

# **2024:**

## **A Year of Transformations and Leaps Forward**

- **Road to Making Leaps Forward Indicated**
- **Noteworthy Political Events**
- **Demonstration of Development Potentials**
- **Towards Advanced Civilization**
- **Overwhelming Deterrent**
- **External Relations Greet a New Era**

**Foreign Languages Publishing House**

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**2025**

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## Preface

In the year 2024, the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, bravely overcoming manifold challenges and difficulties under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea, achieved remarkable successes in the political, military, economic, cultural and all other fields.

A gigantic struggle for achieving the great cause of regional transformation started, the overall national economy maintained the trend of steady growth, and moving into new houses was witnessed in different parts of the country all year round.

Rimhung Street of a peculiar style was built in the Hwasong area in the capital city of Pyongyang, and the areas hit by natural disasters turned into "cultured country towns" with new houses and strong embankments.

Successes were achieved in the sector of national defence with the further development of the country's military forces capable of overwhelming the hostile forces. This made it possible for the country to check and frustrate in advance the provocative moves of the United States and its vassal forces for a war.

The summit meeting between the DPRK and the Russian Federation in June 2024 developed the good-neighbourly relations between the two countries with long-standing historical traditions into strategic partnership, into invincible relations of allies.

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The DPRK had presented entities of transformation every year, but 2024 was a year when it switched over from making transformations to making leaps forward.

All the successes are a brilliant fruition of the devoted efforts of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un, who regards the heavy tasks he has shouldered by himself for the people's wellbeing as something glorious and orients all the affairs of the state to achieving their wellbeing.

This book introduces the steady efforts the Korean people made in 2024 to accelerate the comprehensive development of socialism.

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# 1. Road to Making Leaps Forward Indicated

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In 2024 a new line was set forth to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and rapid development of the country, opening a wide road to comprehensive national prosperity.

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## For Substantial Transformation

In late December 2023, when the Korean people's patriotic enthusiasm and aspiration for a leap forward towards a fresh victory was soaring, the enlarged meeting of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was convened to decide the orientation and policies for the development of the work of the WPK and the state in 2024.

Kim Jong Un made the concluding speech on the first agenda item, titled, *On the Struggle Orientation for 2024*.

In the speech he said:

On the basis of the successes and experience of the past three years, we should make the remaining two years an effective process of preparing for a new development of the next stage, while steadily concluding the implementation of the decisions of the Eighth Party Congress sincerely.

In particular, we should direct main efforts into solving the problems that are incomplete or a stumbling block in implementing the decisions of the Party Congress from next year so as to further expand the successes achieved till now and prove their worth, and turn all the planned tasks into brilliant fruitions.

The year 2024 is a decisive year of confirming the victory in attaining the fighting goals set by the Eighth Party Congress by heightening the offensive spirit on all fronts of socialist construction.

In other words, by the end of 2024, every sector and unit should secure an obvious practical guarantee for the fulfillment of the five-year plan.

Noting that the primary problem is to strengthen the administrative and economic work system and order of the state, Kim Jong Un specified the principled issues and practical ways for the Cabinet to enliven the lifeline of the national economy and propel the purposeful economic development in line with its duty as the overall state management institution endowed by the Constitution.

He stressed the need for all sectors of the national economy to put spurs to the growth of production, finish the work for readjustment and reinforcement and concentrate efforts on 12 major goals by setting them in front in the new year, too. He set forth the important tasks to be fulfilled in the key industrial sectors including metal, chemical, electric-power, coal-mining and machine-building industries and rail transport.

He referred to all the tasks for more dynamically promoting the construction of the capital city and the rural housing construction, an important task started under the historic decisions made at the Eighth Party Central Committee, and to the practical issues for realizing the grand long-term construction plan envisaged by the Party Central Committee.

He advanced the specific tasks and ways for steadily increasing the agricultural productivity, including the work of definitely setting the strategy and the step-wise goals for the development of farm machines on the basis of survey and evaluation of the country's

overall agricultural infrastructure and agro-technical capability, and strongly promoting the work of completing the country's irrigation system and the work of vigorously hastening the reclamation of tideland without letup.

He set forth important goals and ways for accelerating the social progress and the overall prosperity of the state with the steady development of the sci-tech capability and practical vitality of attaching importance to science and technology, including the establishment of a system for purposefully setting up the pivotal and magnetic up-to-date sci-tech development plan and concentrating scientific research forces on implementing it and the integrated control over the country's development of science and technology.

He called for developing the contents and methods of education in a more concrete, diverse and practical way including introducing the research-type teaching methods and research-type study methods into specialized subjects and in pedagogically ensuring the implementation of the Party's policies and thus making the year 2024 a year of greater changes in putting the country on the list of advanced states in education.

On January 15, 2024, the Tenth Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held.

Kim Jong Un made a policy speech *On the Immediate Tasks for the Prosperity and Development of Our Republic and the Promotion of the Wellbeing of Our People*.

In the speech he stressed the need to ensure the continuing trend of growth of the national economy to definitely put the overall

economy on the track of stable and sustained development.

He advanced tasks for attaching importance to the key industrial sectors and further consolidating their self-supporting character and modernizing them to bring about a rapid upswing in the overall economy; for keeping up the surge in construction; for improving the role of railways; and for steadily promoting the execution of the immediate and long-term plans in the IT, land administration and urban management sectors to ceaselessly improve the conditions and environment for state administration, economic growth and people's cultured living as required by the comprehensive development of socialism.

He also set forth the ways of solving the crucial problems for economic growth, like thoroughly ensuring uniformity in the guidance and management of the economy, establishing rigid discipline and order whereby all sectors obey the decisions and directives of the Cabinet without any conditions attached, correctly predicting the important factors of economic development such as economic infrastructure, population and manpower management and taking necessary measures, and establishing a system for developing the work of the state economic organs in a far-sighted way so as to promote the stable and sustainable development of the overall national economy.

He mentioned that the supreme task, to which the DPRK government should attach utmost importance and pay great efforts, was to stabilize and improve the people's living as early as possible.

He continued:

To this end, the Party should keep hold on the construction of modern regional-industry factories in 20 counties every year as an unerring policy-oriented task, carry it out successfully on such a level as Kimhwa County and thus raise to a higher level the basic material and cultural living standards of the people in all cities and counties, in another word, across the country within ten years. This is the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

The present reality, in which every field of socialist construction is aspiring to comprehensive development, requires the might of science and technology and vehement activities of talents as never before. Proceeding from this, it is necessary to properly establish the policy-oriented standards in adopting the state strategy for the development of science and technology and setting the important tasks and research goals of the state, correctly determine the order of priority for investment and make the most rational and effective use of the existing scientific and technological forces for the development of the economy and the improvement of the people's living standards.

The educational sector should conduct the work for raising the quality of primary, secondary and higher education to a higher level in a planned and long-term way as required by the Party's educational policy, step up the on-going construction of the general educational equipment and materials factory to increase the capacities for supplying teaching tools and equipment for experiment and practice and decisively reduce the differences between urban and rural educational levels. The public health sector should raise the quality

of medical services, improve its material and technical foundations and carry out without any deviation the medical care services based on health insurance foundation.

We should cherish the firm belief that military strength means the security, dignity and prestige of the state and the people, and keep a sharp watch on even the enemy's slight military moves, and maintain sure and full preparedness to thoroughly and mercilessly control and frustrate their provocative acts of any type through overwhelming counteraction.

Pointing out that the KPA's preparations for war are unthinkable without modernization of its military hardware, he set forth the strategic tasks to be maintained and carried out by the munitions industry in its responsible struggle for bolstering up the DPRK's nuclear war deterrent and augmenting its defence capability that year as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution.

He reaffirmed that the strongest absolute strength the country was cultivating was not a means of preemptive strike for realizing unilateral "reunification by force of arms" but the capabilities for legitimate self-defence pertaining to its right to self-defence, which should be bolstered up definitely and without fail to defend itself.

The struggle orientation for 2024 Kim Jong Un set forth at the enlarged meeting of the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK and the policy speech he delivered at the Tenth Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK served as a programme for bringing about substantial

changes in the Korean people's struggle for building theirs into a powerful socialist country.

### **Epochal Landmark**

With an aim to coordinate and broaden in scope the short-, intermediate- and long-term plans for national rejuvenation and to promote their perfect implementation in a far-sighted way, the WPK convened the Enlarged Meeting of the Tenth Plenary Meeting of its Eighth Central Committee in June 2024.

A report was made on the interim review of the implementation of the major Party and state policies for 2024 and measures.

The report referred to the remarkable successes made by the WPK and the Korean people in the first half of the year by waging a courageous struggle for translating into brilliant reality the major policy-oriented tasks of the Party and the state despite the extremely acute internal and external environment of the country.

Kim Jong Un made a concluding speech.

