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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

19/1A Shakti Nagar, Nagiya Park Near Delhi University, New Delhi - 110007 (India)

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BANGLADESH PLANS TO BUY ABDALI

MISSILE FROM PAKISTAN



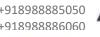
- Rising Tensions: Bangladesh is reportedly considering buying Abdali Short-Range
 Ballistic Missiles (SRBMs) from Pakistan due to growing tensions with India.
- These missiles, also known as Hatf-2, are believed to be intended as a deterrent against

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

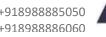
- Range: The Abdali SRBMs have a range of about 400 km, which can cover parts of northeastern India, including major cities.
- **Design**: These missiles are designed for **quick use** in battlefield situations.
- Though their range is relatively short, they can still be dangerous if deployed near the 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

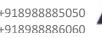
- Shifting Balance: Bangladesh's acquisition of the Abdali missiles could change the security balance in South Asia, particularly in India's favor.
- Although these missiles would not significantly affect Pakistan, they could raise tensions with India, especially if deployed near the border.
- Strategic 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.

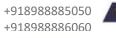
IMPACT ON INDIA'S SECURITY STRATEGY

- **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:
 - o e-student visa
 - o 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:
 - o 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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o 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.

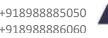
STUDY IN INDIA PORTAL

- 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:
 - o 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.

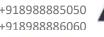
• Note: The SII ID is mandatory for students to apply for visas, admission, or travel to

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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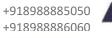


KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW VISA SYSTEM

- 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.







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

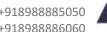
in panchayat-level representative institutions in effectively addressing community

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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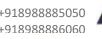




- He advocated for support to help these women-led enterprises expand and reach global markets, which would further support economic growth and cultural preservation.
- Leadership and Problem-Solving: He attributed women's leadership to their unique problem-solving skills, which stem from their personal experiences.
- These skills lead to more effective and inclusive governance, promoting socioeconomic 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.
 - o Dispute resolution at the panchayat level was also emphasized. Murmu stressed

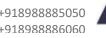
that resolving conflicts locally would:

- 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
 - o 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.

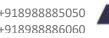
- This figure reflects **increasing** women's participation in **local governance**.
- Reservation for Women:
 - To further strengthen women's participation, most states have increased reservation limits to 50%, ensuring that half of the panchayat positions are reserved for women, promoting gender equality 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.

• Health and Education:

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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**.







- 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

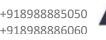
Ans. (C)

- 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?
 - 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:
 - 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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