invasion. The missiles reached an altitude of 80km and landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, prompting heightened surveillance from South Korea, the U.S., and Japan.

- Long-Range Artillery Firepower Strike Drill

Concurrently with the missile launches on March 14, 2026, a long-range artillery sub-unit of the Korean People's Army in North Korea's western area conducted a firepower strike drill. This exercise involved 12 600mm-calibre ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers and two artillery companies, with rockets hitting an island target approximately 364.4 km away in the eastern waters off the Korean Peninsula. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un observed this drill, emphasizing that powerful attacking capability ensures reliable defense.

- U.S. 2026 Threat Assessment on North Korea's Expanding Capabilities

The 2026 Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community, released around March 19, 2026, identifies North Korea as a significant threat to the United States and its allies. The assessment warns that Pyongyang remains firmly committed to expanding its nuclear and strategic weapons programs, including missiles and nuclear warheads, and strengthening its deterrence capabilities. It specifically highlights North Korea's WMD arsenal, conventional forces, illicit cyber operations, and willingness to employ asymmetric attacks as posing "significant" threats, particularly to South Korea and Japan.

- Acceleration of Tactical Nuclear Warhead Deployment

As of March 2026, the North Korean nuclear program has significantly accelerated its deployment of tactical warheads, with an estimated 50-60 warheads now operational, representing a 2.5-fold increase from 2022. This development is coupled with the regime's abandonment of the "No First Use" principle, adopting an offensive nuclear doctrine that directly targets South Korea.

- Deepening Military Cooperation with Russia

The 2026 U.S. Threat Assessment noted that North Korea dispatched over 11,000 troops to support Russia's combat operations in the Kursk region in 2024 and provided artillery shells, military equipment, and ballistic missiles during this period. This ongoing cooperation is deepening, with North Korean forces gaining valuable combat experience in 21st-century warfare, and Russia providing technological assistance in return.

- Resumption of Passenger Train and Flight Services with China

North Korea and the People's Republic of China (PRC) resumed passenger train operations between Beijing and Pyongyang on March 12, 2026, after a suspension since January 2020 due to COVID-19. Additionally, Air China announced the resumption of flight operations between Beijing and Pyongyang on March 30, marking the first service in six years. These moves indicate North Korea's likely intent to diversify its revenue streams through international tourism and expand economic relations with Beijing.

- Formalized "Permanently Hostile Relationship" with South Korea

North Korea formalized its "permanently hostile relationship" with South Korea on February 21, 2026. This stance was reiterated during the 9th Party Congress, where Kim Jong Un criticized South Korea's "charm campaign" as a "clumsy, deceptive farce" and called for ceasing efforts at inter-Korean reconciliation and reunification.

- Continued Development of Naval Capabilities

A DPRK destroyer, the Choe Hyon, test-fired strategic cruise missiles on March 11, 2026, with Kim Jong Un observing the event. This is part of North Korea's continued tests of the operational efficiency of its advanced warships and aligns with Kim Jong

Un's earlier emphasis on expanding sea-based delivery means for its nuclear deterrent, including the two Choe Hyon-class guided missile destroyers launched in 2025.

- Sophisticated and Agile Cyber Operations

The U.S. Intelligence Community, as of March 2026, identifies that North Korean operatives are increasingly integrating AI tools to enhance identity obfuscation and cyber operations. North Korea's sophisticated and agile cyber program is a significant source of revenue, with cryptocurrency heists in 2025 estimated to have stolen \$2 billion, which directly funds the regime's strategic weapons programs.