In the concluding speech, he referred to the successes achieved in the course of attaining the struggle goals decided at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK and their factors and significance, and continued:

What I have been clearly convinced of in the course of our struggle that has been carried on while overcoming many challenges and obstacles is the fact that the whole motive and accelerating force

of the advance towards the comprehensive development of socialist construction is further increasing and growing.

Early this year, our Party approved the great plan for regional development that is unprecedented since the founding of the country and entered a stage of its full-scale implementation. The metallurgical, chemical, power and other major industrial sectors have carried out their monthly and quarterly plans without big deviations, and the agricultural, construction and several other sectors have achieved successes as well.

On the basis of a scientific and detailed analysis of the present economic work, he indicated the clear practical ways for the Cabinet to organize and direct the economy as a whole in a responsible manner and conduct the work of developing the country's economy in a long-term, foresighted and methodological way.

Noting that the key industrial sectors should play a leading role in high spirits in achieving significant innovative successes in 2024, he indicated the tasks for the sectors of railway and construction.

He presented the immediate tasks facing the sectors of land and environment protection, urban management and disaster prevention including the protection of the marine ecology of the country, improvement of the landscape of the capital city and establishment of a well-regulated system for materials storage and supply necessary for disaster recovery.

He specified the most important and key issues in the year's farming and the ways to ensure the stability of agricultural production.

Stressing the need to direct the Party's and state's efforts to dynamically organizing and conducting the work for developing the regional economy, he clarified detailed and scientific practical measures to be taken in selecting cities and counties to be involved in construction the next year, making thorough preparations to this end and revitalizing the regional economy.

He also stressed the need to carry out a project for laying the foundations for developing the country's light industry according to a well-thought-out plan, for the Cabinet and Pyongyang Municipality to unconditionally implement the planned projects for improving the living standards of the citizens of the capital city in the year and for provinces, cities and counties to keep hold on solving difficulties in the living of inhabitants as an important policy-oriented task.

He advanced giving priority to enlisting and increasing the scientific and technological abilities as a primary task for successfully attaining the 12 major targets for developing the national economy and leading the ongoing key projects of national importance to a successful conclusion.

He referred to detailed tasks to be carried out by the field of culture including education, public health, literature and art, mass media and sports and principled issues for their implementation.

He stressed that the functions and role of law should be further enhanced to establish a revolutionary work system and discipline in all fields of state administration and social life and create a favourable environment for development.

He clarified the orientation of the military and political activities of all the armed forces of the DPRK, including the Korean People's Army.

He stressed that in order to bring substantial changes and results, which the people, who had firmly believed in the true intentions of their Party and government as their own and steadily supported all their policies and plans whatever the difficulties and hardships, could feel with pride and pleasure that year, too, the entire Party should wholeheartedly make redoubled efforts to spur the struggle for the second half of the year and make a vigorous advance.

The concluding speech served as a precious action programme and a powerful militant banner as it clarified the clear guidelines and scientific ways for strengthening the leadership abilities and fighting efficiency of the WPK in every way and for accelerating the advance of the revolution with the extraordinary consciousness and perseverance of all Party members and other people in conformity with the requirements of the times, when a crucial turning point had been brought about in the sacred course of development of the DPRK.

In the great stirring period when all the people throughout the country were writing a heroic chapter of the history of the powerful country by dint of patriotism, with which they had achieved single-minded unity with the WPK, a comprehensive analysis of the overall state affairs in the year was made and, on this basis, overall guidelines were solemnly clarified on the occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the DPRK for further enriching

and amplifying the struggle successes.

On September 9, National Day, Kim Jong Un met and congratulated the leading cadres of the Party and the government, and made a speech, titled, *Let Us Make Redoubled Efforts for the Prosperity of Our Great State*.

He made a comprehensive and in-depth analysis and estimation of the situation of the overall state affairs so far in the year, in which the success in attaining the struggle goals set by the historic Eighth Congress of the WPK should be confirmed, and specified the struggle orientation and guidelines to be maintained in the work by the state.

The speech served as a militant banner guaranteeing dynamic leaps forward and a powerful action programme which made it possible to further promote balanced, substantial and simultaneous transformations and development in all sectors of socialist construction by holding fast to the advantages peculiar to the state, correctly exploring all possibilities of development and making redoubled efforts in the historic struggle for building a rich country with a strong army, the noble ideals and sacred cause of the DPRK.

## 2. Noteworthy Political Events

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The year 2024 witnessed the building of a base for training the hardcore members of the WPK, who would carry forward its original ideals and spirit, and celebrations of the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the WPK, 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of national liberation and 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, in which the Korean people demonstrated their will to accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country and add lustre to the history of war victory generation after generation, true to the intentions of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

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## Strategic Stronghold for the Consolidation of the WPK Built

On the initiative of Kim Jong Un, the Central Cadres Training School of the Workers' Party of Korea was newly built in the historic Kumsusan area in 2024 as a strategic stronghold of the Korean revolution, which would provide a sure guarantee for carrying forward the WPK's original ideals and achieving the victory of its cause.

A base, symbolic of the absolute authority of the WPK and the invincibility of its cause, the school was inaugurated on May 21.

The school was built in a little more than a year as a model structure in the Juche-oriented educational sector thanks to the vigorous efforts of the builders.

Covering a total floor space of over 133 000m<sup>2</sup> on a prime site, the school boasts about an advanced teaching system and a high level of teaching conditions and environment with different sections designed in a modern and practical fashion as suited to their respective missions and functions.

At the inauguration ceremony Kim Jong Un made a speech, titled, *Train Cadres of the Party in the New Era Who Are Faithful to Its Original Ideals and Spirit*.

The inauguration of the school was inscribed in the history of the country as a new step towards rejuvenation for the eternal

development of the WPK.

On June 1 the school was opened with due ceremony in celebration of the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment.

In the speech made at the ceremony Kim Jong Un said:

The new era of building the WPK, the golden age of strengthening the Party, is beginning here today. The demand for talented Party officials who can become pillars in building a powerful, civilized and advanced state by fully understanding and applying the ideas and lines of the Party Central Committee is pressing.

Talented Party cadres capable of leading development in all fields of politics, the military, the economy and culture, and in all regions, constitute the ruling Party's most valuable and decisive resource, and their role grows more important the further the revolution and construction advance.

Considering that the main feature of this school is to train Party cadres who will build up a people's state that can exalt its brilliance worldwide, the school's mission is more honourable, and you will feel the sense of responsibility weighing more heavily on your shoulders. What I expect from the teachers and officials of the Central Cadres Training School is that they train all their students to be talented cadres capable of leading the whole Party, and talented officials capable of leading every field of the state and society vigorously along the path of progressive and civilized development.

I believe that as honourable students of the Republic's supreme political institution, you will make good on the admirable pledges



Central Cadres Training School of the Workers' Party of Korea

you have made today and become strong pillars of the country true to the expectations of the Party and the people.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Jong Un conferred the flag of the Workers' Party of Korea on the Central Cadres Training School with the firm belief that it

would stand in the vanguard of the sacred cause of guaranteeing and realizing the glorious inheritance of the WPK.

On October 10, 2024, in *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the WPK, Kim Jong Un made public a discourse, titled, *Officials Should Be Communist Revolutionaries for Whom the Party's Original Ideals and Spirit Are Their Mental Attributes*.

In the discourse he stressed that all officials should embody the WPK's original ideals and spirit, and should remain faithful to their responsibilities and duties as the leading personnel of the revolution in the ongoing drive to open up a golden age of strengthening the WPK and achieving national prosperity, and indicated why they should be such revolutionaries and how.

As a great programme indicating the direction for the effort to strengthen the WPK and usher in a new era of national prosperity, this discourse gives answers to all the theoretical and practical problems that arise in training officials, the hardcore members of the WPK, into communist revolutionaries for whom the WPK's original ideals and spirit are their mental attributes.

Indeed, the year 2024 was a milestone in strengthening the WPK.

### **Politico-ideological Might Increased**

2024 also witnessed a variety of political events that were of significance in demonstrating and increasing the DPRK's politico-ideological might.

Among them were those held to mark the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, which served as a key political occasion for displaying the people's determination to carry forward the tradition of war victory generation after generation.

On July 26, Kim Jong Un visited the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery with the war veterans and, recollecting with deep emotion the heroic spirit and noble self-sacrifice of the victorious wartime generation, who had devoted their youth and lives for their motherland, he laid a flower at the cemetery and paid a high tribute to the memory of the martyrs.

On the afternoon of that day Kim Jong Un visited the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt Taesong, laid a flower at the wreath-laying stand of the cemetery, and paid a silent tribute to the memory of the revolutionary martyrs who had devoted their precious lives to the sacred cause of achieving and defending the independence and sovereignty of the country,

praying for the immortality of the soul and spirit of the martyrs who had provided the precious ideological and spiritual heritage for the state and people and created the immortal revolutionary traditions.

