

DAILY PT POINTERS

6th October, 2023



HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express; IR

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Indian Express. At the top, there are language options: ENGLISH, தமிழ், বাংলা, മലയാളം, ગુજરાતી, हिंदी, मराठी, BUSINESS, and बिज़नेस. The main logo reads "The Indian EXPRESS" with the tagline "JOURNALISM OF COURAGE". Below the logo is a navigation menu with categories: Explained, Opinion, Entertainment, Sports, Politics, Lifestyle, Tech, Education, Investigations, Research, Videos, and Audio. There are also buttons for "Cricket World Cup", "Mini Crosswords", "3 Things Podcast", "Latest News", "Top News", "Premium Stories", "UPSC Special", and "Health Spec". The main article is titled "Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: History, India's response" and is marked as "Premium". The sub-headline reads: "India has ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan and has not picked sides in the conflict. But it does have something at stake — tensions in the region impact New Delhi's plans to bypass Pakistan as the gateway to Europe and Russia." The article is written by Shubhajt Roy and was updated on October 6, 2023, at 07:43 IST. There is a NewsGuard logo and an advertisement for Frederique Constant.

- The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh is called one of the “frozen conflicts” of the world.
- This conflict erupted on September 19, when Azerbaijan launched an offensive and within 24 hours, declared victory over the separatist province of Nagorno-Karabakh. Authorities of the province have now said the ethnic Armenian enclave would dissolve on January 1, 2024.
- Though far away, the recent developments in the South Caucasus region have implications for India, in connectivity and ties with the region.
- India has ties with both Armenia and Azerbaijan and has not picked sides in the conflict.
- But it does have something at stake — tensions in the region impact New Delhi's plans to bypass Pakistan as the gateway to Europe and Russia.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express; Awards

ENGLISH | தமிழ் | বাংলা | മലയാളം | ગુજરાતી | हिंदी | मराठी | BUSINESS | बिज़नेस

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News / Explained / Everyday Explainers / Nobel Prize for Literature 2023: Meet the winner, the Norwegian author Jon Fosse

Nobel Prize for Literature 2023: Meet the winner, the Norwegian author Jon Fosse

While Jon Fosse has long been celebrated in Europe, he has never found quite the same popularity in the UK and the US. Why is that? What are Fosse's works about?

By: **Explained Desk**
New Delhi | Updated: October 5, 2023 22:19 IST

NewsGuard

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EVERYDAY

- The Nobel Prize for Literature 2023 has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Olav Fosse, for his “innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable” , the Nobel Academy said on Thursday (October 5).
- Fosse writes in Norwegian Nynorsk, the least common of the two official versions of Norwegian.
- After winning the Nobel, he said he regarded the award as a recognition of this language and the movement promoting it.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

Indian Express; Culture

How Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj killed Afzal Khan with his 'Wagh Nakh'

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's 'wagh nakh' will be brought back to Maharashtra from a London museum. How did it get there? Why is the weapon so legendary?

Written by [Arjun Sengupta](#)

New Delhi | Updated: October 5, 2023 20:00 IST



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- Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar on Tuesday (October 3) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London to bring back Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's legendary wagh nakh to the state.
- Literally 'tiger claws', the wagh nakh is a mediaeval claw-like dagger which was used across the Indian subcontinent.
- Designed to either fit over the knuckles or be concealed under the palm, the weapon consisted of four or five curved blades affixed to a glove or a bar of some kind.
- It was a weapon used for personal defence or stealth attack, and could easily slice through skin and flesh.
- The most famous use of the wagh nakh in history comes from the story of Afzal Khan's killing by Shivaji. Khan was a general of Bijapur's Adil Shahi Sultanate.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express; Society

Sarakka Central Tribal University approved for Telangana: The figures of Sammakka-Sarakka, their significance

The Sammakka Sarakka Jathara has become one of the most famous tribal festivals in the world with close to 1.5 crore devotees participating. It is often referred to as the Kumbh Mela of the tribals. What is its cultural and political significance?

Written by [Divya A](#) [Follow](#)

New Delhi | October 5, 2023 17:10 IST



- The Union cabinet approved a tribal university for Telangana – the Sarakka Central Tribal University, which will come up in Mulugu district at a cost of Rs 889 crore.
- During his visit to poll-bound Telangana recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the university would be named after Sammakka-Sarakka – a mother-daughter duo revered among the local tribal community.

