



03 May 2021  
New Delhi

**An Appeal**  
**Recognize Journalists as Frontline Warriors**

COVID-19 has claimed thousands of lives across India. Journalists and Media Persons who bring to us these headlines are highly vulnerable and are exposed to the dangers posed by the pandemic.

India has the highest fatalities among journalists dying due to COVID-19 across Asia and the second highest across the world. In April 2021 - **81** media persons have died due to COVID-19.

Verified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths

• April 1, 2020 to May 1, 2021	<b>139</b>
• April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	<b>49</b>
• January 1, 2021 to May 1, 2021	<b>90</b>
• April 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021	<b>81</b>
• May 1, 2021	<b>2</b>

Top States

• Uttar Pradesh	<b>26</b>
• Maharashtra	<b>19</b>
• Telangana	<b>17</b>
• Delhi	<b>16</b>
• Odisha	<b>13</b>
• Andhra Pradesh	<b>7</b>

On April 17, 2021 Rate The Debate began an eight-point campaign by sending letters to the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Press Information Bureau, Press Council of India, Editors Guild of India and the Chief Ministers of States. *Rate The Debate* has also conducted a campaign on change.org. We demand that:

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. 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.

**Save Media, Save India.**

*Kota Neelima*

**Dr. Kota Neelima**

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

For Details : Dr. Kota Neelima : 9810395996  
Mr Aaron Mirza : 9761085740