



**An Institute for Civil Services**

# **GIST OF IMPORTANT REPORT**

## **WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2022**

**By: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)**

**For Civil Services Examination**

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  - Public Administration
  - Anthropology

# WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX (WPFI) 2022

- **Published by:** The Paris based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) publishes annually a World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) since 2002.
- **Aim:** It evaluates the level of freedom available to the media in 180 countries.
- **Procedure:** It is based on an online questionnaire comprising 83 questions, answered by 18 freedom of expression NGOs, many of which are funded by the RSF, and a network of around 150 correspondents, and researchers, jurists and human rights activists, usually selected by the correspondents.
- **Parameters:**
  - The qualitative questionnaire is used to calculate scores on six parameters in the index:
  - pluralism,
  - media independence,
  - media environment and self-censorship,
  - legislative framework,
  - transparency and;
  - quality of infrastructure that support production of news and information.

## World Press Freedom Index 2022

When it comes to Press freedom, Bhutan is way ahead of other countries in the region

Country	Points	Rank
Bhutan	76.46	33
Sri Lanka	42.13	146
India	41.00	150
Afghanistan	38.27	156
Pakistan	37.99	157
China	25.17	175



Source: Reporters Without Borders

### India's Performance:

- India has fallen eight places from 142nd to 150th in the 2022.
- From a rank of 80 in the inaugural WPFI report, 2002, India's rank fell to 122 in 2010 and 131 in 2012.
- According to a report titled: "India: Media freedom under threat" on RSF website, Indian authorities should respect the right to freedom of expression and release any journalists detained on trumped-up or politically motivated charges for their critical reporting and stop targeting them and muzzling independent media.
- The report also mentions, increase in targeting of journalists coupled with a broader crackdown on dissent, threatening, harass and abuse of journalists both online and offline in last few years.

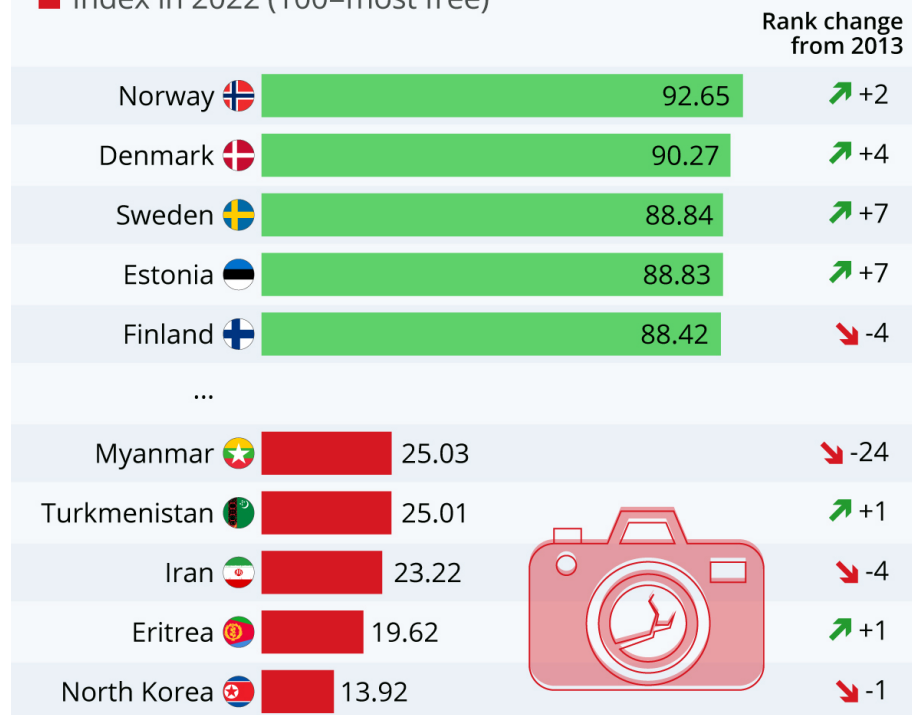
### The 2022 Edition Highlights:

- The report reveals that at the international level, democracies are being weakened by the asymmetry between open societies and despotic regimes that control their media and online platforms while waging propaganda wars against democracies. Polarization on these two levels is fueling increased tension.
- The situation is classified as "very bad" in a record number of 28 countries in this year's Index, while 12 countries, including Belarus (153rd) and Russia (155th), are on the Index's red list (indicating "very bad" press freedom situations).



## Where the Press Is the Most and the Least Free

Countries ranking highest/lowest on the Press Freedom Index in 2022 (100=most free)\*



\* Evaluated according to political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety

Source: Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index



statista

### Ranking of the Countries:

- Norway topped the list followed by Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) Estonia (4th) and Finland (5th).
- North Korea remained at the bottom of the list.
- China at 175th while Russia was placed at 155th position.
- The world's 10 worst countries for press freedom include Myanmar (176th), where the February 2021 coup d'état set press freedom back by 10 years, Turkmenistan (177th), Iran (178th), Eritrea (179th) and North Korea (180th).
- 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.

### Challenges:

- Multiple countries and commentators have raised concerns with both the WPFI criteria, methodology and also about RSF's perceived biases, lack of objectivity in ranking and lack of transparency.

- One of the primary concerns raised has been the opacity of the WPFI survey.
- Question-wise or category-wise scores used in computing scores for the six parameters are not made public, nor is the list of respondents provided.

### Sustainable Development Goal 16:

- Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16 or Global Goal 16) is about "peace, justice and strong institutions."
- SDG Target 16.10 enjoins governments and all stakeholders to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- An objective measure of press freedom across countries and a well-coordinated multi-stakeholder approach towards establishing press freedoms are essential towards improving democratic outcomes like transparency, accountability, people's participation etc.
- **Indicator 16.10.1:** *Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months.*
- **Indicator 16.10.2:** *Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.*



**ALL INDIA  
RANKING**

**CSE  
2020**



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RANKING**

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2019**



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