

121 Journalists died in 2021 due to COVID-19

The study conducted by Rate The Debate has verified that in India **90** media persons in April 2021 and **24** media persons in the first six days of May 2021 have lost their lives to COVID-19. In total, India has lost 171 ‘verified’ Media persons to COVID-19 from April 1, 2020 till date. Our study has a 3-Step Verification process:

1. Compilation — collection of all data, names and lists put out by various organisations.
2. Cross-check — establishing whether COVID-19 related deaths. Cross-verification through multiple media reports.
3. Personal calls — Make calls to Media Houses, colleagues, family.

In April 2021, approximately 3 media persons died per day and in May 2021 approximately 4 media persons died per day due to COVID-19.

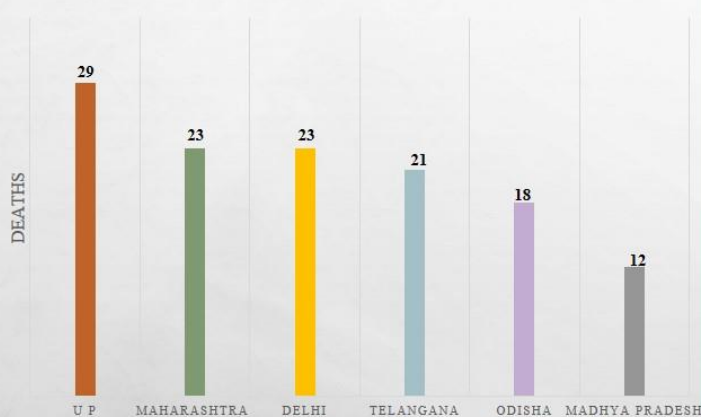
Verified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths

• April 1, 2020 to May 6, 2021	171
• April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	49
• January 1, 2021 to May 1, 2021	121
• April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021	90
• May 1, 2021 to May 6, 2021	24

Top States

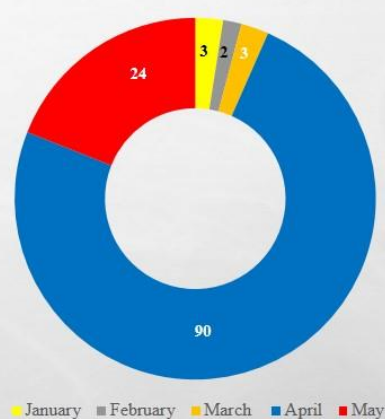
• Uttar Pradesh	29
• Maharashtra	23
• Delhi	23
• Telangana	21
• Odisha	18
• Madhya Pradesh	12

TOP 6 STATES FOR JOURNALIST DEATHS
(Period: April 1, 2020 to May 6, 2021)



Data Source: Media Reports

MONTHLY DEATHS IN 2021
(Period: January 1, 2021 to May 6, 2021)



Data Source: Media Reports



On April 17, 2021 Rate The Debate began an eight point campaign by sending letters to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Press Information Bureau, Press Council of India, Editors Guild of India and the Chief Ministers of States.

Government of India and Press Information Bureau for accepting our demand of providing substantial compensation to the families of Journalists who died of COVID-19 and commend the decision of the state of Telangana for acting on our suggestion and announcing Rs. 2 Lakhs compensation to the families of Journalists who died of COVID-19. Senior Members of Parliament have supported our representation which is now before the Prime Minister of India. Our petition campaign at 'change.org' has received support from journalists, social activists, politicians and public at large too.

In these times of extreme distress, *Rate The Debate* continues to stand by the following demands:

1. Journalists/Media Persons to considered as 'Frontline Warriors';
2. 'Journalists and Media Persons' include of all Freelance Journalists, Digital Journalists, Columnists and Part-Time Media Persons editorial staff, photographers, videographers, cameramen, technicians, technical staff, drivers, all assistants and support staff, etc.,;
3. Press Clubs to be used as COVID-19 Care/Vaccination Centre;
4. Affected Families of Media Persons/Journalists, accredited and not accredited, to be given a compensation.

News is critical to win the battle against COVID-19. *Rate The Debate* believes that these measures will save lives, not just of Media Persons but also of every citizen in India. The hands that hold the mikes, cameras, pens or notebooks, are recording history. They too must support their families and shoulder responsibilities back home. Let us acknowledge the services of journalists from small and big cities, rural or urban areas – who make us care for fellow citizens and take action. We extend our sincere condolences to families of all the Media Persons who have lost their lives to COVID-19.

Save Media, Save India.

Dr. Kota Neelima

Founder, *Rate The Debate*
Institute of Perception Studies,
New Delhi.

Please Note:

- All Documents and Letters are available at: www.ipsdelhi.org.in.
- Data is updated at 11 a.m. daily

For more information contact us: Dr. Kota Neelima : 9810395996
Mr Aaron Mirza : 9761085740