



## Current Affairs of the Day

- Army to restore the grave of Naushera ka Sher
- PM flags off India's first driverless train
- Four States begin a dry run for the roll-out of the vaccine
- China defends progress of Pak. corridor

## Army to restore the grave of Naushera ka Sher

### Highlights:

1. After it came to light that the grave of Naushera ka Sher Brigadier Mohammad Usman, the senior-most officer killed in the first India-Pakistan war of 1947-48, was damaged, an Army source said it was looking into the issue and the grave will be restored soon. The grave is located on the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) campus.
2. Brig. Usman was one of only 18 Brigadiers in the Army at the time of Independence and was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his gallant action during the 1947-48 war.

## PM flags off India's first driverless train

### Highlights:

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the country's first driverless train on the Delhi Metro's Magenta Line.
2. Stating that unlike previous regimes, his government has taken steps towards urbanisation, Mr Modi said that by 2025 metro services will expand to 25 cities across India from the current 18.
3. The Prime Minister said that the expanding metro network was an indication of "ease of living" among the citizens.
4. In cities where passenger numbers are less, work is being done on the MetroLite version. Similarly, MetroNeo is being planned in cities where the ridership is less. It would be built at 25% cost of the normal metro. Also, for cities where there are large water bodies, a system of Water Metro is being worked upon.
5. The National Common Mobility Card was also introduced by Mr Modi for use on the Airport Express Line. The NCMC will give access to all modes of transport and will help do away with long queues for tokens.

## Four States begin a dry run for the roll-out of the vaccine

### Highlights:

1. The dry run to test preparedness for the nationwide roll-out of a COVID-19 vaccine kicked off in four States — Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Punjab — on Monday.
2. Intended beneficiaries of each State, who had registered on the Co-WIN app, the Union government's digital platform for vaccine delivery, were on Monday sent text messages informing them about the time and place of their "COVID-19 vaccination" under a mock drill to administer the shots at designated centres.
3. The actual [potential] vaccine shots will not be administered to people during the dry run.

## China defends progress of Pak. corridor

### Highlights:

1. Beijing defended the progress of the CPEC plan, following reports in the Pakistani press last week that concerns over Pakistan's ability to pay back loans as it grapples with the impact of the pandemic had emerged in recent negotiations.
2. The Express Tribune newspaper reported China had sought additional guarantees before sanctioning a \$6 billion loan. The issue of the Debt trap being reported by Pak media.

### Background:

India has voiced concerns about the CPEC plan, one main reason why it has stayed out of the BRI, as it includes projects in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as part of a corridor connecting Xinjiang with Pakistan.