That day Kim Jong Un visited the Friendship Tower and paid a high tribute to the memory of the martyrs of the Chinese People's Volunteers who had helped at the cost of their blood the Korean people in the revolutionary war for repulsing death-defyingly the brigandish armed invasion of the US imperialists.

On July 27 there was a meeting with the war veterans in the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, and in the evening, a ceremony of commemorative march of columns symbolic of the army units in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War was held at the plaza of the stadium.

Kim Jong Un attended both events.

When the bugle call was sounded signalling the start of the above-mentioned ceremony, the combined military band showed a ceremony with light melody, powerful rhythm and characteristic skills.

The columns, symbolic of the army units in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War, began a commemorative march courteously holding the portrait of President Kim Il Sung, an invincible and iron-willed brilliant commander who changed the "ever-victorious" tradition of the arrogant US imperialists into the one of disgrace and defeat and put the proud name and flag of the DPRK on the height of a powerful country by leading the



Ceremony of commemorative march of columns symbolic of the army units in the period of the Fatherland Liberation War



newly-built DPRK.

The column, symbolic of the Bodyguard Company which was a bullet-proof wall in defending the Supreme Headquarters during the war, marched in the van. And the column of the first Guards unit of the country's revolutionary armed forces and the columns symbolic of legendary Guards divisions entered the plaza one after another, flying the colours associated with their immortal feats.

Then the columns of the three services of the heroic Korean People's Army, the defenders of the DPRK's government, that reliably defend the territory, waters and airspace of the country, entered the plaza in fine array, demonstrating their mightiness, modernity and bravery.

At the end of the march, an air squadron of the KPA Air Force flew in the sky above the plaza in a fan-shaped formation, adding to the joy of the war victory day, and fireworks were set off in the nocturnal sky of July.

That night an artistic performance was given in front of the Monument to the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War.

Starting with narration and song *Tell, Fireworks Display for the War Victory*, the performers staged wartime songs, hymns to war victory and songs of faith that resounded in the years of succession.

The numbers evoked memory of the all-people patriotic resistance that defended the dignity and sovereignty of the country and toughly frustrated the outbreak of a new world war.

The performance reached the climax with the songs *Tell, Fireworks Display for the War Victory* and *July 27, Our Victory Day*.

The wonderful fireworks gorgeously illuminated the indestructible sculpture *Victory* and the sculptures of heroic soldiers, representing the people's respect for the victorious



Performance in celebration of the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War

wartime generation who created the legend of the most just strength by dint of great faith and unity in the most fateful years of the Korean revolution.

All these events showcased the people's determination to carry forward the tradition of war victory and add glory to Kim Jong Un's era and achieve national prosperity.

## 3. Demonstration of Development Potentials

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The year 2024 witnessed a demonstration of the development potentials unique to the DPRK.

It was characterized by a large number of creations emerging one after another, which showcased the advent of a new golden age of socialist construction, an era of comprehensive development in which the capital and regions develop and prosper in parallel, and the major transformations heralding comprehensive prosperity.

The economy grew at a remarkable speed and a new history of regional rejuvenation began, a source of great pride for the people.

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## A Definite Upturn

In 2024 the overall national economy definitely maintained the trend of growth, achieving substantial successes in the fields directly related with the promotion of the people's wellbeing.

The 12 national economic development goals were all attained with 127% of rolled steel, 106% of nonferrous metals, 103% of nitrogen fertilizer, 101% of electric power, 110% of coal, 101% of cement, 104% of timber, 101% of marine products, 108% of rail freight transport, 101% of cloth and 107% of cereals, in addition to the construction of new houses.

The second-stage renovation of the Kumsong Tractor Factory, installation of an energy-saving oxygen blast furnace at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and other projects for readjusting and reinforcing the production lines were pushed forward successfully.

The agricultural sector reaped a bumper harvest again by proactively introducing scientific farming methods, and further consolidated the material foundations of farming by rounding off the second-stage project of construction and restoration of irrigation facilities by April.

An exhibition of farm machines was held in January 2024 at the Three-Revolution Exhibition House in Pyongyang. Displayed at the exhibition were hundreds of kinds of efficient and high-performance

farm machines that suit the countryside's specific conditions and the trend of development of the technology for building farm machines.

On March 15, the inauguration ceremony of the Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm was held.

Advanced technical devices were installed in various types of the greenhouses, whose production lines are highly intensive, optimized and intelligent.

Built in the Kangdong area, a suburb of Pyongyang, in about a year, the farm has highly profitable modern glass hydroponic greenhouses, whose area is several times greater than that of the already-built Jungphyong or Ryonpho greenhouse farms.

It also has introduced ten-odd new and advanced technologies.

The farm is composed of greenhouse with cylindrical vegetable cultivation devices, which is called artificial light plant factory, domed glass hydroponic greenhouse, and five other types of greenhouses. Its production is digitalized; the change in environment is actively recognized to decide the optimal environment management method and crop-nutrition management method by greenhouse. These methods are directly sent to scores of branch control stations that operate the control system of every greenhouse.

On March 27, the inauguration ceremony of houses for the employees of the greenhouse farm was held.

The magnificent country town, where low- and multi-storey and terraced houses of diverse styles, schools, a hall of culture, neighbourhood-serving amenities and parks are beautifully arranged



Kangdong Combined Greenhouse Farm

to suit the large group of greenhouses and in good harmony with the natural undulation to give a three-dimensional effect, is another model entity born of the efforts to create rural civilization.

According to the national measures adopted to provide all the students across the country with quality uniforms and school things at state expense, factories specializing in the production of uniforms and shoes for students went up one after another in provinces. And, as part of a measure to improve the living standards of the people and the quality of consumer goods, trade fairs were held on several occasions.

In the textile sector more than one thousand workers fulfilled

their yearly, two-year and even three-year production quotas.

In the Hwasong area in the capital city of Pyongyang, another architectural group of 10 000 flats, more refined and beautiful, was inaugurated, the yearly-plan of building houses in the Komdok area was rounded off, and many houses were built in the countryside. The gigantic projects of repairing flood damage in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces were implemented, presenting a new appearance of “country towns” and opening a new phase of regional construction. All these were a demonstration of the country’s inexhaustible strength of self-sustenance and self-determination.

The scientific and technological sector carried out its core, major tasks, and made a big stride in solving the sci-tech problems related with improving the people’s living standards.

Light industry, agriculture and other sectors of the national economy showed a trend of growth.

The sectors of education, public health, art and literature made proactive efforts to renovate themselves.

The young women soccer players won the Asian Cup and the 2024 FIFA U-20 and U-17 women’s world cups, and other sportspeople won the Asian and world championships in weightlifting, table tennis, boxing, Taekwon-Do and other events.

These successes encouraged the Korean people to accelerate the comprehensive development of socialist construction in a prospective and development-oriented way with clear-cut objectives.

## **Moving into New Houses All Year Round**

In the year 2024, too, moving into new houses took place across the country all year round, ranging from the capital city to a remote mountain village in the northern tip of the country.

On February 23, the groundbreaking ceremony of the third-stage 10 000-flat construction in the Hwasong area was held. It was the fourth of its kind as part of the mammoth construction projects of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang, which began in 2021.

Every year 10 000 flats have been built in the capital city of Pyongyang without fail; every February has witnessed the ceremony for the start of grand construction project in the year, and every April the capital citizens have moved into new houses. This has become part of life and emotion peculiar to the state.

Kim Jong Un attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area, and pressed the detonator to declare the start of the project.

And on April 16, the inauguration ceremony of Rimhung Street in the Hwasong area was held, recording a page in the history of capital city construction.

Found in the newly-built Rimhung Street, covering an area of over 80 hectares, are 10 000 flats of various shapes that go well with the public buildings including neighbourhood-serving amenities.

The apartment blocks, which vividly sustain the Juche-



Rimhung Street

oriented, national, modern and artistic characters, look weighty as they were built to be different from the features of the houses on Hwasong Street.

An artistic performance was given to celebrate the inauguration of 10 000 flats at the second stage in the Hwasong area.

New songs were staged at the performance, plucking the heartstrings of the audience.

*Dear Father*, in particular, revved up the festive mood with its melodies as it sings of the people's infinite dignity of and pride in having Kim Jong Un as their leader.

The song later became a masterpiece of the times, causing a great sensation at home and abroad.

Fireworks were set off again decorating the nocturnal view of the new street amid the playing of the song *Don't Advance, Night of Pyongyang*.

Kim Jong Un wished happiness to all the families who received new flats on the street in auspicious April.

On May 14, the inauguration ceremony of Jonwi Street in the Sopho area of Pyongyang was held. Apartment houses of various styles with thousands of flats, including an 80-storey one, and public buildings present a magnificent view.

