



## World Press Freedom Day

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### Why in News

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The **World Press Freedom Day** is observed on **3<sup>rd</sup> May**, every year.

### Key Points

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- **Origin and Purpose:**
  - The day was proclaimed by the **United Nations** General Assembly in **December 1993**, following the recommendation of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) General Conference.
  - Since then, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, the anniversary of the **Declaration of Windhoek** is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day.
- The day acts as a **reminder to governments** of the need to respect their commitment to press freedom.
- It is an **opportunity** to:
  - Celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom.
  - Assess the state of press freedom throughout the world.
  - Defend the media from attacks on their independence.
  - Pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.
- **Theme for 2020: Journalism without Fear or Favour.**

**UNESCO** is launching a **global campaign** on media and social media channels, with a focus on this year's theme in an increasingly complex media landscape.
- The **sub-themes** for this year are:
  - Safety of Women and Men Journalists and Media Workers.
  - Independent and Professional Journalism free from Political and Commercial Influence.
  - Gender Equality in All Aspects of the Media.

- After the celebration of this day, there will be **several events** to be held in the upcoming days:
  - High-level Dialogue on Press Freedom and Tackling Disinformation in the **Covid-19** context, webinars and online discussions via Facebook Live, YouTube and Microsoft teams, amongst other digital platforms.
- In April, 2020 the report on the **World Press Freedom Index, 2020** was released by the global body, **Reporters Without Borders**.
  - India** is at **142<sup>nd</sup> rank** after dropping two places from last year's ranking.

**Source: TH**