- Review of Military-Industrial Modernization Budget

On March 12, 2026, Kim Jong Un announced that the Central Military Commission (CMC) would review the budget plan for the modernization of military-industrial enterprises for the next five-year period in April. This follows his emphasis during the 9th Party Congress on developing emerging military technologies to enhance conventional forces and expand the nuclear deterrent's delivery means and operational scope.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's recent security developments have significantly amplified regional instability and further complicated its relations with major global powers. The barrage of ballistic missiles on March 14, 2026, directly challenged the U.S.-South Korea "Freedom Shield" exercises, demonstrating Pyongyang's intent to respond forcefully to perceived provocations and maintain a high level of military tension on the Korean Peninsula. This pattern of behavior reinforces a cycle of escalation, where allied drills are met with North Korean weapons demonstrations, making de-escalation increasingly difficult. The formalization of a "permanently hostile relationship" with South Korea further solidifies the division and reduces prospects for inter-Korean dialogue, pushing Seoul to strengthen its alliance with Washington.

Relations with the United States are characterized by a deepening structural deadlock, as outlined in the 2026 U.S. Threat Assessment. Washington unequivocally rejects North Korea's recognition as a nuclear state, while Pyongyang insists on this as a precondition for any dialogue. This fundamental disagreement renders traditional diplomacy ineffective and makes future summits or talks unlikely, especially in the context of ongoing U.S. military actions against other authoritarian regimes like Iran. The European Union has also condemned North Korea's missile launches, reiterating calls for denuclearization and dialogue, but with little immediate impact on Pyongyang's trajectory.

Conversely, North Korea's ties with Russia and China are strengthening, providing Pyongyang with increased confidence and reducing its incentive to engage with the U.S. or South Korea. The resumption of passenger train and flight services with China signals a renewed focus on economic rapprochement and tourism, potentially offering North Korea alternative revenue streams amidst international sanctions. The military cooperation with Russia, including troop deployments and arms transfers, has provided North Korea with valuable combat experience and technological assistance, further integrating it into an "anti-imperialist" bloc. This deepening alignment with Moscow and Beijing allows North Korea to pursue its nuclear and military ambitions with greater impunity, challenging the U.S.-led liberal world order and exacerbating great-power fragmentation in nonproliferation diplomacy.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military and defense posture during this period reflects a clear and accelerated drive towards qualitative and quantitative enhancement of its capabilities, particularly in its nuclear and missile programs. The March 14, 2026, missile launches, involving approximately 10 short-range ballistic missiles and 600mm-calibre multiple rocket launchers, demonstrate a continued focus on developing diverse and precise strike capabilities. The observation of these drills by Kim Jong Un underscores the strategic importance placed on these systems for both offensive and defensive purposes. The 2026 U.S. Threat Assessment confirms North Korea's commitment to expanding its strategic weapons programs, including missiles and nuclear warheads, and strengthening its deterrence capabilities.

A critical development is the significant increase in North Korea's operational tactical warheads, now estimated at 50-60, a 2.5-fold rise since 2022. This expansion is coupled with the adoption of an offensive nuclear doctrine that directly targets South Korea, marking a departure from the "No First Use" principle. This shift indicates a more aggressive and proactive approach to nuclear deterrence, where tactical nuclear weapons are envisioned for use in "assumed battles" following a "deterrence failure". Furthermore, the test-firing of strategic cruise missiles from the Choe Hyon-class destroyer on March 11, 2026, highlights North Korea's efforts to establish a sea-based leg of its nuclear triad, aiming to disperse its nuclear arsenal and enhance its operational scope. The upcoming review of the budget plan for military-industrial enterprise modernization in April signals a sustained investment in defense industry developments and emerging military technologies.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): In the immediate future, North Korea is highly likely to continue its pattern of military demonstrations, particularly in response to ongoing or planned U.S.-South Korea joint military exercises. We can anticipate further missile launches, potentially involving a wider array of missile types, including cruise missiles from naval platforms, as Pyongyang seeks to validate its modernized capabilities and project defiance. The resumption of economic ties with China, including tourism, suggests a cautious but deliberate effort to alleviate economic pressures, which may lead to a slight increase in cross-border activity. However, this will not translate into a softening of its hardline stance on denuclearization or inter-Korean relations. Diplomatic overtures from the U.S. or South Korea are likely to be met with preconditions demanding recognition of North Korea's nuclear status, making any meaningful dialogue improbable.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the West Sea remain critical flashpoints, with a persistent risk of localized conventional weapons exchanges, especially given North Korea's formalized "permanently hostile relationship" with South Korea. The East Sea (Sea of Japan) will continue to be a primary testing ground for North Korean missile launches, posing risks to regional maritime and air traffic. The increasing deployment of tactical nuclear warheads and the adoption of an offensive nuclear doctrine directly targeting South Korea represent a significant escalation in the potential for a nuclear dimension in any future conflict. Furthermore, North Korea's sophisticated cyber operations, aimed at revenue generation for WMD programs, pose a continuous threat to global financial systems and critical infrastructure.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators to monitor include the frequency and type of North Korean missile launches, particularly any advancements in solid-fuel ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles. Observing the scale and nature of joint military exercises between North Korea and Russia, as well as any further details on technological assistance from Moscow, will be crucial. Monitoring the volume and nature of trade and tourism between North Korea and China will provide insights into Pyongyang's economic strategies and Beijing's willingness to support the regime. Any changes in North Korea's official rhetoric regarding denuclearization or inter-Korean dialogue, however unlikely, would also be significant. Finally, tracking the implementation of North Korea's five-year plan for military-industrial modernization will offer insights into its long-term defense priorities.