Young people built the street in a year by their own efforts. In order to hand down their exploits the street was named *Jonwi* (Vanguard).

Kim Jong Un met the young innovators who had performed labour feats in the construction of the street, and highly



Jonwi Street

appreciated them.

An artistic performance was given in celebration of the inauguration of the street.

Ceremonies for moving into new houses were also held in the rural communities throughout the country from the start to the end of the year. New houses numbering well over 41 600 were built in 141 cities and counties until early October 2024. The housing construction in the countryside, which started in 2022, changed the appearance of 1 500 rural communities by November 2024.

In late December over one thousand families moved into new houses in the Komdok area, crowning the year.

*Rodong Sinmun* carried over 100 events of moving into new houses in the countryside held throughout the year—nearly every day between April and June, 14 events in the second half of July and 15 events in ten days of September.

As rural housing construction was conducted full steam, the news about moving into new houses of different forms and shapes became part of everyday life of the people.

Moving into new houses held all year round throughout the country led the people to cherish the conviction that the ideals they were aspiring after would come true soon.



Houses in rural communities that sustain the regional characteristics

## Powerful Promotion of the Regional Development Policy

In January the 19<sup>th</sup> Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held. The meeting discussed and decided on measures to powerfully push forward with a policy, named Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

The policy, aimed at developing all the regions across the country in ten years by building regional-industry factories in 20 cities and counties every year, is believed to effect another gigantic revolution in eliminating the centuries-old backwardness of regions, realizing the long-cherished desire of the regional people and bringing about a turn in the realm of the people's understanding. It is the first of its kind in the history of the country that a revolutionary policy was adopted to achieve comprehensive, balanced and rapid development of the regional industry.

It is easier said than done to promote the new regional development policy in addition to the projects of building tens of thousands of houses every year in the countryside according to the blueprint of the rural revolution programme in the new era.

The WPK and the government, though there were gigantic projects to be done and the conditions were still difficult, set it as the most important of the projects, which could neither be delayed nor shunned, as a political struggle task, which must be fulfilled without

fail, to reduce the gap between the towns and the countryside and between the capital and regional areas in all aspects, and in particular, to accelerate the building of a civilized society where all the regions develop simultaneously, promote the wellbeing of the regional people, protect their rights and interests and improve the regional and rural living environment.

Having concerned himself with how to provide the regional people with sufficient and cultured living conditions, Kim Jong Un, at the First Short Course for Chief Secretaries of City and County Party Committees held in March 2021, unfolded the plan of opening a new era of regional development. After ceaselessly thinking about it on the road of on-site guidance tours, he confirmed the possibility of development of material and cultural life in all cities and counties, and advanced the revolutionary policy of renovating the regional-industry factories.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK held in January 2024 discussed the reasonable and feasible ways and future-oriented methods, like taking Party and state measures for supplying funds, manpower and materials for the building of those factories, properly defining their sizes and production capacities, training in a far-sighted way technicians and skilled workers necessary for their operation and creating their raw-materials bases.

At the meeting Kim Jong Un signed an order of the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK *On Mobilizing Units of the People's Army for the Struggle to Implement the*

*Resolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> Enlarged Meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK on Bringing About a Regional Industrial Revolution*, and handed it over to the chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army.

He then made a concluding speech *On Forcefully Promoting the Implementation of the Party's Regional Development 20×10 Policy*.

The meeting was significant in that it set up a milestone for regional rejuvenation.

On February 28, the groundbreaking ceremony for regional-industry factories in Songchon County was held, signalling the start of the regional industry revolution.

In the speech he delivered at the ceremony Kim Jong Un said that anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life, whether he or she lives in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail, adding with confidence that the success of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy had already been confirmed.

His speech stirred the whole country, and encouraged by the speech, the service personnel launched into building similar factories in 19 other cities and counties as well. In several months there appeared the structures of the regional-industry factories.

In August 2024 Kim Jong Un visited the construction sites of regional-industry factories, saying that public health facilities, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain storage stations should be built

in parallel with those factories.

At a consultative meeting for regional development, he clarified the principles to be maintained in building advanced hospitals, sci-tech dissemination bases and grain storage stations in cities and counties.

In the speech he made on the occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the DPRK, he proposed building sci-tech dissemination bases into comprehensive, multifunctional bases for cultural life.

Under his energetic leadership, a scientific plan and methodology were clarified for the successful implementation of the great cause of transforming all regions of the country into ideal places.

On July 15, 2024, a consultative meeting for regional development was convened in the Phungo-dong area, Sinpho, South Hamgyong Province. The meeting analyzed the economic potential of the cities and counties by the sea and the importance and significance of effective exploitation and use of the marine resources, and set forth practical tasks and ways to this end.

Amid the vigorous struggle for implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, the work for setting an example to be followed by all coastal cities and counties to promote their development in a characteristic way as suited to their specific conditions had been pushed forward, and Sinpho, a typical coastal city with a small area under cultivation compared to its population, had been set as a model and preparations had been made to this end.

Made at the consultative meeting was the report on the economic profits and effectiveness of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm.

The report stressed that the policies consistently maintained by the Party on narrowing the gaps between the urban and rural areas in the economic life can be implemented only when the state provides all the conditions and possibilities for the economic growth in regions in a responsible manner.

The meeting took relevant measures after specifying tasks, including those for the senior city and county officials to comprehensively investigate the natural and geographical features and economic potentials of the regions under their charge and conduct a scrupulous study and organizational work to fully exploit them, perfecting the legal and institutional mechanisms to make the preferential measures for regional economic development prove effective, and directing efforts to training core technicians and skilled workers in all cities and counties.

Through indomitable and strenuous efforts all year round by braving numerous challenges and trials, the Korean people presented proud entities.

The first entity in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy was the regional-industry factories in Songchon County.

On December 20, the inauguration ceremony of these factories was held.

Kim Jong Un attended the ceremony and made a speech.

In the speech he said:

The great decade should see 20 cities and counties undergoing

transformation every year without fail and unconditionally. We should make bigger and more correct strides of advance, attaching greater importance to the lessons and prospects rather than the immediately visible successes.

In the speech he clarified principled issues and important tasks for conducting in a revolutionary way the construction work next year.

On December 28, the inauguration ceremony of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm took place.

In the speech he delivered at the ceremony, Kim Jong Un mentioned the task for building another offshore farm as a model in another area on the basis of the experience gained in the construction of the Sinpho City Offshore Farm, stressing that not only the coastal regions but also other cities and counties should make good preparations for securing the independence and driving force of their regional economic development by exploiting and utilizing their natural resources and favourable economic conditions. He sincerely hoped that the city of Sinpho would thrive in the era of regional transformation and become literally a “rich city” and thus bring happiness to the people in the region.

2024 was a year, when not only the Regional Development 20×10 Policy, aimed at bringing about the simultaneous and balanced development of regions and improvement of the people’s living standards across the country, was declared but also its perfect entities sprang up.



First entities of regional rejuvenation



Sinpho City Offshore Farm

## For the Good of the People

Late in July 2024, when the people across the country were making an all-out effort to adorn the year with historic achievements, there was a heavy downpour of rain in the northern border areas of the country.

In particular, the water level of the Amnok River went far beyond the danger limit in the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County, North Phyongan Province, and five thousand residents in the island areas were locked there, where there was an imminent risk of flooding.

Immediately after the crisis occurred, leading officials of the WPK, government and military were dispatched rapidly to the spots and helicopters of the KPA Air Force and various kinds of lifeboats of the Navy and a maritime guard formation of the Border Guards were promptly committed to the operations for rescuing the residents.



Damage inflicted on the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County

Involved in the rescue operations were ten-odd helicopters, which saved residents from the unfavourable weather conditions and emergency while making more than 20 rounds of consecutive shuttle flights each.

The rescued people were quite surprised to see Kim Jong Un waiting for them at the airport. They had never thought until they were rescued by the soldiers from the crossroads of life and death that he had been at the windy airport for so long.

The WPK and the government took timely measures for minimizing the damage caused by the disaster and removing its aftereffects as soon as possible and for preventing the recurrence of such disaster in the future; leading officials of the central and other agencies at all levels were enlisted rapidly with the main stress put on protecting the people's lives and property; Party and government organs in the relevant regions, paying primary attention to the medical prevention and treatment of the flood victims and provision of their living conditions, supplied them with foods, medicines, daily necessities and other relief goods and consoled them.

In connection with the serious and consecutive damage caused by heavy rains and flooding in some areas of the country, including North Phyongan and Jagang provinces, the 22<sup>nd</sup> emergency enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK was held in an afflicted area in the city of Sinuiju, North Phyongan Province, from July 29 to 30 to take urgent restoration measures.

