



## UN Sanctions on North Korea

### Why in news?

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The UN Security Council has unanimously approved the U.S.-drafted sanctions on North Korea.

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### What are the sanctions for?

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- \n• The sanctions are in response to the North Korea's two intercontinental ballistic missile tests recently, that appears to have the range to hit major US cities.
- \n• The sanctions prohibit North Korea from buying, selling or transferring coal, iron, iron ore, seafood, lead and lead ore to other countries.
- \n• They also attempt to restrict North Korean labour abroad.
- \n• It is said that if fully implemented, the sanctions would cut North Korea's foreign earnings by \$1 billion.

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### What is North Korea's response?

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- \n• North Korea has firmly made it clear that new United Nations sanctions would not stop it from developing its nuclear arsenal.
- \n• It also rejected calls for negotiations and warned the US of retaliation.

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- North Korea also reiterated that unless the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the U.S. against it are fundamentally eliminated, it would not change its course on nuclear policy.  
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- On the other hand, US has stated that it would consider talks only if Pyongyang halted its ballistic missile programme.  
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- Pyongyang's defiant statement also hit out at Beijing and Moscow, which have also acceded to the sanctions.  
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### **Are sanctions effective?**

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- There are opinions that sanctions are a blunt instrument and can take a long time to have any effect because of ineffective implementation.  
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- This is due to factors like North Korea exploits illicit supply networks, individual states don't implement sanctions fully and private-sector firms can often undermine them.  
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- Even earlier sanctions on North Korea have not fully materialised to choke off all economic activity of the present North Korean regime.  
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- New sanctions are a necessary and potentially useful precondition but this is a kind of a security problem that requires more skilful diplomacy and alliance-building.  
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**Source: The Hindu**

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