

9 June 2021  
New Delhi

*Research Note*

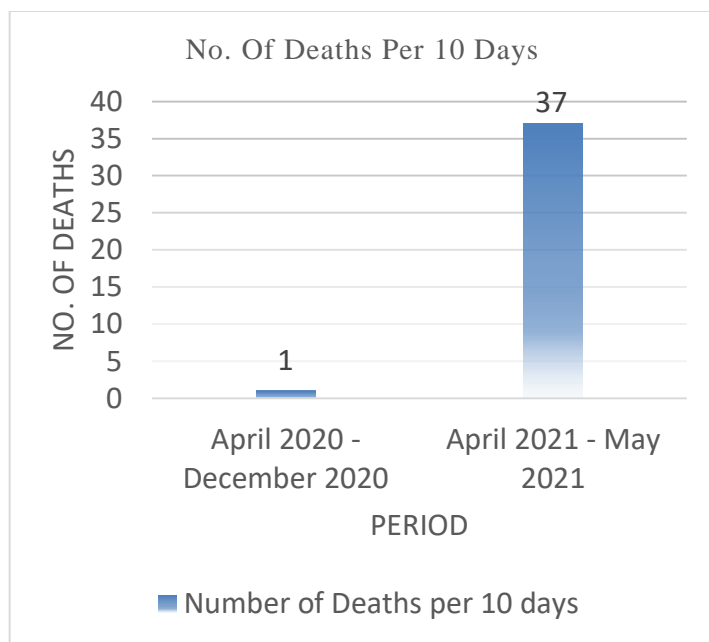
**537 Journalists died in India due to COVID-19**

The Institute of Perception Studies (IPS), New Delhi, has been analysing journalists deaths due to COVID-19. Though its media research initiative, Rate The Debate, the Institute has published comprehensive findings on journalist deaths, including age profile, region, category, along with specific case studies of states, like Telangana. India has the highest fatalities among journalists dying due to COVID-19 across Asia and the World. Till date **537** Journalists died in India due to COVID-19 (64% are verified whereas, 36% are being verified). In April 2021 - **114** media persons and in May 2021 - **115** media persons have died due to COVID-19. At an average **4** media persons died per day in April & May 2021.

The IPS 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.

**2020-2021—Journalist Deaths Due To Covid19**



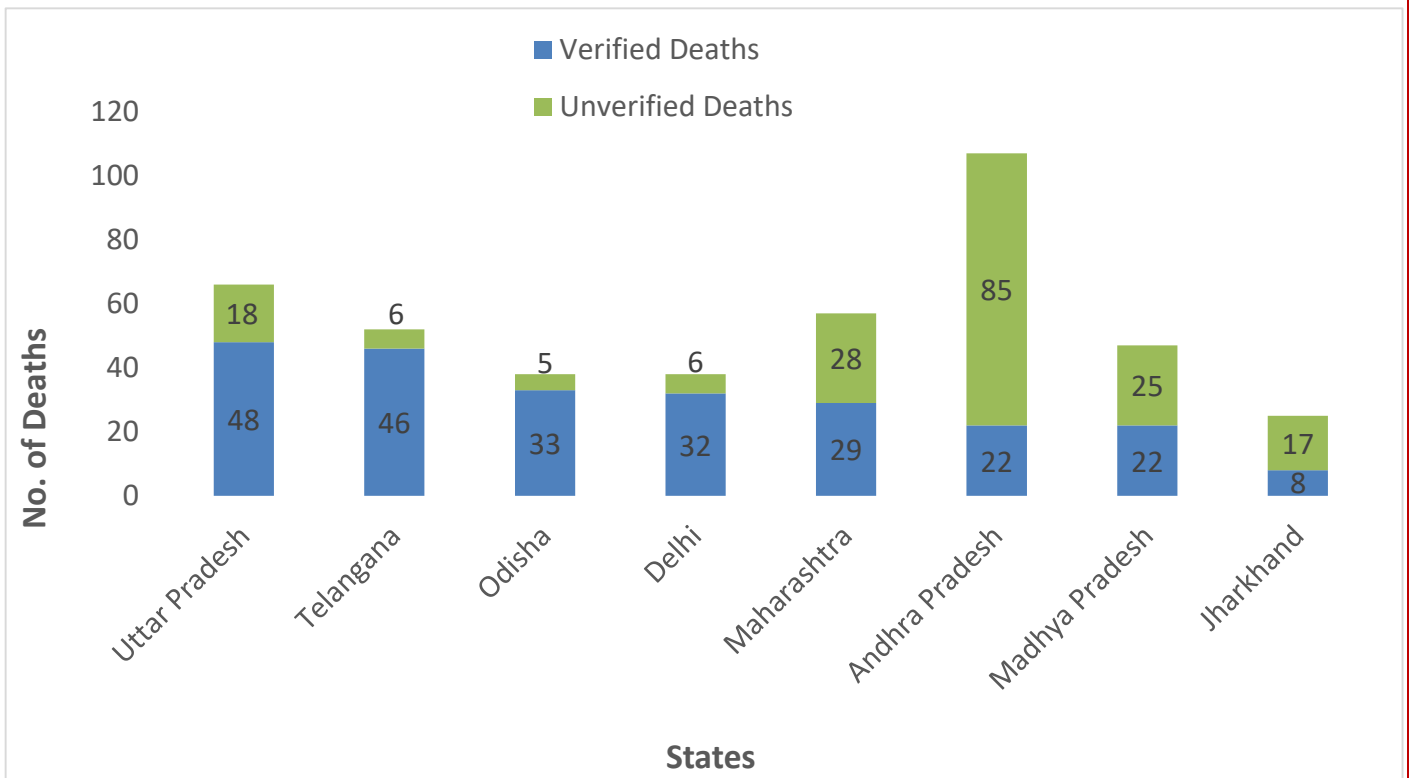
**Verified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths**

