# Russian President Putin to Visit North Korea amid Growing Military Cooperation



Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to visit North Korea on a two-day trip starting Tuesday, marking his first visit to the country in 24 years. This trip, which follows North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's recent visit to Russia in September 2023, aims to bolster military and economic ties amid Russia's continued conflict in Ukraine.

North Korea has reportedly supplied Russia with millions of artillery shells and other conventional weapons since September 2022. U.S. officials noted that between September 2022 and March 2024, North Korea shipped an estimated 10,000 containers filled with military equipment to Russia, including artillery shells and ballistic missiles like the Hwasong-11A.

The meeting between Putin and Kim Jong-un is expected to discuss further military cooperation and may result in a new partnership agreement. This development has been met with concern from South Korea and the United States, with calls to avoid actions that breach U.N. resolutions.

Russia's increasing reliance on North Korea for military supplies comes as it faces international isolation due to its invasion of Ukraine. Washington accuses Pyongyang of providing significant support to Russia's war efforts, though North Korea has denied these allegations.

South Korea’s authorities have expressed concern, cautioning against military deals that may violate international sanctions. Despite this, Moscow asserts that it will nurture its relationship with North Korea independently of external pressures.