RATE THE DEBATE RESEARCH REPORT - 1
JOURNALIST DEATHS DUE TO COVID-19 IN INDIA

APRIL 1, 2020 TO MAY 12, 2021
MORTALITY – JOURNALIST DEATHS

Verified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths

- April 1, 2020 to May 10, 2021: 219
- April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020: 56
- April 1, 2021 to May 12, 2021: 152

Unverified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths

- April 1, 2020 to May 12, 2021: 72

Figure 1
MONTH-WISE JOURNALIST DEATHS

- This graph is based on verified deaths between April 2020 and May 12, 2021.
- 98 deaths in April 2021.
- 54 deaths in May 2021. (till May 12, 2021)
- 219 deaths between April 1, 2020, and May 12, 2021
### TOP 6 STATES – JOURNALIST DEATHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>No. of Deaths</th>
<th>Verified Deaths</th>
<th>Unverified Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rate The Debates Research follows three step verification process.
- Above graph is based on verified and unverified data of Journalist Deaths as on May 12, 2021.
- Lists are available with Institute of Perception Studies, New Delhi at www.ipsdelhi.org.in
MEDIA CATEGORIES – JOURNALIST DEATHS

- Majority of deaths were of Print Media: 53.88%
- The Second highest number of deaths were of TV/Digital Media: 24.20%

Figure 5
Rate The Debate research reflects that majority of the deaths have occurred in non-metro regions of India;

- 36.98% (81) of the deaths occurred in Metro regions;
- 63.02% (138) of the deaths occurred in Non-Metro regions.
CASE STUDY - TELANGANA

WHY TELANGANA?

• Among all Indian states, Telangana saw the steepest increase in journalist deaths due to COVID-19 in April 2021.

THREE STEP VERIFICATION PROCESS

• Compilation — Collection of all data, names and lists published by various organisations;

• Cross-check — Establishing whether COVID-19 related deaths. Cross-verification through multiple media reports;

• Personal calls — Make calls to media houses, colleagues, family.
Rate The Debate has verified 39 out of the 45 journalist deaths.

Personal calls were made in case of all verified deaths.

Circumstances leading to the COVID-19 death were also recorded.

Figure 7
This graph is based on verified deaths between April 2020 and May 12, 2021 in Telangana.

- 22 deaths in April 2021.
- 9 deaths in May 2021*.
- 39 deaths between April 1, 2020, and May 12, 2021.
AGE-WISE – JOURNALIST DEATHS IN TELANGANA

- Maximum deaths in the 41-50 age group.
- Second highest deaths in the 51-60 age group.

Figure 10
• In contrast to the National trend, in Telangana deaths are equal in both Print and TV/Digital Media.

• Together Print and TV/Digital Media comprise 89.74% of all Journalist deaths;

• Freelancers were 10.26%. However this could be because of low reportage of death news.

36 deaths per 10 days in April – May 12, 2021. Whereas, 1 death per 10 days in April – December 2020. (Figure 1)

98 Journalist Deaths in April 2021. On an average 3 deaths everyday. (Figure 2)

54 Journalist Deaths between 1-12 May 2021. Approximately 4-5 deaths every day. (Figure 3)

36. 98 % (81) of the deaths occurred in Metro regions; 63.02 % (138) of the deaths occurred in Non-Metro regions. (Figure 5)

53.88 % of Journalist Deaths are from Print Media across India. (Figure 6) However, Print and TV/Digital Media are at 44% and 46 % respectively in the case study of Telangana. (Figure 11)

Telangana case study reveals 0 deaths in March, 21 deaths in April (Figure 8) and 9 deaths in May 2021 (till May 10). (Figure 9)
FINDINGS ON JOURNALIST DEATHS (CONT'D.)

• The total verified journalist deaths in Telangana from April 1, 2020 till May 12, 2021 is 39. *(Figure 7)*
• Maximum Journalist deaths in Telangana in the 41-50 age group. *(Figure 10)*
• Second highest Journalist deaths in Telangana in the 51-60 age group. *(Figure 10)*
• Freelancers were 10.26 % of Journalists deaths in Telangana. However this could be because of low reportage of death news. *(Figure 11)*
• All data has been collected and verified by Rate The Debate, Institute of Perception Studies, New Delhi.
• Lists are available with Institute of Perception Studies, New Delhi at www.ipsdelhi.org.in