

NORTH KOREA SECURITY ANALYSIS REPORT

AI-Assisted Open Source Intelligence Assessment

Analysis Period: November 04, 2026 - November 11, 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

During the period of November 04 to November 11, 2026, North Korea demonstrated a continued aggressive stance through significant military and cyber activities, alongside heightened diplomatic friction. Pyongyang conducted multiple missile launches, including a test of a new air-defense system, and showcased advancements in naval capabilities with the inspection of a new warship. Concurrently, North Korea vehemently denied its involvement in a major cryptocurrency heist attributed by the FBI to its state-sponsored hackers, further rejecting any dialogue with the United States without a cessation of perceived "hostile policy". Geopolitically, the nation solidified its alignment with China and Russia, creating a formidable axis that undermines international sanctions and regional stability. The European Union faced sharp criticism from North Korea for a draft UN human rights resolution, highlighting deep ideological divides and limited diplomatic avenues.

Key Security Developments

- Multiple Missile Launches and Air-Defense System Test

On November 4, 2026, North Korea fired "several missiles" from its Sondok area towards the East Sea (Sea of Japan), marking its fourth weapons launch in a month. Simultaneously, state media (KCNA) reported a successful test of a newly designed air-defense missile system, identified as the Pyongae-6, demonstrating enhanced guidance technology and target-tracking capabilities. This rapid succession of tests underscores Pyongyang's commitment to advancing its missile and air defense capabilities amid ongoing tensions.

- Naval Modernization and Warship Construction

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited the Nampho Shipyard on November 2, 2026, inspecting the construction of a new warship and emphasizing the critical need for a powerful naval force. Kim reportedly expressed "great satisfaction" with the vessel, which he claimed possessed "operational capabilities that no other country in the world has," and reiterated pledges to arm the fleet with nuclear weapons and build larger 10,000-tonne warships. This development signals a significant push to extend North Korea's military reach beyond its traditional coastal defense.

- Advanced Drone and Missile Exercises

Reports from November 4-5, 2026, detailed a large-scale missile and drone exercise conducted by North Korea on October 29, 2026, which included a drone exhibition

showcasing expanding unmanned systems capabilities. Kim Jong Un designated unmanned systems as a "primary military asset," indicating a strategic shift towards integrating lessons from conflicts like the Ukraine war to develop asymmetric capabilities against superior US and South Korean forces.

- Development of Dispersal and Cluster Warheads

North Korea announced on November 2, 2026, the successful test of a "dispersal warhead of a strategic cruise missile" and the firing of cluster-bomb warheads for its tactical ballistic missiles. These advancements suggest an effort to enhance the destructive power and evasive capabilities of its missile arsenal, posing a more complex threat to regional adversaries.

- Rejection of Dialogue with the United States

On November 4, 2026, Kim Yo Jong, a senior official and sister of Kim Jong Un, publicly rejected any renewed dialogue with Washington unless the United States abandons its "hostile policy" towards Pyongyang. This statement came hours before the latest missile launches, indicating a firm stance against US overtures and a preference for continued military demonstrations over diplomatic engagement.

- Attribution and Denial of Binance Cryptocurrency Heist

The FBI formally attributed a cryptocurrency theft exceeding $6 billion from Binance to the North Korean hacking group TraderTraitor. In response, Kim Yo Jong vehemently denied North Korea's involvement on November 4, 2026, labeling the FBI's announcement as a "trite provocation" and an "absurd rhetoric" that serves as an "extension of Washington's invariable hostile policy". This incident highlights North Korea's reliance on illicit cyber activities for revenue generation.

- Escalating Inter-Korean Border Tensions

North-South tensions have significantly increased in recent weeks following a landmine explosion along the heavily fortified border. North Korea accused South Korea of fabricating these explosions to obstruct its ongoing border fortification efforts and warned of "self-defense measures" against any violations of its sovereignty. Furthermore, North Korea is actively extending its "Southern border fortification" campaign, including new triple-layered fencing, to enhance its coastal defense posture.

- EU Condemnation on Human Rights

On November 5, 2026, North Korea strongly condemned the European Union's draft UN resolution addressing human rights in the country, instructing the bloc to "mind its own business". Pyongyang dismissed the resolution as a "farce" and a "politically-motivated provocation," citing alleged police violence and protests in European cities as evidence of the EU's own human rights issues. This exchange underscores the deep diplomatic chasm between North Korea and Western nations on

human rights issues.