Prior to the meeting, Kim Jong Un inspected the flooded areas,

together with the premier of the Cabinet and secretaries of the WPK Central Committee.

In the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County alone, being located on the lower reaches of the Amnok River, more than 4 100 houses, nearly 3 000 hectares of land under cultivation, many public buildings and facilities, roads and railways were inundated.

At the above-mentioned meeting a detailed report was made about the flood damage inflicted on the areas and the rest of the country, and the results of the relief efforts and restoration campaigns by the affected areas and different levels of institutions were reviewed, on the basis of an analysis of the successes and shortcomings. Also, major tasks for quickly and forcefully implementing all the measures to remove the damage, as well as the ways for carrying them out, were specified.

Kim Jong Un called on the participants in the meeting including members of the Political Bureau to visit the tents where the flood victims of Uiju County were staying temporarily and thus feel the sense of their heavy responsibility while seeing their living conditions, console and encourage them, make a deep study of detailed measures for restoration, listening to their candid opinions, and submit the measures to the Political Bureau.

The second-day sitting took place on July 30.

The meeting adopted with unanimous approval the decision *On Rapidly Recovering the Flood Damage in North Phyongan and Jagang Provinces*, which additionally reflected the results of study and opinions of the participants.

According to this decision, headquarters for the restoration of damage in North Phyongan and Jagang provinces were organized. Army units and the Paektusan Hero Youth Shock Brigade were dispatched to the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County for the construction of over 4 400 modern houses. And North Phyongan Province took charge of the bank reinforcement project in its island areas in cooperation with the army units.

Army units were sent to the affected areas in Jagang Province, regiments of the WPK members from different provinces to the severely affected cities and counties in North Phyongan and Jagang provinces, and some forces to Ryanggang Province.

Also sent to all the flood-hit areas were the army units at different levels, Party members and young people from different parts of the country and medical workers, as well as large amounts of relief materials and equipment.

On August 8, Kim Jong Un met the residents in Uiju County, who were left homeless by the flood.

On a hillock near a bank of the Amnok River overlooking an inundated island of Uiju County, he learned in detail again about the actual conditions of the flooded area, whose appearance began to surface, and gave advice on the restoration work.

In order to tackle the chronic vulnerability of the area that would turn into a “reservoir” whenever it rained heavily, he ensured that the hydraulic engineering and design sectors took practical measures after making a joint review in a scientific way.

Then, he visited the tents, in which the flood victims were living

temporarily, and consoled them.

He came by his train with the relief materials prepared by the WPK Central Committee for the flood victims of the city of Sinuiju and Uiju County to ensure that they were conveyed to them. He also authorized members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee to convey the relief materials to the flood victims in Jagang and Ryanggang provinces on the spot.

He clarified the stand of the WPK and the government on the restoration campaigns, and made a consolatory speech before the flood victims, saying:

The biggest bottleneck in the flood-stricken areas is the living and teaching for students and other children. So, we are going to put in place an emergency system, whereby during the restoration work the students and all other children of the afflicted families in North Phyongan, Jagang and Ryanggang provinces shall stay in Pyongyang and be provided with a safe and comfortable environment for care and education, entirely at state expense.

At present, many countries and international organizations are expressing their willingness to provide us with humanitarian assistance. But what we put forward first in all domains and processes of the state affairs is the way of addressing problems by relying on the firm trust in the people and entirely on our own efforts. What the WPK Central Committee and the government rely on in the current restoration campaign is also the patriotic enthusiasm and valour of our people and the potentials of our state from A to Z.

As we have always done, we will value our confidence in our own

strength more than anything else, solve all problems by enlisting the strength and wisdom of the people, and continue to steadily expand and increase our state's strength in that way to shape our future with our own strength and efforts in the future, too.

As all the national efforts are concentrated on the restoration project and all the planned work is being smoothly pushed forward under the unified and powerful guidance of our government, we will, by and large, remain consistent in this principle. In order to accomplish the tasks of the times, the historic tasks on which we decided and which we have shouldered by ourselves for our beloved people and our future, the WPK and the government will readily brave any challenges and live up to the people's trust with their faithful service and excellent results.

Soon afterwards, more than 13 000 flood victims were invited to Pyongyang as special guests of the WPK Central Committee, so that they could stay in the April 25 Hostel until the construction of new houses for them was completed.

On August 15, National Liberation Day, they arrived at the April 25 Hostel.

Kim Jong Un visited the lodging quarters to meet the people from different flood-hit areas.

He made a welcome speech, in which he expressed thanks to the flood victims for having trusted and followed the measures taken by the WPK and the government as well as his pleasure over meeting them in Pyongyang.

He continued to say:

It is a great relief to me that a decent hostel can be made available to the elderly, nursing mothers, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and children who have been experiencing hardship in the flood-hit areas along the border and in the northern inland region of the country. The April 25 Hostel and the base for military parade training are fully ready to receive you with all sincerity and provide you with every convenience.

I hope that the elderly, women and all others from the flood-hit areas will enjoy this holiday happily and have an unforgettable and significant time while staying in the capital city of their beloved motherland.

After making the speech, he went to the children's dining hall.

Embracing the children, who unreservedly rushed to him, he wished again that all those flood victims would spend pleasant days in good health, enjoying benefits to their heart's content without any worry during their stay in Pyongyang.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the following day, Kim Jong Un visited the hostel again and acquainted himself with how preparations were being made for the education of students from the flood-hit areas.

As arranged by the WPK Central Committee, temporary classrooms for these students were furnished in the hostel; an itinerant educational group was organized involving teachers from kindergartens, primary and middle schools in Pyongyang; and preparations for a new school term were well underway.

Kim Jong Un saw students in an exemplary lesson organized as part of the preparatory work for a new school term for students from

the flood-hit areas.

He learned in detail about the teaching aids and furnishings, went over the school things, and looked round the temporary classrooms for junior and senior middle school students in the hostel.

That day his presents including uniforms, school things, bags and footwear were conveyed to the students and kindergarteners.

The people including those students and kindergarteners had been rescued from natural disasters only a few days before.

When the natural calamity struck them, they were at a loss for what to do. At this critical juncture, helicopters arrived.

They realized that the rescue operation was in progress, but they did not know that Kim Jong Un was in command.

Kim Jong Un, aboard a rubber boat, made the rounds of the dangerous inundated area for over two hours.

It is a commonplace fact that flooding sweeps away everything and even causes countless deaths. Yet, there were no casualties at all in the above-mentioned area, and some babies were born to add more to the local population.

Since their arrival at Pyongyang all the flood victims—children and other students, elderly and sick persons, honoured disabled ex-soldiers and nursing mothers—received substantial state benefits, enjoying socialist civilization at the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort, Songdowon International Children's Camp and others.

The flood victims stayed in Pyongyang for 130 days.

Meanwhile, the campaign to recover the damage caused by the flooding proceeded not simply as construction projects but as part



Apartment houses rebuilt in the affected areas

of an important undertaking for the implementation of the WPK's far-reaching programme for rural revolution in the new era, and all the affected areas turned into "cultured country towns" free from flooding forever.

## 4. Towards Advanced Civilization

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In 2024, remarkable successes were made also in the cultural sectors including education, science, public health, art and literature, and sports.

Thanks to the policy of attaching importance to education, which the Party and the state pursued while regarding investment in the education sector as that of the highest strategic value, many schools and branch schools in the general education sector were built or modernized throughout the country.

In the scientific and technological sector, the core and key tasks were carried out, and progress was made in solving urgent sci-tech problems arising in ensuring production growth in the national economy and improving the people's living standards.

The sportspeople won the Asian and world championships in several sports events and had their national flag hoisted at international games, greatly encouraging the people.

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## Groundwork for Prosperity

On April 1, 2024, new-term opening ceremonies were held at all the educational institutions of the country amid great concern and expectations of the Party and the state.

The general education sector started education through optional subjects, according to the second-stage programme of the universal 12-year compulsory education, on a trial basis at dozens of schools in the new school year, and more technical senior middle schools and classes opened.

This was part of the work for putting the country on the ranks of advanced states in education, as defined by the tasks set forth at the Ninth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK.

Schools promoted their work of focussing on giving theoretical education and improving the thinking faculty of students, and training all the students to possess versatile knowledge and high cultural attainments on the principle of intensifying general education while giving full play to the abilities of prodigies.

The higher education sector made preparations for and launched the work of pioneering cross-disciplinary and cutting-edge science and improving the postgraduate courses so as to raise their level of education for training higher-grade talents who are capable of developing and updating production lines and technologies.

Substantial changes also took place in strengthening the material and technological bases of the education sector.

Eye-catching successes were made one after another in the nationwide campaign to renovate the educational conditions and environment.

According to statistics, over 340 schools, 780 branch schools and 150 kindergartens were rebuilt or renovated until late November 2024. 2 000 more multifunctional classes were set up than planned, and data communication network was established in 180 branch schools.

