

World Press Freedom index, 2022

May 5, 2022

In news— Reporters Without Borders based in Paris has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index, 2022 on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day.

Key highlights of the index-

- The index to evaluate the level of freedom available to the media in 180 countries.
- The 20th World Press Freedom Index reveals a two-fold increase in “polarisation” amplified by information chaos, that is, media polarisation fuelling divisions within countries, as well as polarisation between countries at the international level.
- This year, Norway (1st), Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th) grabbed the top positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories ranked by the Reporters Without Borders.
- Russia was placed at 155th position, down from 150th last year, while China climbed up by two positions with the Reporters Without Borders placing it at 175th position. Last year, China was placed at 177th position.

Rankings of India & its borders-

- **India's ranking in the Index has fallen down to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank** out of 180 countries.
- India's ranking, as per the report, fell on the back of increased “violence against journalists” and a “politically partisan media”, which has landed press freedom in a state of “crisis” in the world's largest democracy.

- The index says, the media in India faces pressure from “increasingly authoritarian and/or nationalist governments”.
- The ranking of India’s neighbours, except that of Nepal, have also slid down, with the index placing Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.
- Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.
- Last year, the Himalayan nation had been placed at 106th position, Pakistan at 145th, Sri Lanka 127th, Bangladesh 152nd and Myanmar at 140th position in the index.

Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders-

- It is an international non-profit organisation governed by principles of democratic governance.
- It is neither a trade union nor a representative of media companies.
- Founded in 1985 in Montpellier by four journalists, RSF is at the forefront of the defence and promotion of freedom of information.
- Recognised as a public interest organisation in France since 1995, RSF has consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF).

World Press Freedom Day-2022-

- May 3 is observed as World Press Freedom Day. The special day celebrates the spirit of journalism and recognises the dedication of journalists.
- The theme for 2022 is “Journalism under digital siege”.
- The origin of World Press Day dates back to 1991, when an African Journalist present at a UNESCO conference in Windhoek, which was based on ‘Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Media’, opened up about an idea to encourage press free domin different parts of the

world.

- UNESCO adopted the Windhoek declaration on May 3 in 1993, which aimed toward the 'development of a free, independent and pluralistic press.