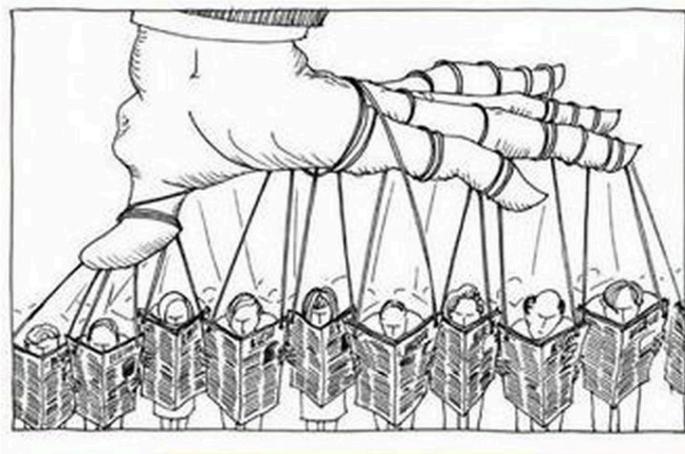


11 Current affairs

"A well-informed public is the best defence against tyranny." - Benjamin Franklin



Did you know?

Around _____, Julius Caesar ordered daily bulletins to be carved on stone or metal and displayed publicly.

In _____, WGY Television in Schenectady, New York, aired the first TV news broadcast, lasting 10 minutes.

In _____, the New York Sun became the world's top-selling newspaper after publishing reports about giant bats and blue goat-like creatures on the moon. These reports were later exposed as a hoax by a British astronomer.

In _____, Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong's famous words, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were broadcast live worldwide, becoming a historic TV event.

The _____ Chernobyl nuclear disaster in Ukraine was only revealed when Swedish scientists detected increased radiation levels, emphasising the significance of global news sharing.

1986	1835	59 BC	1969	1928
------	------	-------	------	------

11 Current affairs

Mixed up vocabulary

award show	a famous person, especially in entertainment or sport
trivial	a terrible event
disaster	something which people disagree about
election	an event where prizes are given, for example the Oscars
celebrity	the opposite of important
demonstration	the process of choosing politicians
controversial	people march in the street to show their feelings about an issue

Idioms and collocations

This scandal is just a _____ *in a tea cup* and will be forgotten tomorrow.

Mike Johnson *hit the* _____ last year when he became the youngest athlete to win an olympic medal.

The politician *added fuel to the* _____ when he accused the opposition leader of taking bribes.

The President has a history of lying so this statement should be taken with a *grain of* _____.

When the journalist began researching the mayor's background, he accidentally opened a can of _____, discovering several hidden scandals.

worms headlines salt storm fire

11 Current affairs

Do you think it's important to stay up to date with current affairs?

In your opinion, which are the best and worst newspapers?

How do you get your news?

What's the biggest story in the news at the moment?

Do you agree that most new stories have no impact on most people's lives?

Why do you think that the news media mostly covers "bad" news?

Have you ever been in a newspaper or on a news programme?

What would you like to see more of in the news?

What would you like to see less of in the news?

What headline do you hope to see one day?