All these were a valuable fruition of the high patriotic zeal of all the officials and working people of the country to bring into reality the Party's intentions that everyone should always think and make consistent efforts to develop education and that the climate of giving precedence to education and rendering active support to the sector should be established across the Party, the country and society.

The Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK stipulated it as a consistent policy of the Party and the state to provide all the students across the country with uniforms and other school things at state expense, set forth the task of supplying all of them with quality uniforms and bags of new styles, and took a crucial measure for implementing it.

Since the inauguration of a school uniform factory in North Phyongan Province in June 2023, similar factories were built successively in North Hamgyong, North Hwanghae, Jagang, Ryanggang, South Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces and

Rason and Nampho municipalities in a little over a year.

And schoolchildren's footwear factories have been inaugurated in all provinces since the meeting of the WPK, including those in Kanggye, Phyongsong, Sariwon and Hyesan.

Along with the operation of the nationwide system of producing school uniforms, bags and footwear, an institutional guarantee was provided for implementing the socialist policy of supplying them to all the students whether they live in a city, rural area, mountain village or far-flung island.

These things had been supplied through the commercial network previously, but from 2024 the schools supplied every student with a school uniform with his or her name tag, bag and footwear, all of which were packed for individual student.

Noteworthy is that every school has a fitting room so that the tailors and uniform makers can rectify the mistakes on the spot.

Successes were also made in the sector of science and technology.

Exhibitions of goods and science and technology of various sectors including the Exhibition of Advanced Science and Technology and Products-2024, DPRK-Russia IT Products Exhibition-2024 and national exhibition of sci-tech achievements made by young people demonstrated to the full the country's fast-developing sci-tech power.

On display at the national exhibition of sci-tech achievements made by young people were over 1 700 sci-tech achievements. The exhibition was a venue for the young scientists and technicians, who were making devoted efforts to substantially contribute to

the economic development of the country and improvement of the people's living standards, to broaden their vision.

At the 37<sup>th</sup> National Sci-tech Festival, a new steel-making technology won the first place. It makes it possible to save a large quantity of materials and electricity and produce various steel and alloy steel products.

Displayed at the festival were an apparatus for measuring the intensity of solar radiation and other sci-tech achievements that were conducive to achieving the rejuvenation of the country.

In addition, as part of the work for consolidating the material and technical foundations of public health, the Pyongyang General Hospital entered the stage of final completion, and many standard pharmacies were built nationwide and started their operation.

And masterpieces of the times, including the revolutionary film *72 Hours* and the songs *Dear Father* and *We Are Koreans*, were created in the sector of art and literature, thus further raising the fighting spirit of the people.

### **With Ambitious Goals and Indomitable Spirit**

The sportspeople hoisted the flag of the Republic in several events of international games in 2024, thereby injecting great vigour and courage into their fellow people.

They won over 20 trophies and 360 medals, including over 210

gold medals. Also at national games, they set 40-odd new national records.

The women footballers won the AFC U-20 Women's Asian Cup 2024, AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup 2024, 2024 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup and 2024 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, thus lifting four trophies in total in a year.

They drew attention of many football experts, fans and audiences for their dauntless mental strength and high physical and technical abilities, demonstrating to the full the tremendous potential and development prospect of the DPRK women's football team as a world-class one.

Successes were also made in several events of Asian and world games, such as weightlifting, table tennis, boxing and Taekwon-Do.

Weightlifters won 116 medals, including 79 gold medals at the 2024 IWF World Championships, 2024 IWF World Cup and 2024 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

At present, the country's female weightlifters hold 14 world records registered in the IWF, the top in country and regional rankings, and male weightlifters three world records.

Raving about the successes the Korean players made at the IWF World Championships, where they broke the world records one after another, the world media commented that the DPRK ranks first in the world weightlifting circles.

Kim Kum Yong came first in the women's singles at the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships, beating world-class players, and Ri Jong Sik and Kim Kum Yong came second in the table tennis

mixed doubles at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Games.

The Taekwon-Do players won 15 trophies and over 100 medals including 76 gold medals at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Taekwon-Do Championships.

They again struck the world with admiration by snatching one trophy and 19 medals including 10 gold medals in the adults' event at the World Cup Taekwon-Do Games-2024 in the 9<sup>th</sup> International Martial Arts Games held in Uzbekistan.

And many national games including the DPRK Championships were held, which demonstrated the remarkable progress made in the development of the skills of the individual events and training of the reserve sportspeople.

The sportspeople broke over 40 national records in track and field, weightlifting, shooting and other events.



Women footballers won the 2024 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup and the 2024 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

## 5. Overwhelming Deterrent

In 2024, the DPRK achieved remarkable successes in building up its self-reliant defence capabilities.

In order to cope with the extremely aggravated security environment in the region, the WPK and the government of the DPRK, while maintaining a resolute hard-line stand for response, reliably defended peace and security by building up its overwhelming military capabilities and presented the entities of the new Korean-style strategic deterrent.

Remarkable achievements were made in the national defence sector with successful development of one cutting-edge strategic and tactical weapon system after another.

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of Ultra-modern Weapon Systems

## Powerful Entity for National Defence

In 2024, the armed forces of the Republic achieved a substantial and fundamental improvement in their overwhelming political and military might and combat efficiency so as to cope with any provocative moves of the hostile forces.

In the midst of soaring enthusiasm in the army for opening a new heyday of strengthening the self-reliant defence capabilities, its fighting efficiency and readiness reached a higher level.

First of all, a great change was witnessed in the combat readiness of the artillery forces of the Korean People's Army.

The artillery firing drill of the KPA large combined units, salvo drill of artillery units in the western area and live artillery firing drill of graduates of O Jin U Artillery Academy on the eve of their appointment as active commanding officers, held in March and October respectively, clearly demonstrated the level of quality of the artillery forces.

The evaluation of the firepower strike capability of the artillery units under the KPA large combined units and the sudden manoeuvres and salvos of the KPA sub-units armed with 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rocket launchers, part of a new generation of core striking means of the KPA, reconfirmed the regular combat mobilization posture, which meant that all the artillery sub-units could take the initiative with merciless and

rapid strikes at the moment of their entry into an actual war, and the power and actual war capability of the super-large multiple launch rocket system.

In particular, the simulation of an air explosion, conducted after the salvos by multiple rocket launchers, at a preset altitude of the target fully demonstrated the firm war readiness of the super-large multiple launch rocket system of the Korean style for completely removing the possibility of military conflict and war with overwhelming capability and firmly defending peace, security and sovereignty of the DPRK.

And the live firing drill of the graduates from O Jin U Artillery Academy held with the aim of frustrating and annihilating the enemy through rapid mobile and surprise operations in conformity with the actual conditions in the operations area under the slogan of "hitting the targets without test firing" showed the quality of the artillery education.

The first combined tactical drill simulating nuclear counterattack by the 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rocket launcher sub-units, held in April, was a warning signal to the enemy who was mad about military confrontation, which was being committed with extremely provocative and aggressive nature.

The US and ROK military warmongers staged a "combined joint formation drill" with more than one hundred aircraft of various kinds in the Kunsan Air Base of the ROK from April 12. They incited extreme war fever through one hundred sorties on a daily average, openly talking about an "advance" towards the DPRK after

Combined tactical drill simulating nuclear counterattack by the 600mm-calibre super-large multiple rocket launcher sub-units



completely taking off their mask of “defence” and “deterrence” worn during their previous drills.

Not content with frequently introducing nuclear strategic assets into the surrounding area of the DPRK and staging war drills with its vassal forces, the United States gave publicity that this drill was aimed right at the DPRK. Such military provocations of the United States lasted till the end of April.

On April 18, the US and ROK special units staged a “joint airborne infiltration drill” for the purpose of rapidly infiltrating any region to “remove a target.” Between January and April the United States and its underlings waged more than 140 war games, twice as much as those held in the same period of the previous year.

The security environment of the DPRK was seriously threatened by the hostile forces’ ceaseless military provocations to stifle it by “force.” This reality, which could never be overlooked, urgently required the country to more overwhelmingly and more rapidly bolster up its strongest military muscle capable of actively controlling the situation to ensure the security of the country and peace of the region.

The combined tactical drill simulating a nuclear counterattack was conducted in the form of operating super-large multiple rocket units, which are to play an important role in substantially strengthening the prompt counterattack capability of the nation’s nuclear forces and raising a war deterrent, under the state’s nuclear weapon combined management system *Haekpangasoe* (Nuclear Trigger).

It was conducted, divided into an actual drill for making units versed in the procedure and process of switching over to a nuclear counterattack posture at a time when the system of the state’s greatest nuclear crisis alarm was issued and a drill for operating the nuclear counterattack commanding system. It was also conducted according to the order of making the sub-units assigned to the nuclear counterattack task practise the process and order and of carrying out their tasks and firing shells of super-large multiple rocket launchers tipped with simulated nuclear warheads.