The legend of Sammakka and Sarakka

- Sammakka is said to have been married to Pagididda Raju, a feudal chief of the Kakatiyas (a Deccan dynasty) who ruled the Warangal area.
- She had two daughters and one son – Sarakka or Saralamma, Nagulamma and Jampanna, respectively.
- In the battle against the local rulers in protest against the taxes, Saralamma died, while Sammakka disappeared into the hills and the local tribals believed that she metamorphosed into a vermilion casket.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu; Economy

First public sector caravan park in Kerala to come up at Bekal

₹1.53 crore sanctioned for project; area also selected for cinema tourism, a project to showcase prime locations in State featured in hit films

October 05, 2023 08:20 pm | Updated 09:33 pm IST - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

DHINESH KALLUNGAL

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- **Caravan Park**
- Soon tourists can feel the magnificence of the **Bekal Fort** in Kasaragod from the comforts of a caravan as Kerala has decided to set up a caravan park there.
- **Caravan** : The specially built vehicles being used for the purpose of travel, leisure and accommodation would be termed as 'Caravan'.
- A **Caravan Park** is a place where Caravans can stay overnight in allotted spaces providing basic or advanced amenities and facilities.
- The Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) will develop the caravan park and camp shelter at Bekal, which has also been selected by the Tourism department to be developed under cinema tourism, a project that seeks to showcase prime locations in the State featured in hit films, to attract tourists.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu; Polity and Governance

India expanding censorship regime, creating uneven playing field: study

The Freedom House report says that India resorting to AI-enabled digital repression; it finds that the environment for human rights online has deteriorated in 29 countries; the report covers developments between June 2022 and May 2023

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

According to a new report by Freedom House, a Washington-based non-profit organisation, global Internet freedom has declined for the 13th consecutive year. The environment for human rights online has deteriorated in 29 countries, with only 20 countries registering net gains. The report, titled "Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence", has raised a red flag on the increasing use of artificial intelligence by governments for censorship and spread of disinformation.

The report, the 13th edition of an annual study of human rights online, covers developments between June 2022 and May 2023. It evaluates Internet freedom in 70 countries.

As per the report, the sharpest rise in digital repression was witnessed in Iran, where authorities shut down Internet ser-

Internet freedom

The table lists scores on Internet freedom for select countries according to Freedom House's "Freedom on the Net" report. Rankings are on a scale of 100 to 0 with 100 being most free

Country	Status	Total score
Iceland	Free	94
U.K.	Free	79
Germany	Free	77
U.S.	Free	76
Brazil	Partly free	64
Sri Lanka	Partly free	52
India	Partly free	50
Pakistan	Not free	26



Conditions for human rights online deteriorated in 29 countries while 20 countries saw gains

bid to quell anti-government protests. China, for the ninth straight year, was ranked as the world's worst environment for Internet freedom, with Myanmar the world's second most repressive for online freedom.

People faced legal repercussions for expressing themselves online in a record 55 countries this year, and the number of countries where authorities carry out widespread arrests and impose multi-year prison terms for online activi-

The report also detailed how elections were a trigger for digital repression. Ahead of election periods, "many incumbent leaders criminalised broad categories of speech, blocked access to independent news sites, and imposed other controls over the flow of information to sway balloting in their favour," the report noted.

Digital repression

Detailing AI-enabled digital repression in India, the report said, "Indian Prime

(BJP) have incorporated censorship, including the use of automated systems, into the country's legal framework. The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules require large social media platforms to use AI-based moderation tools for broadly defined types of content – such as speech that could undermine public order, decency, morality, or the country's sovereignty, integrity, and security, or content that officials had previously ordered removed."

Citing the government's order to YouTube and Twitter (now X) "to restrict access within India to a BBC documentary about communal violence during Mr. Modi's tenure as Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat," the report stated, "Because the government ordered the restriction of the documentary, the IT Rules require the two platforms to use automated scanning tools to sweep up any additional posts that

port noted, "As the country prepares for general elections in 2024, the government's expanding censorship regime is creating an uneven playing field by silencing criticism of and independent reporting on the ruling party."

The report evaluates countries on five censorship methods – Internet connectivity restrictions, blocks on social media platforms, blocks on websites, blocks on VPNs, and forced removal of content – and India engaged in all of them except one (VPN blocking).

India also figured among the list of countries that "blocked websites hosting political, social, or religious content", deliberately disrupted ICT networks, used pro-government commentators to manipulate online discussions, and conducted "technical attacks against government critics or human rights organisations".

On a range of 1 to 100, where '100' represented highest digital freedom, In-

- "Freedom on the Net 2023: The Repressive Power of Artificial Intelligence".
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- As per the report, the sharpest rise in digital repression was witnessed in Iran.