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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(15 November 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- DECOMMISSIONED HAWK MISSILES
- FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS REGULATIONS ACT
- LONG RANGE LAND ATTACK CRUISE MISSILE
- MCQs



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DECOMMISSIONED HAWK MISSILES

Why in News?

- **Taiwan's Defence Minister, Wellington Koo**, recently said that it is up to the **United States** to decide the future of Taiwan's decommissioned **HAWK anti-aircraft missiles**.
- This statement came in response to a question about **whether Taiwan might send these older missiles to Ukraine to aid in its defense against Russia**.
- **Taiwan has not made any formal announcement** about sending weapons to Ukraine, but it has been a strong moral supporter of Ukraine since Russia's invasion in 2022.

BACKGROUND OF HAWK MISSILES

- **HAWK System:**
 - The **Raytheon MIM-23 HAWK** missile system was initially developed by the United States in the **1960s** to defend against **enemy bombers**.
 - Over time, it has been upgraded by various countries, including **Denmark, Netherlands, and Norway**.
 - The system is capable of **intercepting targets** flying at **low altitudes** (as low as 60 meters), making it effective against **slow-moving drones or missiles**.

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- The **US military** phased out the HAWK system in favor of more advanced defense systems, but it remains in service with several other countries, including Taiwan.
- **Use in Ukraine:**
 - Although the HAWK is considered **less advanced** than newer missile defense technologies, the system has been **adapted** to counter specific threats in Ukraine, particularly **drone attacks**.
 - **Ukraine** has been facing a heavy barrage of **one-way attack drones** from **Russia**, and the HAWK's capabilities against such low-altitude threats could still be valuable.

TAIWAN'S GROWING DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH USA

- The recent **\$2 billion NASAMS deal** highlights the deepening defense ties between Taiwan and the United States, as Taiwan seeks to strengthen its ability to defend itself against **China**.
- The **NASAMS** is a **medium-range air defense system** that has already been proven in **battle** in **Ukraine**, making it a critical addition to Taiwan's defense infrastructure. The US's support for Taiwan's defense is part of its broader strategy to **counter Chinese aggression** in the Indo-Pacific region.

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- As Taiwan faces an increasing threat from **China**, which views Taiwan as part of its territory, military and strategic partnerships with the US are becoming more critical for Taiwan's security.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORLD

- **Missile Support to Ukraine:**

- The potential transfer of Taiwan's decommissioned **HAWK missiles** to Ukraine would add to the growing number of **military supplies** from Western nations and their allies to Ukraine.
- It would also demonstrate how countries with **outdated** or **surplus military equipment** can contribute to Ukraine's defense without directly sending new weapons.

- **Taiwan's Defense in Context of China:**

- Taiwan's ongoing military upgrades, such as the NASAMS system, are crucial as they ensure Taiwan's **self-defense capabilities** in the face of a **potential Chinese invasion**.
- The situation also brings attention to the **broader geopolitical rivalry** between China and the United States, with Taiwan caught in the middle.
- The United States' role in Taiwan's defense is critical, both for the island's security and as a **counterbalance to Chinese expansion** in the region.

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FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION REGULATION ACT

- In November 2024, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** issued a notice listing **17 reasons** for which the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** registration of **NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations)** may be denied or canceled.
- These reasons mainly address concerns about national security, social harmony, **misuse of foreign funds**, and the involvement of NGOs in anti-national activities.
- The list signals a tightening of controls over **NGOs receiving foreign donations**, showing the government's focus on ensuring that **foreign funds are not used in ways that could harm India's sovereignty, security, or public order.**

What is the FCRA?

- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** was enacted in 1976 during the **Emergency period** to regulate the flow of foreign contributions into India.
- Its **primary purpose** is to ensure that **foreign donations to Indian NGOs do not adversely affect** national interests, sovereignty, or internal security.

Key Objectives of FCRA:

- To regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign funds by NGOs.

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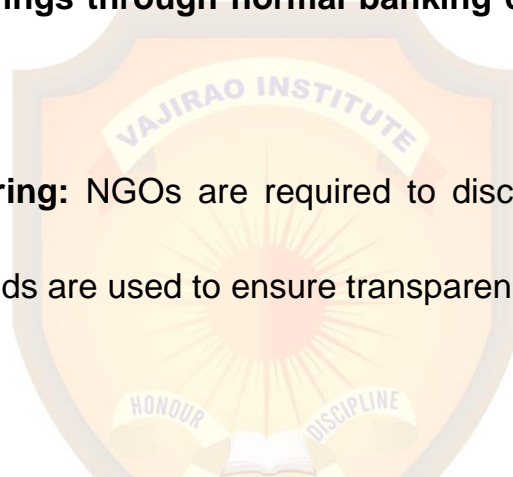
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- To ensure that foreign funds do not negatively impact India's sovereignty, democratic values, or internal security.