The super-large multiple rocket launchers accurately hit the target islet within 352km range, fully demonstrating their matchless might and perfect actual war posture.

Through the drill, the reliability of the system of command, management, control and operation of the whole nuclear forces was reexamined in a many-sided way, and the action order and combat methods for making the super-large multiple rocket launcher units rapidly switch over to a nuclear counterattack were mastered.

On May 30, the super-large multiple rocket launcher sub-units conducted a power demonstration firing aimed at clearly showing the DPRK’s corresponding will to ensure the sovereignty and security of the state and carry out even a preemptive strike if the enemies attempted to use military forces against the DPRK.

The salvo was carried out by operating the integrated fire-control system, part of the national combined nuclear weapons management system.

The drill was attended by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 331<sup>st</sup> Red Flag

Artillery Regiment under a combined artillery unit of the KPA in charge of the important firing attack task in the western border area. They accurately hit an islet target in 365km range and successfully carried out their power demonstration firing task.

The demonstration firing, held under the situation in which the enemy was desperately conducting political and military manoeuvres to plunder the DPRK of its sovereignty, clearly showed that it is the duty and mission of the armed forces of the DPRK approved by its Constitution to mobilize the military retaliatory forces for safeguarding the sovereignty of the state and the territorial integrity and what consequences the enemy would face if they provoked the country.

The actual drills of the special operations forces held in the year confirmed the high fighting efficiency and quality of the KPA.

The drills of the sub-units of the special operations forces and air-borne soldiers held in major operation training bases of different levels of the KPA in March, September and October fully demonstrated the capability to fight an actual war of the soldiers, who had fostered matchless strength with their unsparing sweat in regular training for strengthening the combat capability, being boundlessly loyal to their noble mission of defending the security of the country and the people.

The drills were aimed at inspecting the readiness to be mobilized for any operations plan in surprise wartime circumstances and judging their real war capabilities adapted to different combat action procedures. Through these drills, it was proved that the KPA,

the main force for national defence in direct charge of fighting a war, was fully prepared for war in all aspects and firmly maintained perfect combat readiness.

In the training match involving large combined tankmen's units of the KPA held in March, the tank crews swiftly negotiated the various worst combat circumstances, hit targets at once with powerful strikes and broke through strong defence lines with high manoeuvrability, thus fully demonstrating the tanks' reliable performance and regular combat readiness.

In the match the new-type main battle tank successfully demonstrated its excellent striking power and manoeuvrability, displaying its amazing combat capability for the first time.

The Fourth Conference of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the KPA held in November served as a significant grand gathering that exposed the threatening character of the anti-DPRK military confrontation hysteria of the United States, ROK and other hostile forces, who aggravated the tension on the Korean peninsula to the worst-ever state, and that set forward for all levels of the DPRK armed forces a militant slogan for concentrating all their efforts on perfecting preparations for a possible war, as required by the revolution and prevailing situation.

On November 15 Kim Jong Un made a speech, titled, *On the Prevailing Situation and the Tasks of the Battalion Commanders and Political Instructors of the Armed Forces of the Republic*.

The KPA exalted its honour in safeguarding the people as well as in national defence in the year.

Training match involving large combined tankmen's units of the KPA



In particular, in late July pilots of a helicopter unit of the KPA Air Force performed extraordinary feats in rescuing the flood victims.

On August 2, Kim Jong Un paid a congratulatory visit to the helicopter unit.

He paid militant tribute to the colours of the KPA Air Force and of the unit and made a rallying speech.

Then he awarded the title of the DPRK Hero, Gold Star Medal and Order of the National Flag 1<sup>st</sup> Class to the commander of the unit, affixed the Order of Freedom and Independence 1<sup>st</sup> Class to the colours of the unit and had a photo taken with the courageous pilots.

The increasing military strength of the KPA, an absolute guarantee for national prosperity, gave all the people self-respect of being a citizen of the powerful country, encouraged them in their struggle for national prosperity, and defended the security of the country by force of arms.

### Successive Development of Ultra-modern Weapon Systems

What was remarkable in the struggle for strengthening the national defence capability was that signal successes were achieved in this field through successive development of ultra-modern strategic and tactical weapon systems.

According to the line of building the strategic forces calling for expanding and strengthening the sphere of operations of the state

nuclear deterrent in a diversified way, test-fires were carried out to accelerate the arming of the Navy with nuclear weapons.

The successes in the test-fire of the newly-developed submarine-launched strategic cruise missile *Pulhwasal-3-31* on January 28 and in the evaluation test-fire of the new-type surface-to-sea missile



Test-fire of the strategic cruise missile *Pulhwasal-3-31*

Evaluation test-fire of the surface-to-sea missile *Padasuri-6*



*Padasuri-6* served as clear signs of the rapid development of the naval forces.

Through the successes in the ground jet test of solid-fuelled engine for new-type intermediate-range hypersonic missile, which made it possible to confirm the timetable for development of the missile system, and in the first test-fire of *Hwasongpho-16 Na*, a new-type intermediate-range solid-fuelled ballistic missile loaded with newly-developed hypersonic gliding warhead, held on March 19 and April 2, respectively, the armed forces could be equipped with solid-fuelled, warhead-controlled and nuclear warhead-carrying tactical, operational and strategic missiles with various ranges.

And successes were made in the test-fire of controllable shells for multiple rocket launcher, test-fire of tactical ballistic missile that employed new guiding technology and performance test of drones.

The successful test-fire of new-type ICBM *Hwasongpho-19*, an ICBM of ultimate version, on October 31, 2024 set an epochal milestone in perpetuating the absolute superiority of the strategic armed forces of the DPRK.

A ceremony for celebrating the transfer of new-type tactical ballistic missile systems to the KPA took place on August 4, 2024.

Kim Jong Un made a speech at the ceremony.

In the speech he referred to the political and military significance of the weapon system, which was presenting a threatening appearance for the first time since the founding of the country and the army. And on the basis of a strict analysis of the dramatic change

of the military security environment surrounding the country and the military confrontation attempts of the United States and the groups of its stooges, which were overstepping the mark in their outrageousness, he set forth the tasks for keeping accelerating the development of the country's armed forces for maintaining their supremacy, and also of the self-reliant defence industry that provided solid support to this end.

He gave written orders in the name of the Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK on equipping the first-line units of the KPA on the frontier with the new-type tactical ballistic missiles to the chief of the KPA General Staff and commanders of the large combined front-line units and personally awarded the colours and certificates of the colours of the new missile units to the commanders, political commissars and chiefs of staff of the relevant units.

The military hardware exhibition *Defence Development-2024*, which was held with splendour in November 2024 in Pyongyang, redoubled the pride of all the people across the country in their own strength and encouraged them in their heroic advance towards comprehensive national rejuvenation.

The exhibition brought together the latest creations by the national defence sci-tech group of the country, mainly the strategic and tactical weapons which had been updated and developed once again in the light of modern and advanced characters and precision and power of strike and drawn the world's attention through continuous development of their new varieties.

Test-fire of intermediate-range solid-fuelled ballistic missile *Hwasongpho-16 Na*



Kim Jong Un attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition and made a speech.

In the speech he said that what made the current exhibition weightier in the practical aspects and more significant in the political and military aspects was that these exhibits were fruition gathered in defence development by exercising our right to self-defence on the principle of countering power with power and head-on contest in 2024, when the hostile attitude of the United States and its allied forces for confrontation and their adventurist military records exceeded the peak year level.

To look back, 2024 was a year when the defence industry of the DPRK, under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, further developed into a strong strategic buttress for firmly keeping the position of the country and when the KPA was strengthened into an elite revolutionary army defending the people most honourably and creditably.

## 6. External Relations Greet a New Era

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In 2024 the DPRK thoroughly maintained its principled foreign policy stand and work orientation while shrewdly and adroitly coping with the harsh regional situation and ever-changing international relations structure, thus definitely occupying the international position as a representative and powerful force of independence, which vigorously leads the building of a just multipolar world.

Its relations with Russia were developed and consolidated as comprehensive strategic partnership, and the traditions of its friendship with China were carried on.

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90 || DPRK-Russia Relations Come  
under the Limelight of the World

99 || Year of DPRK-China Friendship

## **DPRK-Russia Relations Come under the Limelight of the World**

In 2024 the deep-rooted relationship of friendship and cooperation between the DPRK and Russia greeted its new heyday under the close concern of the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un and Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation.

Kim Jong Un paid goodwill visits to the Russian Federation twice and concluded valuable and satisfactory agreements with Putin. This served as a landmark in expanding and developing the bilateral ties on a full scale and in a more vigorous way in line with the requirements of the new era.