Strategic recommendations: Given the current trajectory, a multi-faceted approach is recommended. Firstly, strengthening the combined defense posture of the U.S. and South Korea, including enhanced missile defense systems and joint readiness, is paramount to deterring North Korean aggression. Secondly, maintaining robust international sanctions while exploring avenues for humanitarian aid, separate from denuclearization talks, could help alleviate the suffering of the North Korean populace

without legitimizing the regime's illicit activities. Thirdly, continued diplomatic efforts with China and Russia are essential to encourage their adherence to UN Security Council resolutions and to potentially leverage their influence over Pyongyang, despite their deepening alignment. Lastly, investing in advanced cybersecurity defenses and international cooperation to counter North Korea's illicit cyber operations is critical to disrupting a key funding source for its weapons programs.

Structured Assessment

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## ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

### Source: NK News

- [North Korea asks Russia to provide thousands of tons of oil and gas](#) (2026-03-20 09:10)

North Korea has requested that Russia provide thousands of tons of crude oil and petroleum products per month, according to a Far East export center, a sign that Pyongyang is feeling the pinch of oil price shocks due to the U.S. war with Iran. The Vladivostok-based Export Support Center announced a call for fuel suppliers [...]

- [Ukraine can help Seoul as North Korea's military grows stronger, experts say](#) (2026-03-20 09:09)

Ukraine can provide South Korea with invaluable battle-tested expertise for deterring North Korea in exchange for military aid like anti-air defense systems that are in short supply due to Russia's invasion, members of Ukrainian security think tanks said Friday. Experts from the Kyiv-based New Europe Center and New Geopolitics Research Network made the remarks at [...]

- [North Korea seals return to women's World Cup after 16-year absence](#) (2026-03-20 08:09)

North Korea's women's soccer team qualified for next year's FIFA World Cup with a resounding 4-0 win over Chinese Taipei on Thursday, setting up a return to the sport's biggest stage after a gap of 16 years. Lifted by a hat-trick from midfielder Hong Song Ok, the DPRK secured one of six direct qualifying spots [...]

- [Trump pledged 'full support' on resolving North Korea abductee issue, Japan says](#) (2026-03-20 07:16)

U.S. President Donald Trump voiced "his full support" for resolving Japan's longstanding abductee issue with North Korea, according to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. Takaichi's remarks came during a press conference following their summit at the White House on Thursday, where she called for urgent progress on the matter and expressed interest in meeting DPRK [...]

- [Kim Jong Un unveils new battle tanks, oversees 'war preparation' drills](#) (2026-03-19 22:54)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a combined infantry and tank drill on Thursday, using the occasion to inspect an "incomparably superior" new main battle tank and carry out enemy drone attack simulations as part of "war preparations." Accompanied by senior DPRK defense officials, Kim visited the Capital Defense Corps' Pyongyang Training Base No. [...]