• April 1, 2020 to June 9, 2021	310
• April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020	57
• April 1, 2021 to May 28, 2021	229

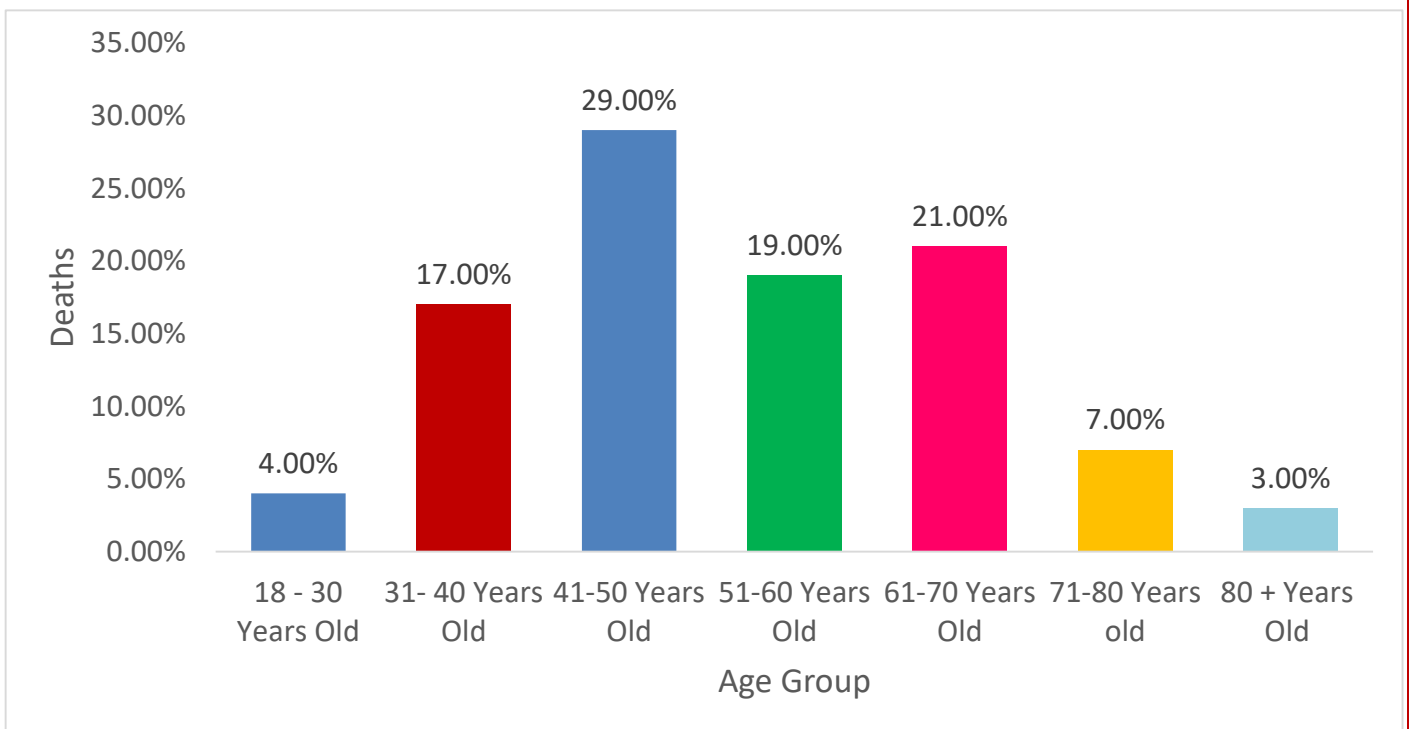
**Unverified COVID-19 Journalist Deaths**

