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### From today's featured article



Ganges river dolphin

**South Asian river dolphins** are [toothed whales](#) in the genus *Platanista*. They inhabit [fresh water](#) habitats in the northern [Indian subcontinent](#). They were historically considered to be one species, but the [Ganges river dolphin](#) (*pictured*) and the [Indus river dolphin](#) were described as separate species in 2021, having [diverged](#) around 550,000 years ago. South Asian river dolphins are small but stocky [cetaceans](#) with long snouts or [rostra](#), broad flippers, and small [dorsal fins](#). Living in murky river waters and relying on [echolocation](#) for navigation, they have tiny, lensless eyes. The skull has large crests over the [melon](#), which help direct their echolocation signals as they prey, mainly on fish and shrimp. They are active throughout the day in small groups. Both species are listed as [endangered](#) mammals by the [IUCN Red List](#). Major threats include dams, [barrages](#), fishing nets, and both chemical and [acoustic pollution](#).

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### Did you know ...

- ... that **Mary Jo Shelly** (*pictured*) used her background in modern dance and physical education to train women in the military during two wars?
- ... that [Gavriil Popov's Fourth Symphony](#) was not publicly performed until 2023, 74 years after it was composed?
- ... that German forester **Carl A. Schenck** founded the first forestry school in North America at [George W. Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate](#)?
- ... that [Russell Shorto's](#) mobster grandfather was described as the "holy trinity of a reprobate—a drunk, a philanderer, and a cheat" in a review of the 2021 family memoir *[Smalltime](#)*?
- ... that in one of NFL player [Earl Witte's](#) only games, he hit a player so hard that the player "stopped, curled up and dropped to the ground as if he had hit a stone wall"?
- ... that [the Cure's Shows of a Lost World](#) has grossed \$37.5 million and become their highest-grossing tour to date, despite the band's refusal to use [Ticketmaster's](#) dynamic pricing?
- ... that [Ganjar Pranowo's 2024 presidential campaign](#) is headquartered in the same building that hosted [the incumbent president's 2019 campaign](#)?
- ... that a 15-year-old student was brought to court over throwing an egg during [a vegetable fight](#)?



Mary Jo Shelly

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### In the news

- [Daniel Noboa](#) (*pictured*) **is elected** President of Ecuador.

- Parties opposing the ruling [United Right](#) win a combined majority of seats in [the Polish general election](#).
- The [National Party](#), led by [Christopher Luxon](#), wins the most seats in [the New Zealand general election](#).
- Australian voters [reject](#) altering [the Constitution](#) to establish an [Indigenous Voice to Parliament](#).

**Ongoing:** [Israel–Hamas war](#) · [Russian invasion of Ukraine](#) ([timeline](#))

**Recent deaths:** [Martti Ahtisaari](#) · [Tony Husband](#) · [Carmen Petra Basacopol](#) · [Summa Navaratnam](#) · [Geri M. Joseph](#) · [Hatto Beyerle](#)



Daniel Noboa

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## On this day

### October 24

- 1260 – [Qutuz](#) (*bust pictured*), the [sultan of Egypt](#), was assassinated and replaced by fellow Mamluk leader [Baybars](#).
- 1796 – [War of the First Coalition](#): The [Battle of Schliengen](#) was fought between the French and Austrian armies, who both claimed victory.
- 1945 – The [Charter of the United Nations](#) entered into force after being ratified by the five [permanent members of the Security Council](#) and a majority of the other signatories.
- 1975 – In protest against [wage discrepancy](#) and unfair employment practices, 90 percent of Iceland's female population [went on strike for a day](#).
- 2003 – The [inaugural Afro-Asian Games](#) opened in [Hyderabad](#), with 2,040 athletes from 96 nations competing.



Bust of Qutuz

[Tycho Brahe](#) (d. 1601) · [Peng Dehuai](#) (b. 1898) · [Letitia Woods Brown](#) (b. 1915) · [Regina Purtell](#) (d. 1950)

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## Today's featured picture















***Arothron stellatus***, also known as the stellate pufferfish, starry puffer or starry toadfish, is a [demersal](#) marine fish belonging to the family [Tetraodontidae](#), the puffer fishes. It is found in shallow water in the [Indo-Pacific](#) region. It is a large fish, growing up to 120 centimetres (47 in) in length. Its body is spherical and relatively elongated, with skin that is not covered with scales but is prickly. The fish has no [pelvic fin](#) and no [lateral line](#). The [dorsal fin](#) and the [anal fin](#) are small, symmetric, and located at the rear end of the body. The head is large with a short snout that has two pairs of nostrils, and the mouth is terminal with four strong teeth. This *A. stellatus* individual was photographed in the [Red Sea](#) near [Sharm El Sheikh](#), Egypt.

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- [Community portal](#) – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements.
- [Village pump](#) – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues.
- [Site news](#) – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement.
- [Teahouse](#) – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
- [Help desk](#) – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia.
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- [Content portals](#) – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia.

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	<b>Meta-Wiki</b> Wikimedia project coordination		<b>Wikibooks</b> Free textbooks and manuals
	<b>Wikidata</b> Free knowledge base		<b>Wikinews</b> Free-content news
	<b>Wikiquote</b> Collection of quotations		<b>Wikisource</b> Free-content library
	<b>Wikispecies</b> Directory of species		<b>Wikiversity</b> Free learning tools
	<b>Wikivoyage</b> Free travel guide		<b>Wiktionary</b> Dictionary and thesaurus

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