

World Press Freedom Index

Definition

The purpose of the World Press Freedom Index is to compare the level of freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories. The definition of press freedom used by RSF and its panel of experts to compile the Index is the following:

“Press freedom is defined as the ability of journalists as individuals and collectives to select, produce, and disseminate news in the public interest independent of political, economic, legal, and social interference and in the absence of threats to their physical and mental safety.

On the basis of this definition, the press freedom questionnaire and map are broken down into five distinct categories or indicators:

- Political context,
- Legal framework,
- Economic context,
- Sociocultural context and
- Safety

The Index is a snapshot of the situation during the calendar year (January-December) prior to its publication. Nonetheless, it is meant to be seen as an accurate reflection of the situation at the time of publication. Therefore, when the press freedom situation changes dramatically in a country between the end of the year assessed and publication, the data is updated to take account of the most recent events possible. This may be related to a new war, a coup d'état, a major attack on journalists, or the sudden introduction of an extreme repressive policy.

<https://rsf.org/en/methodology-used-compiling-world-press-freedom-index-2023>

Reporters Without Borders (RWB; French: Reporters sans frontières; RSF) is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization focused on safeguarding the right to freedom of information.

It describes its advocacy as founded on the belief that everyone requires access to the news and information, in line with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that recognises the right to receive and share information regardless of frontiers, along with other international rights charters. RSF has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders#:~:text=Reporters%20Without%20Borders%20\(RWB%3B%20French,right%20to%20freedom%20of%20information.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reporters_Without_Borders#:~:text=Reporters%20Without%20Borders%20(RWB%3B%20French,right%20to%20freedom%20of%20information.)

World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2023

India slips to rank 161 out of 180 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2023 from rank 150 in 2022.

India's ranking in the 2023 World Press Freedom Index has slipped to 161 out of 180 countries, according to the latest report released by global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF). In comparison, Pakistan has fared better when it comes to media freedom as it was placed at 150, an improvement from last year's 157th rank. In 2022, India was ranked at 150.

Sri Lanka also made significant improvement on the index, ranking 135th this year as against 146th in 2022.

Norway, Ireland and Denmark occupied the top three positions in press freedom, while Vietnam, China and North Korea constituted the bottom three.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) comes out with a Global Ranking of Press Freedom every year. RSF is an international NGO whose self-proclaimed aim is to defend and promote media freedom. Headquartered in Paris, it has consultative status with the United Nations.

The Objective of the World Press Freedom Index

The Objective of the World Press Freedom Index, which it releases every year, "is to compare the level of press freedom enjoyed by journalists and media in 180 countries and territories" in the previous calendar year.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Press_Freedom_Index

The World Press Freedom Index (WPFI)

The World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) since 2002 based upon the organization's own assessment of the countries' Press Freedom records in the previous year. It intends to reflect the degree of freedom that journalists, news organizations, and netizens have in each country, and the efforts made by authorities to respect this freedom. Reporters Without Borders is careful to note that the WPFI only deals with Press Freedom and does not measure the Quality of Journalism in the countries it assesses, nor does it look at Human Rights violations in general.

Methodology

The WPFI is partly based on a questionnaire that previously used seven general criteria:

Pluralism (measures the degree of representation of opinions in the media space), Media Independence, Environment and Self-Censorship, Legislative_Framework, Transparency, Infrastructure, and Abuses.

The methodology for the WPFI was dramatically changed in 2022 from the methodology used from 2013 to 2021, and the thresholds for each categorisation have been shifted accordingly.

The scores are now evaluated against five distinct categories: Political Context, Legal Framework, Economic Context, Sociocultural Context and Safety.

