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## National and International News

## Leave benefits for women in armed forces



## Context

Defence Minister has approved a proposal to **grant maternity, childcare and child adoption leave to women soldiers, sailors, and air warriors** on a par with the officers.

## Key points

- The move was in line with the vision of “**inclusive participation**” of all women in the armed forces, irrespective of their ranks.
- At present, women officers get maternity leave of **180 days** with full pay for each child, subject to a maximum of two children.
- Childcare leave of **360 days** is granted in total service career (subject to the child being less than 18 years of age) to women officers.
- Child adoption leave of **180 days** is granted after the date of the valid adoption of a child below one year of age.

## Air pollution in states

## Context

Delhi and parts of the surrounding States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh encounter their annual air quality inflection point.

## Reasons for pollution of North India in winters

- Stubble Burning
- Geographical location
- Temperature inversion
- Firecrackers due to festive season
- Vehicular Pollution
- Construction

## About CAQM

- CAQM stands for **Commission for Air Quality Management**.
- CAQM is a **statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality** in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach.

## Russia test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile from submarine

## Context

- Russia had successfully test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads from one of its submarines.
- The launch of the “**Bulava**” missile comes as



Russia ramps up nuclear rhetoric since revoking its ratification of a key nuclear test ban treaty

### About Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

- The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibits “**any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion**” anywhere in the world.
- The treaty was opened for signature in September 1996, and has been signed by 187 nations and ratified by 178.
- The treaty cannot formally enter into force until it is ratified by 44 specific nations, eight of which have yet to do so: **India, China, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States.**
- In order to verify compliance with its provisions, the treaty establishes a global network of monitoring facilities and allows for on-site inspections of suspicious events.
- Since the conclusion and opening for signature of the CTBT, nuclear testing has become taboo.
- Today, even those nuclear-armed states that have not signed or not ratified the CTBT, including **India, Israel, and Pakistan**, observe nuclear testing moratoriums.
- Only one country has conducted nuclear test explosions in this century, and even that country—**North Korea**—halted nuclear testing in 2017.
- Although the CTBT has not formally entered into force, the treaty has, for now, achieved its primary goal: ending nuclear weapon test explosions.

### Enemy property’ Butler Palace to turn into a tourist haven

#### Context

Lucknow’s once-grand three-storey Butler Palace, left deserted and in darkness for many decades, will see a facelift.

#### Key points

- Built a century ago, the palace is a mix of **Rajasthani and Indo-Mughal styles**
- The palace, originally built as the official residence of the Commissioner of Avadh, **Harcourt Butler**, in 1915, was owned by the royal family of Mahmudabad.
- By its own account, the family migrated to India in the 13th century and settled in erstwhile Avadh, current Lucknow, in the 16th century, and owed



Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia



- allegiance to the Mughals.
- **Mohammed Amir Ahmad Khan**, the king at the time of Independence, migrated to Pakistan, while his son Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan, stayed on in India as a citizen, fighting a legal battle over several properties, including Butler Palace.
- After the **India-Pakistan war in 1965**, Butler Palace was declared “**enemy property**” by the Government of India
- After being declared enemy property in the 1960s, the premises were handed over to the Uttar Pradesh government, who used it as a sales tax office.
- In the 1980s, it was given to the **Indian Council of Philosophical Research**, an organisation under the Union Human Resource Development Ministry.

Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS)- Kavach

Context

The deadly collision between two passenger trains in southern India’s Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh which killed 14 people and injured fifty persons could have been averted if **Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS)** were in place.

About TCAS - Kavach

- Kavach is a **cab signalling train control system** with anti-collision features.
- Simply put, it plays the role of a watchdog over the existing signalling system.
- It was developed over a period of 10 years, starting in 2012, by the **Indian Railways Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO)**.
- Kavach is designed to give out warnings to the loco pilot in case he does not notice the ‘red signal,’ and instead of stopping, is going to overshoot the signal.
- After giving warnings on the locopilot’s display, if the pilot does not slow down below 15 kilometres per hour, the Kavach system automatically applies brakes to bring the train to a halt.

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