NOTE:

- **No Foreign Contributions from NRIs:** Contributions from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) using their personal savings through normal banking channels are not considered foreign contributions.
- **Transparency & Monitoring:** NGOs are required to disclose the full details of foreign donations and how the funds are used to ensure transparency.



ABOUT FCRA

The FCRA Timeline



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AMENDMENTS IN FCRA (OVER THE YEARS)

- **2010 Amendment:**

- Streamlined regulations for receiving foreign contributions.
- Prohibited the use of foreign donations for activities harmful to national interests.

- **2020 Amendment:**

- **Aadhaar Mandate:** Required Aadhaar numbers for key functionaries of NGOs.
- **Designated Bank Account:** Foreign funds must be routed through an FCRA-approved account at the State Bank of India.
- **Domestic Transfer Ban:** Prohibited NGOs from transferring foreign funds to other domestic entities.
- **Administrative Expense Limit:** Reduced the cap on administrative expenses from **50% to 20%** of foreign funds received.

WHO NEEDS FCRA REGISTRATION?

Any organization, **association, or NGO wishing to receive foreign donations must be registered under the FCRA.** This includes a variety of NGOs working in social, educational, economic, or religious fields.

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- **Validity & Renewal:** FCRA registration is **valid for 5 years and can be renewed if the organization complies with FCRA norms.**
- **Permissible Uses of Foreign Contributions:** Foreign funds can only be used for activities that serve social, educational, cultural, or economic purposes and contribute positively to the nation.

MONITORING AUTHORITY

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** is the regulatory body responsible for ensuring FCRA compliance by NGOs.

Key Developments in FCRA Implementation:

- In **2015**, NGOs were required to maintain their **bank accounts with core banking facilities for better monitoring.**
- In **2023**, an amendment mandated that NGOs disclose assets created with foreign funds in their annual returns.

17 REASONS FOR DENYING FCRA REGISTRATION

The MHA has outlined 17 specific reasons for denying or canceling the FCRA registration of NGOs, focusing on misuse of foreign funds and activities that may pose a threat to national security or social harmony. These include:

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- **Anti-Development Activities:** NGOs found using foreign funds for activities detrimental to India's development will have their registration revoked.
- **Inciting Malicious Protests:** If funds are used to instigate protests that disrupt public order or destabilize the country.
- **Religious Conversion Activities:** Involvement in forced or induced religious conversion or proselytizing.
- **Links with Terrorist or Anti-National Organizations:** Ties with organizations or individuals involved in terrorism or activities against India's sovereignty.
- **Misuse of Foreign Funds:** Diversion of funds for activities threatening national security or public order.
- **Personal Gain by Office Bearers:** Use of foreign contributions by office bearers for personal enrichment.
- **Defunct or Non-Operational NGOs:** If the NGO is found to be inactive or non-operational for a long period.
- **Failure to Submit Annual Returns:** Non-submission of required annual returns is grounds for cancellation.
- **Non-Compliance with NGO's Objectives:** If funds are not used for the purpose the NGO

originally registered for.

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- **Adverse Field Inquiry Reports:** If investigations suggest that an NGO's activities are harmful to social or religious harmony.
- **Prosecution Pending:** Criminal investigations or prosecutions against office-bearers or key functionaries.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Failure to provide necessary documents or explanations when sought by authorities.
- **Non-Cooperation with Investigations:** Refusal to comply with investigations or government directives.
- **Failure to Maintain Accountability:** Lack of proper financial records or failure to submit audit reports on foreign funds.
- **False Representation of Activities:** Misrepresentation of activities or impact to justify foreign funding.
- **Radical Organization Links:** Associations with radical or extremist groups.
- **Involvement in Anti-National Activities:** Direct involvement in activities that undermine India's sovereignty or security.

CONSEQUENCES OF FCRA CANCELLATION

- **Prohibition from Re-Registration:** If an NGO's registration is canceled, it cannot re apply for FCRA registration for three years.

