



TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(08 January 2025)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **BANGLADESH PLANS TO BUY ABDALI MISSILE FROM PAKISTAN**
- **TWO NEW CATEGORIES OF VISAS LAUNCHED BY INDIA**
- **PACHAYAT'S ROLE IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: LOK SABHA
SPEAKER & PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**
- **MCQs**

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BANGLADESH PLANS TO BUY ABDALI MISSILE FROM PAKISTAN



- **Rising Tensions:** Bangladesh is reportedly considering buying **Abdali Short-Range Ballistic Missiles (SRBMs)** from **Pakistan** due to growing tensions with **India**.
- These missiles, also known as **Hatf-2**, are believed to be intended as a **deterrent** against potential **Indian aggression**.
- **Purpose:** Bangladesh's aim is to strengthen its defense and create a **military balance** with India, especially near their border.

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ABOUT ABDALI MISSILES

- **Range:** The **Abdali SRBMs** have a range of about **400 km**, which can cover parts of **northeastern India**, including major cities.
- **Design:** These missiles are designed for **quick use** in battlefield situations.
- Though their range is relatively short, they can still be dangerous if deployed near the India-Bangladesh border.
- **Developed by Pakistan:** The missiles are made by **Pakistan's Space Research Commission (SUPARCO)** and are already used by the **Pakistani Army**, known as **Hatf-2** within their forces.

SECURITY CONCERNS FOR INDIA

- **Threat to Northeastern India:** Even though the **Abdali missiles** have a short range, they could still be used to target important areas in **northeastern India**, like **Assam** and **Tripura**, which are close to Bangladesh.
- **Psychological Deterrent:** The presence of these missiles in Bangladesh would act as a **psychological threat** to India, signaling Bangladesh's growing military capabilities.

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- **Regional Arms Race:** Experts warn that Bangladesh acquiring these missiles might spark an **arms race in the region, forcing India to strengthen its missile defense systems** and possibly increase offensive capabilities.

IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL SECURITY

- **Shifting Balance:** Bangladesh's acquisition of the **Abdali missiles** could change the **security balance in South Asia, particularly in India's favor.**
- **Although these missiles would not significantly affect Pakistan,** they could **raise tensions with India,** especially if deployed near the border.
- **Strategic Edge:** The missiles give Bangladesh a **tactical advantage,** especially in **quick battlefield reactions,** but their **limited range** means they are primarily useful against **India.**

POLITICAL CONTEXT

- **Deteriorating India-Bangladesh Relations:** Relations between **India** and **Bangladesh** have worsened, especially after the **removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** and the rise of an **interim government** led by **Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus.**

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- **Communal Violence:** India has criticized the **Yunus-led government** for **not addressing communal violence** against **Hindus** in Bangladesh, which has made ties even more strained.
- **India's Military Build-Up:** India has been rapidly expanding its **military infrastructure** near the Bangladesh border, increasing tensions further.

POTENTIAL GLOBAL REACTIONS

- **Pakistan's Motivation:** Pakistan may be **willing to sell these missiles** to **Bangladesh** to **deepen ties** with Dhaka, especially as it looks to **counterbalance India's regional influence**.
- **Global Arms Control:** Although **Bangladesh** and **Pakistan** are not part of the **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**, **selling these missiles** could attract **international attention** and debate about arms control in the region.

IMPACT ON INDIA'S SECURITY STRATEGY

- **Missile Defense:** India is likely to **strengthen its missile defense systems** in the northeastern states if Bangladesh acquires these missiles.
- This could include deploying more advanced technology to prevent potential missile threats.
- **Offensive Capabilities:** India may also increase its own **offensive missile capabilities** to deter any potential threats from Bangladesh.

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TWO NEW CATEGORIES OF VISAS LAUNCHED BY INDIA

Overview:

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has introduced **two special category visas** for international students who wish to pursue higher education in **India**.
- The two new visa types are:
 - **e-student visa**
 - **e-student-x visa**
- Both visa types require students to use the **Study in India (SII)** portal, which streamlines the process for foreign students seeking education in India.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCESS

- **e-student visa:**
 - Available to international students who have been admitted to full-time **undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD**, or other formal programs at **recognized educational institutions** in India.