- [British crypto expert wanted by US gives speech on AI at pro-North Korea event](#)  
(2026-03-19 10:08)

A British cryptocurrency entrepreneur wanted by the FBI for allegedly conspiring to breach North Korea sanctions gave a speech at a pro-DPRK event in Moscow, raising questions about his support for Pyongyang. Christopher Emms spoke about the use of modern technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) for “preserving sovereignty” at a conference organized by the DPRK [...]

- [New tribunal could prosecute North Korean officials over Ukraine war: Experts](#)  
(2026-03-19 09:53)

The North Korean leader’s sister Kim Yo Jong and other top officials could face prosecution under a special tribunal set to be established on aggression against Ukraine, human rights experts said Thursday, calling attention to Pyongyang’s support for Russia’s invasion. The experts made the assessment at a conference in Seoul on Thursday promoting South Korea’s [...]

- [What to make of Seoul’s claims about an undeclared North Korean nuclear site](#)  
(2026-03-19 07:39)

The South Korean unification minister’s comments about North Korean nuclear enrichment in the northwest city of Kusong have faced growing scrutiny in recent days, after he appeared to offer the first official confirmation of ongoing enrichment at a third location. But NK News analysis suggests that there is not yet enough public evidence to definitively [...]

- [US, ROK wrap up spring military exercise that drew North Korea’s scorn](#) (2026-03-19 05:56)

The U.S. and South Korea concluded their annual springtime Freedom Shield drills on Thursday, capping 11 days of large-scale joint exercises that drew North Korea’s scorn and multiple weapons tests. In a joint release, the allies said the exercise “incorporated lessons learned from recent conflicts into training scenarios to enhance realism,” adding it focused largely [...]

- [‘Confident’ North Korea bolstering military threats with allies’ support: US](#)  
(2026-03-19 05:40)

North Korea has leveraged its deepening military partnership with Russia and renewed diplomacy with China to bolster its economy and military, while continuing to expand its nuclear and missile arsenal with weapons capable of reaching the U.S. homeland, according to a new U.S. intelligence report. The 2026 Annual Threat Assessment released by the Office of [...]

- [‘Go and lay a flower’ : Chinese netizens react to travel resuming in North Korea](#)  
(2026-03-19 03:57)

Chinese social media has been abuzz with discussion about the prospects for travel to North Korea following the resumption of cross-border passenger train service, with users variously expressing interest in visiting and skepticism about the actual prospects for reopening. On Douyin, China's version of TikTok, users appeared indifferent and cautious after China Railway resumed service [...]

- [North Korean trade with China dips in first two months of 2026](#) (2026-03-18 09:36)

North Korea-China trade got off to a sluggish start in the new year, with total turnover in the first two months dropping significantly from the multiyear high in December. China's General Administration of Customs (GAC) released new trade data on Wednesday, reporting that the DPRK's commercial exchanges dipped to \$240.5 million in January and \$178.2 [...]

- [US troops hold air defense drills on countering North Korean threats](#) (2026-03-18 08:17)

U.S. troops held air defense drills at a key air base outside Seoul as part of the large-scale Freedom Shield exercise, amid questions about how the possible redeployment of American missile defense assets could impact the military's ability to counter North Korea. The March 11 air defense drill involved the Patriot missile system and Avenger [...]

- [Russian businessman urges staff to learn discipline from North Korean workers](#) (2026-03-18 08:03)

A video has emerged of a Russian businessman berating low-performing employees and urging them to learn discipline from North Korean colleagues, highlighting the risk of labor tensions over the growing number of DPRK workers in the country. In the video first reported by the Russian outlet Ostorozhno, Novosti, Alexander Rudakov, the founder of the Lipetsk-based [...]

- [North Korean hackers linked to theft from crypto gift card service](#) (2026-03-18 07:14)

North Korean cybercriminals stole virtual funds from a cryptocurrency gift card service and accessed over 18,000 customer purchase records, the Sweden-based company announced on Tuesday. In a statement posted on social media, Bitrefill said attackers breached its systems on March 1 and "exploited" its gift card stock and supply chain to steal cryptocurrency. It did [...]