Country-wise Ranking of Press Freedom Index 2022 and 2023

S. No.	Country	2023		2022	
		Rank	Value	Rank	Value
1	Norway	1	95.18	1	92.65
2	Ireland	2	89.91	6	88.30
3	Denmark	3	89.48	2	90.27
4	Sweden	4	88.15	3	88.84
5	Finland	5	87.94	5	88.42
6	Netherlands	6	87.00	28	77.93
7	Lithuania	7	86.79	9	84.14
8	Estonia	8	85.31	4	88.83
9	Portugal	9	84.60	7	87.07
10	East Timor	10	84.49	17	81.89
11	Liechtenstein	11	84.47	10	84.03
12	Switzerland	12	84.40	14	82.72
13	New Zealand	13	84.23	11	83.54
14	Czech Republic	14	83.58	20	80.54
15	Canada	15	83.53	19	81.74
16	Latvia	16	83.27	22	79.17
17	Slovakia	17	83.22	27	78.37
18	Iceland	18	83.19	15	82.69
19	Samoa	19	82.15	45	71.39
20	Luxembourg	20	81.98	21	79.81
21	Germany	21	81.91	16	82.04
22	Namibia	22	80.91	18	81.84
23	Costa Rica	23	80.20	8	85.92
24	France	24	78.72	26	78.53

25	South Africa	25	78.60	35	75.56
26	United Kingdom	26	78.51	24	78.71
27	Australia	27	78.24	39	73.77
28	Moldova	28	77.62	40	73.47
29	Austria	29	77.30	31	76.74
30	Trinidad and Tobago	30	76.54	25	78.68
31	Belgium	31	76.47	23	78.86
32	Jamaica	32	75.89	12	83.35
33	Cape Verde	33	75.72	36	75.37
34	Seychelles	34	75.71	13	83.33
35	Taiwan	35	75.54	38	74.08
36	Spain	36	75.37	32	76.71
37	Andorra	37	75.05	53	68.79
38	North Macedonia	38	74.35	57	68.44
39	Montenegro	39	74.28	63	66.54
40	Argentina	40	73.36	29	77.28
41	Italy	41	72.05	58	68.16
42	Croatia	42	71.95	48	70.42
43	Dominican Republic	43	71.88	30	76.90
44	Tonga	44	71.29	49	69.74
45	United States	45	71.22	42	72.74
46	Gambia	46	71.06	50	69.25
47	South Korea	47	70.83	43	72.11
48	Suriname	48	70.62	52	68.95
49	Armenia	49	70.61	51	68.97
50	Slovenia	50	70.59	54	68.54
51	Belize	51	70.49	47	70.67
52	Uruguay	52	70.33	44	72.03
53	Romania	53	69.04	56	68.46
54	Ivory Coast	54	68.83	37	74.46
55	Cyprus	55	68.62	65	65.97
56	Kosovo	56	68.38	61	67.00
57	Poland	57	67.66	66	65.64
58	Burkina Faso	58	67.64	41	73.12
59	Papua New Guinea	59	67.62	62	66.66
60	Guyana	60	67.50	34	76.41
61	Niger	61	66.84	59	67.80
62	Ghana	62	65.93	60	67.43
63	Mauritius	63	65.56	64	66.07
64	Bosnia and Herzegovina	64	65.43	67	65.64
65	Botswana	65	64.61	95	58.49

66	Liberia	66	64.34	75	62.77
67	Lesotho	67	64.29	88	59.39
68	Japan	68	63.95	71	64.37
69	Panama	69	63.67	74	62.78
70	Togo	70	63.06	100	57.17
71	Bulgaria	71	62.98	91	59.12
72	Hungary	72	62.96	85	59.80
73	Malaysia	73	62.83	113	51.55
74	Sierra Leone	74	62.55	46	71.03
75	Comoros	75	62.25	83	60.16
76	Northern Cyprus	76	61.73	81	61.08
77	Georgia	77	61.69	89	59.30
78	Guinea Bissau	78	61.57	92	58.79
79	Ukraine	79	61.19	106	55.76
80	Ecuador	80	60.51	68	64.61
81	Congo	81	60.42	93	58.64
82	Malawi	82	60.34	80	61.40
83	Chile	83	60.09	82	60.61
84	Malta	84	59.76	78	61.55
85	Guinea	85	59.51	84	59.82
86	Mauritania	86	59.45	97	58.10
87	Zambia	87	59.41	109	55.40
88	Mongolia	88	59.33	90	59.17
89	Fiji	89	59.27	102	56.91
90	Bhutan	90	59.25	33	76.46
91	Serbia	91	59.16	79	61.51
92	Brazil	92	58.67	110	55.36
93	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States	93	58.36	55	68.49
94	Gabon	94	58.12	105	56.00
95	Nepal	95	57.89	76	62.67
96	Albania	96	57.86	103	56.41
97	Israel	97	57.57	86	59.62
98	Central African Republic	98	57.56	101	56.96
99	Haiti	99	57.38	70	64.55
100	Maldives	100	56.93	87	59.55
101	Madagascar	101	56.66	98	58.02
102	Mozambique	102	56.13	116	49.89
103	Paraguay	103	55.96	96	58.36
104	Senegal	104	55.82	73	63.07
105	Qatar	105	55.28	119	49.03
106	Thailand	106	55.24	115	50.15