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- Students must apply through the **SII portal** after receiving an admission offer from one of the portal's partner institutions.
- The visa is valid for up to **five years**, depending on the length of the course, and can be **extended**.
- **e-student-x visa:**
 - Available to the **dependents** (such as family members) of e-student visa holders.
- Both types of visas require students to have an **SII ID**, which verifies their application and allows them to proceed with visa processing.

STUDY IN INDIA PORTAL

- The **SII portal** is a flagship initiative by the **Ministry of Education** to simplify the admission process for international students.
- **Over 600 partner institutions** in India offer more than **8,000 courses** across various fields including:
 - **Engineering, Management, Agriculture, Science, Arts, Humanities, Law, and Paramedical Sciences** (including **Pharmacy and Nursing**).

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- Specialized courses like **Buddhist Studies** and **Yoga** are also available.
- **Steps for Registration:**
 - Students must visit the **SII portal** and click on the “**Register Now**” tab.
 - They need to provide basic information such as **name, country, date of birth, mobile number, and email ID.**
 - After registration, students will receive a **unique SII ID** which is **essential for tracking their admission and visa process.**
 - **Note:** The **SII ID** is mandatory for students to apply for visas, admission, or travel to India. **Without it, students cannot pursue their studies in India.**

VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

- Students must apply for their visa through **indianvisaonline.gov.in** after obtaining an admission offer from a **SII partner institution.**
- The **SII ID** will be used to verify the authenticity of the student's application.
- Students will be able to enter India via any **immigration check post** with a valid e-student visa.

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KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW VISA SYSTEM

- **Streamlined Process:** The SII portal simplifies the entire process, from **admission to visa application**, for international students.
- **Multiple Course Options:** Students can **choose from a wide variety of undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD, and certification courses**, giving them the flexibility to select programs based on their interests.
- **Long-term and Extendable:** The **e-student visa** can be valid for up to **five years**, with the possibility of extension based on course length.
- **Admission & Visa Tracking:** The portal allows students to **track their admission** status and **manage their visa process** through their SII ID.

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PACHAYAT'S ROLE IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: LOK SABHA SPEAKER & PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's Address on Women Empowerment**

- **Key Focus:** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasized that the **inclusion and empowerment of women**, particularly from **rural and tribal communities**, is critical for **socio-economic change** in India.
- **Women in Panchayats:** He also highlighted the significant role of **women leadership** in **panchayat-level representative institutions** in effectively addressing **community issues** such as:
 - **Clean drinking water**
 - **Sanitation**
 - **Education**
- **Entrepreneurial Spirit of Tribal Women:**
 - He praised **tribal women** for their efforts in **self-reliant villages**, contributing to **local production, traditional crafts, and online businesses**.

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- He advocated for **support** to help these **women-led enterprises** expand and reach **global markets**, which would further support **economic growth** and **cultural preservation**.
- **Leadership and Problem-Solving:** He attributed **women's leadership** to their unique **problem-solving skills**, which stem from their personal experiences.
- These skills lead to **more effective** and **inclusive governance**, promoting **socio-economic** development at **both local** and **national** levels.
- **Women's Participation:** He emphasized that **women's participation** at both the **panchayat** and **national parliamentary** levels is **essential for ensuring accountability** and fostering **inclusive development**.
- **Increased Women Representation:** Many **states** have surpassed the **33% reservation** for women in **panchayats**, with some reaching **over 50%** representation, which Birla saw as crucial for **sustainable governance**.
- **Event Participation:** Over **500 tribal women** from **22 states** and **Union Territories** attended the event, showcasing the growing involvement of women in **panchayati raj institutions**.