- Strengthening North Korea-China-Russia Axis

The official opening of the Sinamrok River Bridge on the North Korea–China border and a visit by Kim Jong Un to Dandong, China, signal a rapidly solidifying "tightly knit North Korea–China–Russia axis". This strategic alignment provides North Korea with crucial external and economic safeguards, effectively neutralizing the impact of international sanctions and emboldening Kim Jong Un to pursue his "hostile two-state doctrine" and sever ties with South Korea.

Cyber Threat Landscape

The cyber threat landscape for North Korea during this period was dominated by the ongoing fallout from a massive cryptocurrency heist. On November 4, 2026, North Korea, through Kim Yo Jong, vehemently denied FBI accusations that its state-sponsored hacking group, TraderTraitor, was responsible for stealing over $6 billion from the Binance cryptocurrency exchange. Binance itself revealed that the attack, which began in June 2026, originated from a supply chain compromise targeting one of its engineers, who downloaded a trojanized Homebrew installer for an AI tool. This incident highlights the sophisticated methods employed by North Korean actors, including the use of fake interview schemes and AI tool abuse to gain initial access and exfiltrate private keys from cloud storage.

According to TRM Labs, North Korea-backed hackers have stolen an estimated $12.8 billion in crypto since 2017, with a staggering $7.4 billion of that occurring in 2026 alone, accounting for 85% of all crypto hack value worldwide this year. These illicit revenues are critical for funding North Korea's nuclear weapons program and sustaining its economy in the face of international sanctions. The scale and frequency of these attacks demonstrate a persistent and evolving threat from Pyongyang's cyber operations, which indiscriminately target global cryptocurrency exchanges and commercial platforms.

A cyber incident recorded in October 2026 involved a prankster appearing to hack the voicemail of North Korea’s UN mission to mock the country, indicating a continued vulnerability to less sophisticated, but publicly embarrassing, attacks. Background: Threat actors known to target North Korea include Higaisa (South Korea-linked) and Gelsemium. Other threat actors named in North Korea's news in the last 30 days include Lazarus Group (mentioned in past large heists against CoinEx and Bybit), Kimsuky, and Pearl Sleet. Exploited vulnerabilities named in its news in the last 90 days include CVE-2026-104935 (Ivanti Connect Secure), CVE-2026-111497 (Google Brotli), CVE-2015-1000013, CVE-2026-76418 (Cisco Secure Firewall ASA Software and Cisco Secure FTD Software), CVE-2026-98432, and CVE-2026-118539.

Geopolitical Impact and Regional Dynamics

North Korea's actions during this period have significantly exacerbated regional instability and reshaped its relationships with major global powers. The formal opening of the Sinamrok River Bridge on the North Korea–China border, coupled with Kim Jong Un's visit to Dandong, China, signals the rapid consolidation of a "tightly knit North Korea–China–Russia axis". This alignment provides Pyongyang with crucial external and economic safeguards, enabling it to circumvent international sanctions and pursue its nuclear and missile programs without significant external pressure. The tacit condonation of trade with North Korea by China and Russia effectively neutralizes America's primary leverage—sanctions relief—making meaningful breakthroughs in potential future US-North Korea summits highly unlikely.

The adoption of a "hostile two-state doctrine" by Kim Jong Un, leading to a severing of ties with South Korea, further entrenches the division on the Korean Peninsula and eliminates prospects for inter-Korean dialogue. This strategic shift, combined with North Korea's accelerated military modernization, including advanced missile and drone capabilities, aims to mitigate perceived US and South Korean military superiority and increase the costs of conventional escalation. The US Pacific Command's assessment that North Korea's November 4 missile launches posed "no immediate threat" reflects a calibrated response, yet the underlying commitment to defending the US homeland and Indo-Pacific allies remains firm.

The ongoing human rights concerns, highlighted by Human Rights Watch urging the UN to link security and rights issues in diplomatic engagement, underscore the internal vulnerabilities of the North Korean regime. However, with the backing of China and Russia, Kim's diplomatic maneuvers are primarily focused on preserving his autocratic rule rather than improving the lives of his populace, who continue to suffer under extreme poverty and oppression. This geopolitical realignment solidifies a confrontational posture, making denuclearization efforts increasingly challenging and pushing the region further towards a new Cold War-era dynamic.