The militant bonds between the two countries are deepening with the feeling of comrades-in-arms in the struggle to crush the hostile forces' ever-intensifying threat, blackmail and high-handedness aimed at infringing upon the security and development interests of the two countries, thus demonstrating their invincibility and might with each passing day.

*Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, dated June 18, 2024, carried Putin's talk, titled, *Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Tradition of Friendship and Cooperation Continues Decade after Decade*. This demonstrated how solid the friendship and unity between the

peoples of the two countries is as they advance hand in hand with the certainty of justness and victory of their cause.

In June 2024 Putin paid a state visit to the DPRK at the invitation of Kim Jong Un.

This visit recorded a brilliant page in the history of the DPRK-Russia friendship and unity and injected fresh vitality into the development of the bilateral relations of good-neighbourliness and cooperation.

There was an emotional meeting between Kim Jong Un and Putin.

Kim Jong Un expressed his joy and gladness of meeting him again in Pyongyang over 270 days after the meeting at Vostochny Spaceport in September 2023.

A ceremony for welcoming the president of the Russian Federation was held at Kim Il Sung Square on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

There took place a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA, and jets of the KPA Air Force flew past the sky over the square, giving off tricolour trails symbolic of the national flag of the Russian Federation, while a sea of the people were dancing and waving flowers in the square in welcome of the Russian president.

Putin expressed his heartfelt thanks to Kim Jong Un for paying close concern to his Pyongyang visit and lavishing cordial hospitality on him.

That day Kim Jong Un had talks with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

The top leaders of the two countries candidly discussed the long-

term plans for steadily expanding the practical action measures for comprehensively implementing the agreements reached at the summit in September 2023 and for deepening mutual confidence by further boosting the multi-faceted exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

At the talks, they had a wide-ranging and in-depth exchange of views on the crucial changes recently taking place in the world political arena and on the international and regional issues of mutual concern, and reached a consensus. They also discussed the important issues arising in further improving the strategic cooperation and tactical collaboration to promote the wellbeing of the peoples of the two countries and defend their core interests.

The talks were followed by one-on-one talks between Kim Jong Un and Putin.

At the talks that lasted for at least two hours they discussed the issue of developing the relations between the two countries into comprehensive strategic partnership and expanding them in an all-round way and reached a perfect consensus on it, and came to a satisfactory agreement on the important issues arising in defending regional and global peace and international justice and on the immediate cooperation matters.

An inter-state treaty on establishing comprehensive strategic partnership on the principles of equality, respect for sovereignty, good neighbourliness and mutual benefit was signed between the DPRK and the Russian Federation.

The two top leaders signed *Treaty on Comprehensive Strategic*

*Partnership between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.*

The 23-article treaty stated in its preamble: The two sides are confident that promoting the wellbeing of the peoples of the two countries and developing comprehensive strategic partnership between both sides, proceeding from their common aspirations and desire to preserve the tradition of friendship and cooperation forged between the two countries historically and build future-oriented inter-state relations in the new era, conform to the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries and ensuring peace and regional and global security and stability; they have confirmed that they will remain faithful to the objectives and principles of the UN Charter and the principles and regulations of other recognized international laws; they have confirmed their aspirations to defend international justice against the hegemonistic attempts and moves to enforce a unipolar world order, build a multipolar world based on sincere cooperation among states, respect of mutual interests, collective settlement of international issues, diversity of cultures and civilizations and priority to international law in the international relations, and make a concerted effort in coping with challenges that are likely to threaten the existence of mankind; and they have expressed their aspirations to develop their bilateral relations to the level solid enough to promote regional and global peace and prosperity by consolidating the comradely and friendly relations and expanding cooperation in all fields between both sides.

After the signing of the treaty, the top leaders of the two countries



Ceremony for welcoming the president of the Russian Federation

enjoyed driving along the path in the beautiful garden of the guesthouse, taking in turn the driver's seat of the car presented to Kim Jong Un by Putin as a gift.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK adopted a joint decision on awarding the Order of Kim Il Sung, the highest order of the DPRK, to Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, president of the Russian Federation, who performed great exploits in developing the bilateral relationship of good neighbourliness with long historical traditions into the comprehensive strategic partnership and invincible ties of alliance as required by the new era and opening a new chapter of bilateral friendship.

Kim Jong Un read out the joint decision on awarding the order, and personally awarded the order to Putin.

A grand artistic performance in honour of Putin was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

Kim Jong Un enjoyed the performance together with him.

Put on the stage of the performance, which began with a ceremony of the combined military band, were numbers reflecting the revolutionary mettle, noble patriotic spirits and national emotions of the peoples of the DPRK and Russia, which had been fully displayed in the decades for overcoming all challenges of history and defending justice and truth.

The visit to the DPRK by the Russian president, which

recorded the most brilliant page in the history of the DPRK-Russia friendship and unity, served as an important occasion for providing fresh vitality and great motive power to the progress and development of the two countries advancing towards the goal of building powerful states.

Later, the two countries signed agreements on building a border-crossing road bridge over the Tuman River and on cooperation in the fields of public health, medicine, education and science.

The exchange of high-level delegations including visits to the DPRK by a military delegation led by the minister of Defence of Russia and a government delegation led by the minister of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russia between November and December, visit to the Russian Federation by the minister of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK between October and November, and the effectuation of the treaty on comprehensive partnership between the two countries in December injected fresh vitality into the bilateral ties in the political, economic, military and all other fields.

The world's mass media commented that the treaty might bring about a dramatic change in the strategic balance of forces in Northeast Asia, and that the DPRK-Russia summit would be a factor in changing the political landscape of Northeast Asia and the rest of the world.



Performance for welcoming a military delegation  
of the Russian Federation

## Year of DPRK-China Friendship

The year 2024 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China, and the two countries decided to celebrate the year as a Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

As part of the celebrations, a delegation of the Chinese party and government came to Pyongyang for the opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

Kim Jong Un met the delegation on April 13.

He held a candid discussion with the Chinese delegation on major issues of common concern, including boosting the multi-faceted exchanges and cooperation for developing the friendly and cooperative relations, an asset of the two parties and two countries, into more viable ties, occasioned by the Year of DPRK-China Friendship.

The visit by the Chinese delegation proved to be greatly significant in demonstrating the invincibility of friendship between the two countries and developing the traditional bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation onto a higher level in line with the requirements of the times.

It is the steadfast policy of the WPK and the government of the DPRK to develop the long-standing DPRK-China friendship decade

after decade and century after century.

The Central National Band of China gave a special concert at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre on April 13. It took part in the opening ceremony of the Year of DPRK-China Friendship held in Pyongyang.

The band is a national-level art troupe with a long history, renowned for having a large-scale national orchestra and China's one and only specialized national chorus.

Kim Jong Un saw the performance.

Put on the stage were colourful numbers depicting the struggle and patriotic spirit of the Chinese people who are pushing forward with the building of a modern socialist country with Chinese characteristics and the cause of national prosperity, including national orchestral music *National Traits*, vocal and instrumental music *We Will Never Lose Our Original Intention* and national orchestral music and chorus *My Motherland*. Mesmerizing the audience were original tone colours and playing skills displayed by performers in instrumental music *The Butterfly Lovers* showing the traditional culture of the Chinese nation and *pipha* concerto *Skyrocketing Happiness*. The audience loudly applauded the performers who impressively sang such Korean songs as *I Love Pyongyang* and *Song of Big Hauls in the Sea*. The chorus *DPRK-China Friendship Is Everlasting* beautifully decorated the end of the performance.

A flower basket in the name of Kim Jong Un was conveyed to the performers.

He mounted the stage, met leading artistes, warmly congratulated

all the performers, who sang high praises of the ever-blooming DPRK-China friendship through their characteristic performance, and had a photo taken with them.

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The successes in 2024, which made the Korean people witness the arrival of a new era of prosperity in socialist construction and the important transformations for comprehensive development and prosperity of the capital city and regions developing and prospering simultaneously, constitute an inspiring cornerstone for the new successes they will achieve in the future.

They are determined to take a brisker stride to achieve greater successes with redoubled confidence in and optimism for the invincibility and rosy future of their style of socialism.

The Enlarged Meeting of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee of the WPK, held to discuss and decide on the orientation and policies for the development of the Party and state work for 2025, set it as the general orientation of the work for the year to push forward with the preparations for the next stage of development in a substantial way while successfully completing the five-year plan, and clarified the policy-oriented tasks for its implementation.

The meeting, held in December 2024, served as a significant occasion as it boosted the people's optimism about the prospects

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and potential of their cause vigorously advancing with the most just ideals and lofty ambition and added a great spur to their historic advance for resolutely hastening the era of comprehensive prosperity of their state by dint of the invincible might of self-respect and self-reliance.

## **2024: A Year of Transformations and Leaps Forward**

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