- [North Korea likely earned \\$14.4B from military deals with Russia: Report](#) (2026-03-17 10:09)

North Korea has earned as much as \$14.4 billion from military support to Russia over a two-year span, according to a new estimate by an ROK think tank. In a report published Monday, the Seoul-based Institute for National Security Strategy (INSS) estimated North Korea's total revenue from military ties with Russia at between \$7.7 billion [...]

- [Lawmakers urge Seoul to stop China from repatriating North Korean detainee](#) (2026-03-17 09:32)

South Korean lawmakers called for the government to take action on Tuesday to prevent the forced repatriation of a North Korean defector's mother, who has been detained in China for over a year. The appeal came after the defector Kim Geum-sung, 21, reportedly sent a letter to Foreign Minister Cho Hyun on Monday requesting information [...]

- [Kim Jong Un sets April opening for Ukraine war cemetery and museum](#) (2026-03-17 07:27)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday inspected construction of a cemetery and museum that honors soldiers he sent to join Russia's war against Ukraine, according to state media. Kim set "the first anniversary of the liberation of Kursk" as the inauguration date for the "Memorial Museum of Combat Feats at the Overseas Military [...]

- [Peter Ward: Inside North Korea's expanding crackdown on 'unsocialist' behavior](#) (2026-03-17 05:48)

This week, NK News Data Correspondent Anton Sokolin opens the episode with a roundup of recent developments on the Korean Peninsula, including the resumption of China-North Korea passenger rail service and plans to restart flights. He also touches on the DPRK's weekend test of multiple launch rocket systems, as well as how Russian media is [...]

- [Chinese travel agencies promoting North Korea group tours from May](#) (2026-03-17 04:07)

Chinese travel agencies are advertising group tours to North Korea starting in late May, though DPRK authorities have yet to officially confirm a reopening for tourists after a six-year suspension. Travel itineraries circulating online show multiple agencies promoting eight-day tours departing from Beijing, with travelers expected to enter North Korea by train. The proposed trips [...]

- [North Korea's parliament to convene on short notice to revise constitution](#) (2026-03-17 03:24)

North Korea will hold an urgent Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) session on Sunday to discuss constitutional revisions, according to an announcement in state media on Tuesday, marking an unusually short notice for the event. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported the First Session of the 15th SPA — North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament — will [...]

- [Ask a North Korean: What do you make of the rise of Kim Jong Un's daughter?](#) (2026-03-16 09:53)

"Ask a North Korean" is an NK News series featuring interviews with and columns by North Korean defectors, most of whom left the DPRK within the last few years. Readers may submit their questions for defectors by emailing [ask@nknews.org](mailto:ask@nknews.org) and including their first name and city of residence. Today's question asks about the increasing prominence [...]

- [Trump says he could meet Kim Jong Un as early as this month: ROK prime minister](#) (2026-03-16 07:44)

U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed interest in meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during or after his planned trip to China later this month, according to South Korea's prime minister. Speaking to South Korean reporters at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington on March 13, Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Trump made the [...]

- [North Korea's former inter-Korean negotiator resurfaces as minor party chief](#) (2026-03-16 07:43)

North Korea's former point man on inter-Korean affairs now appears to be serving as the head of a ceremonial minor party, hinting at a shift in these unification-focused parties following Pyongyang's renunciation of inter-Korean ties. In a report about Sunday's parliamentary election, the ruling party-run newspaper on Monday identified Ri Son Gwon as the current [...]

- [Kim Jong Un votes at a coal mine in election for rubber-stamp parliament](#) (2026-03-16 07:26)

Kim Jong Un voted in the election for North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament on Sunday, according to state media, casting his ballot at a coal mine in a move that underscored the importance of the sector for his economic development goals. The state-run Korean Central News Agency reported that the DPRK leader voted at the Chonsong [...]