EU Relations and Implications

North Korea's relations with the European Union during this period were characterized by sharp condemnation and ideological friction. On November 5, 2026, North Korea's state media reported a strong rebuke of the EU's draft UN resolution on human rights, with Pyongyang's UN mission telling the bloc to "mind its own business". North Korea dismissed the resolution as a "farce" and a "politically-motivated provocation," accusing the EU of hypocrisy by pointing to alleged protests and police violence in

European cities like Paris and Brussels. This exchange highlights the deep chasm in values and priorities, with North Korea consistently rejecting external criticism of its internal affairs.

The security and cyber developments, particularly North Korea's reliance on illicit cyber activities to fund its nuclear program and its strengthening ties with China and Russia, have significant implications for EU interests. The EU, as a proponent of international law and human rights, finds its diplomatic efforts and existing cooperation projects (Peace & Security, Humanitarian, Education & Skills, Development Cooperation) undermined by Pyongyang's actions and its rejection of dialogue. The North Korea-China-Russia axis, which actively ignores international sanctions, diminishes the effectiveness of EU-supported international pressure campaigns aimed at denuclearization and human rights improvements. This makes any meaningful security or digital cooperation with North Korea virtually impossible, as the regime prioritizes self-preservation and military advancement over engagement with Western norms and interests.

Military and Defense Analysis

North Korea's military and defense posture during this period reflects an accelerated drive towards modernization and the development of asymmetric capabilities. The multiple missile launches on November 4, 2026, including the test of the Pyongae-6 long-range surface-to-air missile system, demonstrate a focus on enhancing both offensive strike capabilities and defensive airspace denial. The Pyongae-6, with its improved guidance technology and target-tracking, represents a significant upgrade to North Korea's air defense, potentially comparable to Russia's S-400 system with an estimated engagement range of 200-250 kilometers.

Beyond missiles, North Korea is heavily investing in unmanned systems. The large-scale missile and drone exercise on October 29, 2026, and Kim Jong Un's emphasis on drones as a "primary military asset," indicate a strategic shift to integrate lessons from the Ukraine war. This includes the development of large fixed-wing UAVs, loitering munitions, and quadcopter drones, designed to conduct combined strikes and degrade enemy air defense capabilities, thereby mitigating US and South Korean conventional superiority. Furthermore, the inspection of a new, "incomparably huge" warship at the Nampho Shipyard, with Kim's pledge to arm the navy with nuclear weapons and build 10,000-tonne warships, signals an ambitious naval expansion aimed at extending North Korea's military reach and projecting power beyond its traditional coastal defense. These developments, coupled with the frequent testing of various warheads, suggest a push towards mass production and potential arms exports, possibly to Russia, further bolstering its defense industry.

Outlook and Forecast

Short-term trends (1-3 months): North Korea is expected to continue its aggressive military posturing, including further missile tests and demonstrations of new weapons systems, particularly those related to its naval and unmanned aerial capabilities. The "hostile two-state doctrine" will likely lead to a complete cessation of official inter-Korean communication and an intensification of rhetoric against South Korea. Cyberattacks, especially cryptocurrency heists, will remain a primary method of sanctions evasion and revenue generation, with North Korean actors continuing to target global financial platforms. Diplomatic engagement with the US is unlikely to resume given Pyongyang's preconditions and its strengthening alignment with China and Russia.

Critical flashpoints and risk areas: The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) remains a critical flashpoint, particularly following recent landmine incidents and North Korea's ongoing border fortification efforts. Any miscalculation or escalation along this heavily fortified border could quickly lead to broader conflict. The East Sea (Sea of Japan) will continue to be a site for missile tests, increasing the risk of accidental encounters with naval or air assets from South Korea, Japan, or the United States. The cyber realm presents a constant risk, with potential for disruptive attacks against critical infrastructure or financial institutions in South Korea and beyond, which could trigger retaliatory measures.

Indicators to monitor: Key indicators include the frequency and sophistication of North Korean missile and drone tests, particularly those involving new warhead types or naval platforms. Monitoring the extent of military and economic cooperation between North Korea, China, and Russia, including any overt arms transfers, will be crucial. The rhetoric from Pyongyang, especially from Kim Jong Un and Kim Yo Jong, regarding dialogue with the US and South Korea will signal potential shifts in diplomatic strategy. Finally, tracking reports of North Korean cyber activity, including new attack vectors and targets, will provide insight into its illicit financing efforts.