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- **Suspension:** The government can suspend an **NGO's registration for up to 180 days while investigations are ongoing**, and financial assets can be frozen.
- **Legal Recourse:** NGOs can appeal the cancellation of their FCRA registration in the High Court.



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LONG RANGE LAND ATTACK CRUISE MISSILE



**DRDO CONDUCTED
MAIDEN FLIGHT TEST OF
LONG RANGE LAND ATTACK CRUISE MISSILE**

- **Overview:**

In a significant advancement for India's defense capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden flight test of its Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM).

- The test, conducted on a Tuesday in November 2024, took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, marking a major step in India's quest for self-reliance in precision missile technology.

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TEST

- **Launch Details:**

- The missile was launched from a **mobile articulated launcher** at the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)**, located off the coast of Odisha.
- The flight test was **observed by senior DRDO officials and representatives from the Indian Armed Forces**, which will be the primary users of the missile.

- **Performance Assessment:**

- The missile successfully followed a **pre-programmed flight path** and used **waypoint navigation** to demonstrate its precision.
- It exhibited advanced maneuverability by executing **complex flight maneuvers** while adjusting to different **speeds** and **altitudes**.
- All subsystems of the missile performed as expected, meeting **primary mission objectives**.

- **Monitoring and Tracking:**

- The missile's flight was closely monitored by various **range sensors** including **Radar**, **Electro-Optical Tracking Systems (EOTS)**, and **telemetry** deployed at multiple locations across the test range.
- These sensors ensured comprehensive tracking of the missile throughout its flight path.

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- **Advanced Capabilities:**

- The missile demonstrated its ability to execute high-precision long-range strikes, which is crucial for **tactical and strategic operations**.
- It is equipped with **state-of-the-art avionics** and **software** that enhance its operational reliability and performance.

ABOUT LRLACM

- **Development and Design:**

- The LRLACM was developed by **DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**, located in **Bengaluru**, with collaboration from multiple DRDO laboratories and **Indian industries**.
- This missile is part of India's broader push towards developing **indigenous defense technologies**, reducing dependency on foreign arms suppliers.

- **Operational Flexibility:**

- The LRLACM is designed for launch from **mobile ground-based systems** as well as **frontline ships**.
- This versatility allows it to be deployed across various platforms, enhancing its operational flexibility.

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- The missile uses a **universal vertical launch module**, which makes it adaptable for a wide range of military assets
- **Development Partners:**
 - **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** in Hyderabad and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** in Bengaluru served as the **Development-Cum-Production Partners**, contributing to the production and development of key components.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - The missile is intended for **long-range precision strikes**, and it is seen as a critical tool for enhancing India's **strike capabilities** in both **defensive** and **offensive operations**.
 - The successful test is seen as a significant achievement in the context of India's defense **self-reliance** and **technological capabilities**.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

- **Next-Generation Cruise Missiles:**
 - The LRLACM is expected to pave the way for the development of even more advanced **cruise missiles** that can cover longer ranges with greater accuracy and speed.
 - DRDO's future focus will likely include enhancing the missile's range, payload capacity, and stealth features to make it a more formidable weapon system.

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- **Impact on Defense Procurement:**

- The success of this missile marks an important shift in India's defense procurement strategy, with a greater emphasis on **indigenous development**.
- It also has implications for India's arms export potential, as advanced systems like the LRLACM could attract interest from international markets, particularly those seeking to diversify their defense sources.



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MCQs

1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct ones:

1. The HAWK missile systems was developed in the 1960s by USA.
2. The HAWK missile system is capable of intercepting aerial targets at low altitude.

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

Ans. (C)

2. Consider the following statements and mark **how many** of them are correct?

1. The FCRA was pass during the emergency era to restrict foreign funding to NGOs.
2. The FCRA amendment of 2010 reduced the validity of registration from permanent earlier to 5 years.
3. The FCRA amendment of 2020 made Aadhaar mandatory of key functionaries.

- (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. (B)

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3. Consider the following statements wrt NGOs receiving foreign funds and mark the correct one:

1. Foreign funds can only be used for activities that serve social, educational, cultural, or economic purposes.
2. NRIs donating funds will not be counted as Foreign Contributions.

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

Ans. (C)

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile?

1. India has tested its maiden flight in November 2024.
2. The flight test took place from Integrated Test Range in Odisha.
3. Bharat Dynamics Ltd & Bharat Electronics Ltd served as the Development-Cum-Production Partners

- (A) Only 1 & 2
(B) Only 2 & 3
(C) Only 1
(D) All of the above

Ans. (D)

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