107	Greece	107	55.20	108	55.52
108	Indonesia	108	54.83	117	49.27
109	Chad	109	53.73	104	56.18
110	Peru	110	52.74	77	61.75
111	Eswatini	111	52.66	131	46.42
112	Benin	112	52.44	121	48.39
113	Mali	113	52.29	111	54.48
114	Burundi	114	52.14	107	55.74
115	El Salvador	115	51.36	112	54.09
116	Kenya	116	51.15	69	64.59
117	Bolivia	117	51.09	126	47.58
118	South Sudan	118	50.62	128	47.06
119	Lebanon	119	50.46	130	46.58
120	Equatorial Guinea	120	50.35	141	43.96
121	Tunisia	121	50.11	94	58.49
122	Kyrgyzstan	122	49.91	72	64.25
123	Nigeria	123	49.56	129	46.79
124	DR Congo	124	48.55	125	47.66
125	Angola	125	48.30	99	57.17
126	Zimbabwe	126	48.17	137	44.94
127	Guatemala	127	48.12	124	47.94
128	Mexico	128	47.98	127	47.57
129	Singapore	129	47.88	139	44.23
130	Ethiopia	130	47.70	114	50.53
131	Rwanda	131	46.58	136	45.18
132	Philippines	132	46.21	147	41.84
133	Uganda	133	46.08	132	46.35
134	Kazakhstan	134	45.87	122	48.28
135	Sri Lanka	135	45.85	146	42.13
136	Algeria	136	45.74	134	45.53
137	Uzbekistan	137	45.73	133	46.35
138	Cameroon	138	45.58	118	49.10
139	Colombia	139	45.32	145	42.43
140	Hong Kong	140	44.86	148	41.64
141	Somalia	141	44.24	140	44.01
142	Brunei	142	44.20	144	42.53
143	Tanzania	143	44.02	123	48.28
144	Morocco	144	43.69	135	45.42
145	United Arab Emirates	145	42.99	138	44.46
146	Jordan	146	42.79	120	48.66
147	Cambodia	147	42.02	142	43.48

148	Sudan	148	40.83	151	40.96
149	Libya	149	40.22	143	43.16
150	Pakistan	150	39.95	157	37.99
151	Azerbaijan	151	39.93	154	39.40
152	Afghanistan	152	39.75	156	38.27
153	Tajikistan	153	39.06	152	40.26
154	Kuwait	154	38.84	158	37.87
155	Oman	155	37.87	163	35.99
156	Palestine	156	37.86	170	28.98
157	Belarus	157	37.17	153	39.62
158	Nicaragua	158	37.09	160	37.09
159	Venezuela	159	36.99	159	37.78
160	Laos	160	36.66	161	36.64
161	India	161	36.62	150	41.00
162	Djibouti	162	35.87	164	35.75
163	Bangladesh	163	35.31	162	36.63
164	Russia	164	34.77	155	38.82
165	Turkey	165	33.97	149	41.25
166	Egypt	166	33.37	168	30.23
167	Iraq	167	32.94	172	28.59
168	Yemen	168	32.78	169	29.14
169	Honduras	169	32.65	165	34.61
170	Saudi Arabia	170	32.43	166	33.71
171	Bahrain	171	30.59	167	30.97
172	Cuba	172	29.00	173	27.32
173	Myanmar	173	28.26	176	25.03
174	Eritrea	174	27.86	179	19.62
175	Syria	175	27.22	171	28.94
176	Turkmenistan	176	25.82	177	25.01
177	Iran	177	24.81	178	23.22
178	Vietnam	178	24.58	174	26.11
179	China	179	22.97	175	25.17
180	North Korea	180	21.72	180	13.92

Countries are ranked on a scale from 0–100 points.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-slips-in-world-press-freedom-index-ranks-161-out-of-180-countries/article66806608.ece>

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