Strategic recommendations: International efforts should focus on strengthening a unified front against North Korea's illicit activities, particularly in the cyber domain, through enhanced intelligence sharing and coordinated sanctions enforcement. While direct dialogue remains challenging, maintaining channels for de-escalation and crisis communication is vital. South Korea and the United States should continue to modernize their combined defense posture, focusing on integrated air and missile defense and counter-drone capabilities, to deter North Korean provocations. Simultaneously, addressing North Korea's human rights situation should remain a priority, linking it to broader security concerns to highlight the regime's internal vulnerabilities and long-term instability.

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ANNEX: COLLECTED ARTICLES BY SOURCE

Source: NK News

• North Korean reunites with family member in South, first such case in two years (2026-11-11 03:28)

A North Korean seeking information about an uncle in the South reached out to ROK authorities through a defector earlier this year, leading to a rare reunion between separated family members. The case comes as new data shows that over three-quarters of South Koreans separated from family in the North have already died, highlighting the […]

• Democrats can't stop a Trump-Kim summit but could limit deal with North Korea (2026-11-10 09:41)

Despite their historic takeover of Congress in the U.S. midterm elections, Democrats have little power to stop President Donald Trump from meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, but could still complicate negotiations by limiting the concessions he can offer, experts told NK News. The new Congress will also have more leverage to affect key […]

• North Korean leader's sister slams UN chief over DMZ mine blast remarks (2026-11-10 08:33)

The North Korean leader's sister Kim Yo Jong accused the U.N. secretary-general of taking a "prejudiced and irresponsible attitude" toward tensions on the Korean Peninsula on Tuesday, after he recently warned of escalation risks along the inter-Korean border. In a statement, Kim said Secretary-General António Guterres' call for renewed dialogue amounted to "echoing the ROK's […]

• Russian visits to North Korea plateaued in first nine months, data shows (2026-11-10 07:29)

The number of Russian visitors to North Korea failed to grow in the first nine months of the year, official data shows, staying on par with 2025 levels despite a record number of trips in the third quarter. North Korea welcomed 3,876 Russian visitors from July to September, the highest quarterly figure on record, according […]

• South Korea rescued North Korean fishing boat adrift in East Sea this month (2026-11-10 07:13)

South Korean authorities rescued North Korean fishermen aboard a boat that went adrift in the East Sea (Sea of Japan) last week, Seoul has confirmed. "On Nov. 3, [ROK authorities] took custody of a North Korean fishing vessel that had been drifting in the East Sea and are currently

conducting an investigation," the Ministry of [⋯]

• North Korea says navy to deploy new 'high-speed torpedo' in early 2027 (2026-11-09 23:20)

North Korea tested a "new-type high-speed torpedo weapon system" on Monday, according to state media, the second public test of the weapon in the last month. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Tuesday that "the new-type torpedo weapon system is to be equipped by the Navy [from] the beginning of 2027." The report included [⋯]

• Ask a North Korean: Why do scientists get so little respect in the DPRK? (2026-11-09 09:20)

"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 and including their first name and city of residence. Today's question asks: How does North Korea [⋯]

• US blacklists Seychelles-based crypto exchange over North Korean laundering (2026-11-09 05:49)

The U.S. Treasury Department has moved to cut a Seychelles-based cryptocurrency exchange off from the American financial system for facilitating at least $16.7 billion in transactions linked to illicit activity, including North Korean money laundering. The department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued an order on Friday prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from processing transfers to [⋯]

• US says no changes in conditions for OPCON transfer: South Korean lawmaker (2026-11-09 05:04)

The U.S. has reaffirmed that there have been no changes in conditions for the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) to South Korea, according to an ROK lawmaker, amid questions about Seoul's readiness to lead allied defenses against North Korea. Jin Sung-joon of the ruling Democratic Party made the remarks during a press briefing on [⋯]

• Russia used North Korean KN-23 missiles in Ukraine energy site strike: Zelensky (2026-11-09 05:02)

Russia used North Korean short-range ballistic missiles to strike a key Ukrainian energy facility on Saturday, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, appealing to allies for more interceptor missiles. "According to preliminary findings, at one of the key energy facilities that was damaged, the Russians used KN-23 missiles manufactured and supplied by North Korea," he [⋯]

• Why a road link to Russia is North Korea's newest 'bridge to nowhere' (2026-11-06 09:52)