- [DPRK says it fired 12 nuclear-capable rockets, figure at odds with ROK analysis](#) (2026-03-14 22:54)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his daughter oversaw a live-fire drill by a nuclear-capable 600mm multiple rocket launcher (MLRS) on Saturday, launching a salvo of 12 rockets and reaching 100% accuracy, according to state media. The DPRK party daily Rodong Sinmun reported the following day that 12 MLRS units forming two batteries struck [...]

- [North Korea conducts missile test, third in March](#) (2026-03-14 04:53)

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates North Korea has launched a suspected ballistic missile Saturday in its third test launch so far this month, according to the Japanese and South Korean militaries. The Japanese Defense Ministry announced the launch at 1:30 p.m. KST and said the missile appeared to have hit [...]

- [Air China set to revive Beijing-Pyongyang route for first time since 2020](#) (2026-03-14 02:42)

China's national carrier Air China is set to resume flights from Beijing to Pyongyang in March for the first time after a six-year hiatus following the resumption of a regular passenger rail service between the countries this week. Currently, Air China's website offers tickets to Pyongyang starting March 30, and on subsequent Mondays, with the [...]

## Source: NK Pro

- [North Korea likely imported luxury SUV from China last month, trade data shows](#) (2026-03-20 08:07)

North Korea appears to have imported a luxury SUV from China in February in violation of sanctions, according to NK Pro analysis of official trade data, while exporting thousands of dollars worth of paintings. The likely sanctioned items appeared in official data for the first two months of 2026 released by China's General Administration of [...] The post North Korea likely imported luxury SUV from China last month, trade data shows appeared first on NK PRO.

- [North Korea touts new homes for Ukraine war widows and 99% election turnout](#) (2026-03-20 04:41)

North Korea heralded state efforts to honor its soldiers killed while fighting Ukraine and care for their bereaved families this week, publishing near-daily reports on widows moving into new apartments and finishing touches on a war memorial. The coverage ran alongside extensive reporting on the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) elections held on Sunday, which state [...] The post North Korea touts new homes for Ukraine war widows and 99% election turnout appeared first on NK PRO.

- [Who's in, who's out: More North Korean reshuffles suggest changes afoot](#) (2026-03-19 06:37)

North Korea's recent Ninth Party Congress revealed reshuffles of military and regional party bodies that, upon closer examination, suggest broader changes are in the works for the years ahead. Pyongyang approved the new slate of Central Committee officials during the congress in February, where leader Kim Jong Un laid out the country's overall agenda and [...] The post Who's in, who's out: More North Korean reshuffles suggest changes afoot appeared first on NK PRO.

- [What we can learn from the results of North Korea's parliamentary election](#) (2026-03-18 09:16)

Nearly three quarters of the delegates newly elected to North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament this week did not serve in the previous assembly, analysis shows, marking the highest-ever turnover rate. State media announced the full list of elected deputies from the 15th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) on Tuesday, following the country's first parliamentary election in seven [...] The post What we can learn from the results of North Korea's parliamentary election appeared first on NK PRO.

- [What a return of mass Chinese tourism to North Korea could look like](#) (2026-03-18 08:34)

A series of signals since last week suggest that Chinese tourism to North Korea may be closer to resuming than at any point since the pandemic. A passenger train from Dandong crossed the

Sino-Korean Friendship Bridge on March 12 for the first time in six years. Days later, Air China confirmed it will resume its [...] The post What a return of mass Chinese tourism to North Korea could look like appeared first on NK PRO.

- [How AI-powered ‘vibe coding’ threatens North Korea’ s illicit IT worker schemes](#)  
(2026-03-16 03:42)

North Korean networks of information technology (IT) workers have emerged as one of the regime’ s most lucrative revenue streams in recent years, generating sums estimated in the hundreds of millions through remote work for foreign companies. Now, however, the global adoption of AI for programming threatens to replace that workforce and decimate a huge source [...] The post How AI-powered ‘vibe coding’ threatens North Korea’ s illicit IT worker schemes appeared first on NK PRO.