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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- 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.
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- The sanctions prohibit North Korea from buying, selling or transferring coal, iron, iron ore, seafood, lead and lead ore to other countries.
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- They also attempt to restrict North Korean labour abroad.
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- 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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- North Korea has firmly made it clear that new United Nations sanctions would not stop it from developing its nuclear arsenal.
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- 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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