For over a decade, the New Yalu River Bridge linking China and North Korea was known as the “bridge to nowhere” on account of sitting unopened and unused. But following that bridge’s long-delayed grand opening last month, another new span on the other side of the DPRK border arguably has a better claim to the […]

• North Korean wrestler suspended over suspected doping (2026-11-06 09:44)

A North Korean wrestler has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for a banned substance, a month after he was suddenly removed from the 2026 Asian Games without explanation. In a press release Tuesday, the International Testing Agency (ITA) said it notified Ro Yu Chol of an “adverse analytical finding” after finding traces of furosemide […]

• How actor Lanny Joon brought Call of Duty’s North Korean character to life (2026-11-06 08:58)

Editor’s note: This article includes spoilers for the game “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4.” For Lanny Joon, playing one of the central characters in “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4” was a lifeline after nearly three years without work and a way to honor the father he lost last year. Now in his 20th […]

• Belarus’ top diplomat to North Korea makes first public appearance in Pyongyang (2026-11-06 05:28)

The interim chief of the Belarusian Embassy in North Korea made his first public appearance in Pyongyang this week after the mission opened its doors and Belarus ratified a friendship and cooperation deal with the North. Valery Bahdanouski, the Belarusian charge d’affaires, attended a sports event hosted by the Russian Embassy on Wednesday to mark […]

• Brazil’s first ambassador to North Korea in a decade takes up post in Pyongyang (2026-11-05 09:36)

Brazil’s newest ambassador to North Korea appears to have taken up his post in Pyongyang after a decadelong vacancy, according to the Chinese Embassy in the capital city. According to a Chinese Embassy announcement on social media, Brazilian Ambassador Ricardo Primo Portugal paid a courtesy visit to Chinese Ambassador Wang Yajun in Pyongyang on Wednesday. […]

• UNESCO body backs North Korean taekwondo listing without South’s involvement (2026-11-05 08:28)

A UNESCO evaluation body has recommended inscribing taekwondo as an intangible cultural heritage representing the DPRK, paving the way for its recognition as a standalone North Korean heritage listing ahead of a final decision next month. The recommendation, published Thursday by the evaluation body of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural […]

• North Korea tests anti-aircraft missiles, conducts attack drill on airport: KCNA (2026-11-05 00:08)

North Korea launched surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) and cruise missiles during separate tests on Wednesday, according to state media, claiming to have developed new “intelligent” guidance and targeting systems. Photos published in Thursday’s Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) report on the exercises also show that the cruise missile test involved dropping cluster munitions on a runway […]

• North Korean loudspeakers visible at border, but no broadcasts heard (2026-11-04 08:54)

North Korean propaganda loudspeakers were installed at two locations along the inter-Korean border on Wednesday, NK News observed, though no broadcasts could be heard from the South Korean side. Loudspeaker installations were visible on the North Korean side of the border from both the Odusan Unification Observatory in Paju and from the Key Observatory in […]

• Cargo vessel becomes stranded off North Korea’s coast, possibly to be scrapped (2026-11-04 08:05)

A cargo vessel appeared to become stranded off North Korea’s eastern coast last month, satellite imagery shows, in what one expert described as a possible operation to scrap the boat for parts. The ship measuring roughly 100 meters in length appeared outside the Chongjin port between Oct. 16 and 19, Planet Labs satellite imagery shows, […]

• Senior North Korean party official visits China on heels of Kim Jong Un trip (2026-11-04 07:24)

A top North Korean party official overseeing foreign affairs arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, 10 days after accompanying leader Kim Jong Un on a visit to the Chinese border city of Dandong. Kim Song Nam, the director of the Workers’ Party of Korea (WPK) International Department, arrived for “an official visit” upon an invitation from […]

• Hyunseung Lee on Kim Jong Un death rumors and North Korea’s succession (2026-11-04 02:50)

North Korean escapee and Global Peace Foundation lead strategist Hyunseung Lee joins the podcast to discuss his recent article examining what the first seven days after Kim Jong Un’s death might look like, following the spread of false rumors about the North Korean leader’s condition. Drawing on his experiences living through the deaths of Kim […]

• North Korea’s Kim Yo Jong says talks with US are possible but not a necessity (2026-11-04 02:12)

The North Korean leader’s sister Kim Yo Jong said Wednesday that Pyongyang is open to talks with the U.S. but does not consider them necessary for its “national interests,” again rejecting Washington’s accusation that the DPRK stole a record $6.36 billion from the crypto exchange