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

- **Key Message:** President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the **important role** of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in empowering women and fostering **grassroots governance** and **community development**.
- **Fearless Leadership and Conflict Resolution:**
 - She encouraged **women representatives** to discharge their duties **fearlessly** as leaders.
 - **Dispute resolution** at the **panchayat level** was also emphasized. Murmu stressed that resolving conflicts locally would:
 - Save **time** and **resources**.
 - Promote **mutual harmony** and **peace** in the community.
 - Empower women as key **decision-makers**.
- **Panchayati Raj Institutions: Foundation for Governance and Women Empowerment**
 - **Local Governance:** President Murmu called **Panchayati Raj Institutions** the **cornerstone** of India's democracy, giving **local communities** a platform for **self-governance**.

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- **Women's Empowerment:** She said that these institutions have been **crucial in empowering women**, providing them with a **strong voice in local governance**.
- **Statistics of Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions**
 - **Women Elected Representatives:**
 - **14 lakh women** serve as **elected members in Panchayati Raj Institutions** across India, constituting **46%** of the total elected representatives.
 - This figure reflects **increasing** women's participation in **local governance**.
 - **Reservation for Women:**
 - To further strengthen women's participation, most states have increased **reservation limits to 50%**, ensuring that **half of the panchayat positions** are **reserved for women**, promoting **gender equality** in leadership roles.
- **President Murmu's Call for Awareness and Welfare Initiatives**
 - **Promote Welfare Schemes:**
 - Women panchayat representatives were urged to raise awareness about **Central government welfare schemes**, ensuring that eligible people benefit.
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- Ensure that children are **vaccinated on time** and **pregnant women** receive proper **nutrition**.
- Ensure children do not **drop out** of school and continue their studies.
- **Campaigns Against Social Evils:**
 - The President encouraged campaigns against **social evils**, including:
 - **Dowry**
 - **Domestic violence**
 - **Drug addiction**
 - These efforts are vital for creating a **safer and more supportive community**.
- **The 'Panchayat se Parliament' Initiative**
 - **Scheduled Tribe Women Representatives:**
 - President Murmu addressed a group of **Scheduled Tribe women** representatives, who came to **Delhi** under the **Panchayat Se Parliament** initiative.
 - **Objective:** The initiative aims to **connect grassroots women leaders** with the legislative process and **encourage their participation** in **national governance**.
 - The initiative was organized by the **National Commission for Women**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **Lok Sabha Secretariat**.

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- **Panchayati Raj's Role in Empowering Women**

- **Foundation for Local Governance:** Both **President Murmu** and **Speaker Birla** highlighted that **Panchayati Raj Institutions** are essential for maintaining India's **democratic structure**, providing citizens, especially women, with a space to **engage in decision-making** and lead their communities.
- **Empowerment Through Representation:** Women in **panchayats** ensure their **voices are heard**, and their **needs are addressed**, empowering them to become **local leaders**.



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MCQs

1. Consider the following statements wrt Abdali missile and mark the correct one:

1. Abdali missiles are short range ballistic missiles.
2. They are also known as Hatf 2.

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



Ans. (C)

2. Which ministry has launched two new categories of visas for foreign students to study in India?

- (A) Ministry of Education
(B) Ministry of Home Affairs
(C) Ministry of External Affairs
(D) None of the above

Ans. (B)

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3. Consider the following statements and mark how many of them are correct?
1. The e student visa facility is extended to the dependants of the foreign students who will be studying in Indian Universities.
 2. The e student x visa will be available to international students who have been admitted to full-time undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD, or other formal programs at recognized educational institutions in India.
 3. The Study in India portal is managed by Ministry of Education.
- (A) Only 1 statement is correct
(B) Only 2 statements are correct
(C) All the statements are correct
(D) None of the statements are correct

Ans. (A)

4. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:
1. The constitution of India mandates minimum 33% reservation of seats for women in Panchayats.
 2. The Panchayat se Parliament tak initiative aims to connect grassroot women leaders with the legislative processes.
- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Both 1 & 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

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