



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

### **NATIONAL**

- **Indian Railways Integrates Artificial Intelligence into Passenger and Operational Systems**
  - ✓ Indian Railways has integrated Artificial Intelligence into key passenger facing and operational applications to improve grievance redressal, ticket prediction, crowd management and freight planning.
  - ✓ The initiative is led by the Centre for Railway Information Systems and was highlighted at the AI India Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
  - ✓ Artificial Intelligence integrated into RailMadad, RailOne and Coach Mitra applications to enhance passenger services.
  - ✓ In RailMadad, Artificial Intelligence classifies and prioritises complaints based on urgency and type, identifies complaint trends and analyses passenger sentiment.
  - ✓ Integration with Bhashini platform enables voice to text conversion in 12 languages for multilingual grievance reporting.
  - ✓ In RailOne, Artificial Intelligence improves waiting ticket confirmation percentage prediction.
  - ✓ Coach Mitra application operational in 74 trains, supporting onboard housekeeping services through Artificial Intelligence enabled monitoring.
  
- **Cash Payments Discontinued at National Highway Toll Plazas from 1 April 2026**
  - ✓ Cash payments will not be accepted at any National Highway toll plaza from 1 April 2026.

- ✓ Toll payments will be processed exclusively through FASTag and Unified Payments Interface.
- ✓ India currently has more than 1,150 toll plazas on National Highways and Expressways.
- ✓ The move aims to ensure faster traffic movement, reduced congestion and improved lane throughput.
- ✓ FASTag uses Radio Frequency Identification technology for automatic toll deduction from prepaid or linked bank accounts.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine**
- ✓ Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine launched at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The Td vaccine has been introduced under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), with 55 lakh doses to be supplied by April 2026, and production expected to increase in future years.
- ✓ The Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is the world's largest immunization programme, currently providing 11 vaccines protecting against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases.
- ✓ India's immunization system annually covers about 5 crore beneficiaries, including approximately 5 crore pregnant women and 2.5 crore children.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

- **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2025**
- ✓ 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, located in Vasai, Maharashtra, received the Award of Merit at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2025, becoming the only religious site from India to receive recognition.
- ✓ The announcement was made in Bangkok, Thailand, during the 25th anniversary ceremony of the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation, where ten projects from six countries were recognised.

- ✓ The 2025 edition honoured 10 outstanding projects from six countries like China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and Vanuatu.
- ✓ The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation are presented under four categories: Award of Distinction, Award of Merit, Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts, and Special Recognition for Sustainable Development.

## SPORTS

### ➤ Winter Olympics 2026

- ✓ The XXV Winter Olympic Games, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026, were held from 6 to 22 February 2026 across multiple venues in Lombardy and Northeast Italy.
- ✓ Norway topped the medal tally with 18 gold, 12 silver, and 11 bronze medals (total 41), followed by the United States of America (USA) with 12 gold, 12 silver, and 9 bronze medals (total 33), while the Netherlands secured third place with 10 gold, 7 silver, and 3 bronze medals (total 20).
- ✓ Host nation Italy finished fourth in the medal standings with 10 gold, 6 silver, and 14 bronze medals (total 30), marking its best-ever Winter Olympic performance.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### ➤ Central Excise Day

- ✓ Every year February 24 is celebrated as the central Excise Day all over the world.
- ✓ The day is being celebrated to honor the service of the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to the country.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to honor the officers associated with CBEC and their services. This is done to encourage the officers to carry out their duties with utmost sincerity.