Binance. In a statement carried by the Korean Central News [⋯]

• North Korea fires ‘several missiles’ east into the sea: South Korean military (2026-11-04 01:13)

North Korea fired “several missiles” toward the East Sea (Sea of Japan) on Wednesday, according to South Korea’s military. The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) initially reported its detection of an “unidentified projectile” at 9:52 a.m. KST, while Japanese authorities made no announcements about the launch. In a second update at 11:49 a.m. KST, the [⋯]

Source: NK Pro

• North Korea builds new homes for flood victims but hides news of suffering (2026-11-11 02:08)

North Korea has completed building new homes for victims of major recent flooding in two locations, but authorities have hidden news of the devastation while boasting about the construction, according to NK Pro analysis. Planet Labs satellite imagery shows new homes have been built in Rason in the northeast of the country since flooding at [⋯] The post North Korea builds new homes for flood victims but hides news of suffering appeared first on NK PRO.

• Surge in North Korean delegations visiting China puts commercial ties in focus (2026-11-10 07:14)

At least 10 North Korean delegations have visited China to tour companies and attend technical training courses since mid-September, an NK Pro investigation has found, a surge of activity that suggests Pyongyang is welcoming Beijing’s help to achieve economic goals under its new five-year plan. Across these visits, North Korean agricultural researchers studied fruit preservation [⋯] The post Surge in North Korean delegations visiting China puts commercial ties in focus appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korean parliamentary changes hints at a secret minor party meeting (2026-11-09 23:30)

The Standing Committee of North Korea’s parliament announced the removal of a vice-chair last week, hinting at changes to one of the country’s two minor political parties. State media reported on Friday that the Standing Committee met the previous day and that one of its two vice-chairs had been removed. While it did not identify [⋯] The post North Korean parliamentary changes hints at a secret minor party meeting appeared first on NK PRO.

• Far from home: The hidden hardships of North Korea’s overseas IT workers (2026-11-09 06:34)

Editor’s note: This is Part 2 of a two-part series exploring North Korea’s IT worker program through the experiences of former IT workers. For Part 1, click here. For young North Koreans

with technical skills, overseas information technology (IT) work offers something few careers in the cash-strapped country can: the prospect of earning money, seeing [⋯] The post Far from home: The hidden hardships of North Korea’s overseas IT workers appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korea remains silent for domestic audience on flurry of weapons tests (2026-11-06 06:43)

North Korea’s missile tests and Kim Yo Jong’s multiple statements this week went unreported in domestic-facing news outlets — the silence suggests Pyongyang is aiming its military portrait outward while showing its own citizens a calmer picture focused on their livelihoods. State media highlighted troubles in capitalist countries while portraying friendly countries, such as China [⋯] The post North Korea remains silent for domestic audience on flurry of weapons tests appeared first on NK PRO.

• North Korea expands warship construction project to third shipyard (2026-11-06 06:40)

A third North Korean shipyard has joined efforts to build a large new class of warships, according to NK Pro analysis of satellite imagery, under leader Kim Jong Un’s shift to focus on ships bigger than the two 5,000-ton destroyers completed this year. Planet Labs imagery shows that the Chongjin Shipyard on the northeast coast [⋯] The post North Korea expands warship construction project to third shipyard appeared first on NK PRO.

• Uptick in North Korean ships at Russian port suggests coal smuggling scheme (2026-11-05 06:14)

Multiple North Korean cargo ships have mysteriously sailed near a coal terminal in the Russian Far East over the past month, an NK Pro investigation has found, likely pointing to an illicit operation to conceal coal exports or other shipments. At least 13 DPRK-flagged vessels — including several subject to sanctions — broadcast their location [⋯] The post Uptick in North Korean ships at Russian port suggests coal smuggling scheme appeared first on NK PRO.

• What the Democratic landslide in the US midterms means for Kim Jong Un (2026-11-05 05:51)

On the surface, the Democratic Party’s landslide victory in the U.S. midterm elections appears to limit the chances for a revival of diplomacy between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. A Democratic-controlled Senate makes ratification of a formal peace treaty highly unlikely for one, and Trump cannot unilaterally repeal statutory sanctions [⋯] The post What the Democratic landslide in the US midterms means for Kim Jong Un appeared first on NK PRO.