

Daily Defence Current Affairs

13 February 2025

World Radio Day 2026

- World Radio Day 2026 will be observed on February 13, celebrating radio as a powerful public service medium. The day commemorates the establishment of United Nations Radio in 1946. This year's theme, "**Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice**".
- World Radio Day 2026 traces its origins to a decision by UNESCO during its **36th General Conference in 2011**.
- The United Nations General Assembly later adopted it in 2012, making February 13 an official international observance.
- The date marks the launch of United Nations Radio in 1946, which symbolized global cooperation through information sharing after World War II.
- All India Radio, also known as Akashvani, was established in 1936 and operates under Prasar Bharati.
- With the motto "**Bahujan Hitaya, Bahujan Sukhaya**", AIR serves nearly 99.19% of India's population and covers about 92% of geographical area.
- AIR runs 591 broadcasting centres, delivering programmes in 23 languages and 182 dialects.
- Ram Singh Boudh from Amroha, Uttar Pradesh, earned recognition from Guinness World Records in 2025 for owning 1,257 radios, the largest collection globally.
- His museum preserves the evolution of radio technology in India.



National Women's Day 2026 India

- India celebrates Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary every year on 13 February to honour one of the most inspiring leaders of the freedom struggle and a powerful voice for women empowerment.
- Born in 1879, she became famous as the **"Nightingale of India"** for her patriotic poetry and strong nationalist spirit.
- The Government of India designated February 13 as National Women's Day to commemorate Sarojini Naidu's contributions in various fields, including politics, literature, and social justice.
- Born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879, she was a child prodigy who later became one of the most influential women in India's struggle for independence.
- Sarojini Naidu earned the title "Nightingale of India" (Bharat Kokila) because of her lyrical and patriotic poetry.
- Some of her famous works include,
 - The Golden Threshold (1905)
 - The Bird of Time (1912)
 - The Broken Wing (1917)
 - The Gift of India

National Women's Day

**13th
February**



Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026

- In a proud moment for India, two senior ophthalmologists from Puducherry have been selected for the prestigious Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026.
- The Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award was instituted in 2017 through an endowment by David and Victoria Chang.
- It honours exceptional humanitarian contributions in cataract care across the world.
- The award carries a \$100,000 grant, which Dr Haripriya Aravind and Dr R Venkatesh have decided to donate back to the Aravind Eye Care System to strengthen its non-profit initiatives.
- **Dr Haripriya Aravind**
- Dr Haripriya Aravind serves as the chief of cataract and intraocular lens (IOL) services.
- **Dr R Venkatesh**
- Dr R Venkatesh, chief medical officer, completed his residency in 1997 and joined the general cataract unit.



PNB Announces 'PNB Soldierathon 2026'

- Punjab National Bank (PNB), one of India's leading public sector banks, has announced the launch of 'PNB Soldierathon 2026' at its corporate office in Dwarka. The announcement marks the beginning of celebrations leading up to the bank's 132nd Foundation Day.
- This is the **second edition** of PNB's flagship marathon event. The half-marathon this year will be organized under the theme "**PNB Soldierathon 2026 – Run with Soldiers, Run for Soldiers**".



India Becomes World's No. 2 Smartphone Giant

- India has officially become the second-largest active installed base of smartphones globally, standing just behind China. According to a 2025 report by

Counterpoint Research, India now has over 740 million active smartphones in use.

- The term active installed base refers to the total number of smartphones currently in use, not just annual shipments.
- Unlike shipment data, which measures how many devices are sold in a year, the installed base captures,
- Device longevity
- User retention
- Brand and ecosystem loyalty
- Longer replacement cycles
- One of the most important insights from the report is the average smartphone retention period. In India, users keep their smartphones for around 42 months, which is slightly lower than the global average of 47 months.



PM Modi Launches Seva Teerth

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Seva Teerth in New Delhi on February 13, 2026, marking a major milestone in India's administrative reforms. The newly built complex now houses the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), and the Cabinet Secretariat under one roof.
- Seva Teerth is a newly developed administrative complex in Delhi that centralises key government offices. Earlier, the PMO, NSCS, and Cabinet Secretariat were located in separate buildings across different locations.
- By bringing them together, Seva Teerth aims to,

- Improve coordination among top decision-making bodies
- Reduce administrative delays
- Enhance security and operational efficiency
- Promote integrated governance
- The complex features the motto “**Nagriko Devo Bhava**”, meaning Citizens are akin to God, highlighting the government’s focus on citizen-first governance.
- The PMO’s journey reflects the evolution of India’s administrative structure,
- 1947 – Started as the Prime Minister’s Secretariat
- 1964 – Given formal status during Lal Bahadur Shastri’s tenure
- Expanded authority under Indira Gandhi
- 1977 – Renamed Prime Minister’s Office during Morarji Desai’s government
- South Block itself was completed in 1931 during British rule and housed India’s first Cabinet meeting after Independence under Jawaharlal Nehru.



India Hosts First BRICS Sherpas Meeting 2026

- India formally began its BRICS Chairship 2026 by hosting the first meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas in New Delhi from February 9-10, 2026. The meeting marked the start of a year-long engagement under India’s leadership, guided by the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.”
- The meeting was chaired by Sudhakar Dalela, India’s BRICS Sherpa and Secretary (Economic Relations), supported by Shambhu L. Hakki, India’s BRICS Sous Sherpa.

- Representatives from all BRICS members and partner countries participated, including,
- Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, UAE
- India unveiled its Chairship theme, **“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”**
- BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) was coined as BRIC in 2001 by economist Jim O’Neill and formalized in 2006, with the first summit in 2009.
- The group represents about 42% of the world’s population, 30% of land, 23% of global GDP, and 18% of trade.
- Expansion includes countries like Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia, reflecting Global South aspirations.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Radio Day is observed every year on:

- A) 11 February
- B) 12 February
- C) 13 February
- D) 14 February

Answer: C) 13 February

2. World Radio Day marks the establishment of which organization in 1946?

- A) UNESCO
- B) United Nations Radio

- C) UNICEF
- D) World Health Organization

Answer: B) United Nations Radio

3. The theme of World Radio Day 2026 is:

- A) Radio for Peace
- B) AI for Media
- C) Radio and Climate Change
- D) Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice

Answer: D) Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice

4. National Women's Day in India is celebrated on the birth anniversary of:

- A) Indira Gandhi
- B) Sarojini Naidu
- C) Annie Besant
- D) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Answer: B) Sarojini Naidu

5. "The Golden Threshold" was written by:

- A) Rabindranath Tagore
- B) Sarojini Naidu
- C) Subramania Bharati
- D) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee

Answer: B) Sarojini Naidu

6. The Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award carries a grant of:

- A) \$50,000
- B) \$75,000
- C) \$100,000
- D) \$150,000

Answer: C) \$100,000

7. PNB Soldierathon 2026 is organized by:

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) Bank of Baroda

Answer: C) Punjab National Bank

8. According to Counterpoint Research (2025), India has over how many active smartphones?

- A) 500 million
- B) 620 million
- C) 740 million
- D) 900 million

Answer: C) 740 million

9. Seva Teerth was inaugurated by:

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer: B) Narendra Modi

10. BRICS originally consisted of how many countries?

- A) 3
- B) 4
- C) 5
- D) 6

Answer: B) 4