• April 1, 2020 to May 28, 2021	227
---------------------------------	-----

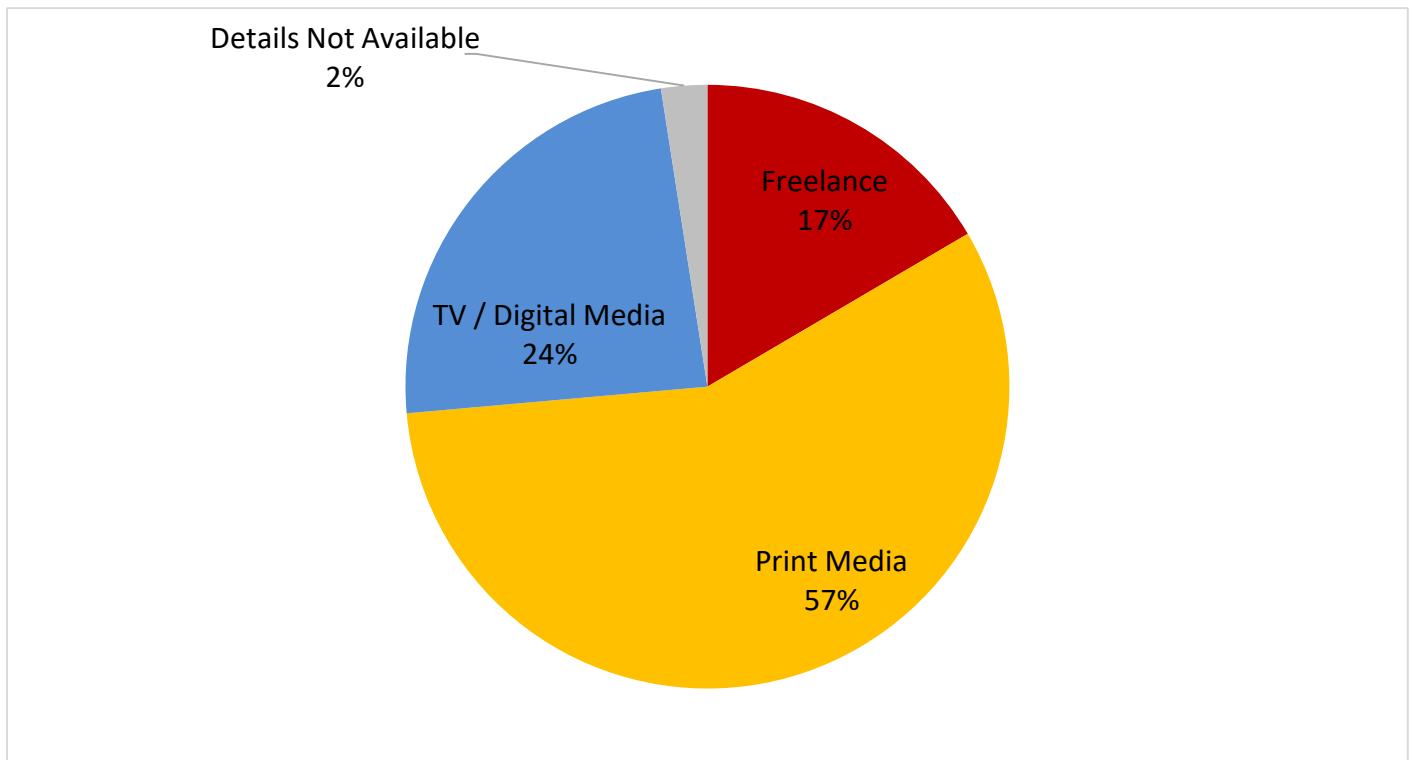
**Top 8 States – Journalist Deaths**



**Age-Wise – Journalist Deaths**



### Media Categories – Journalist Deaths

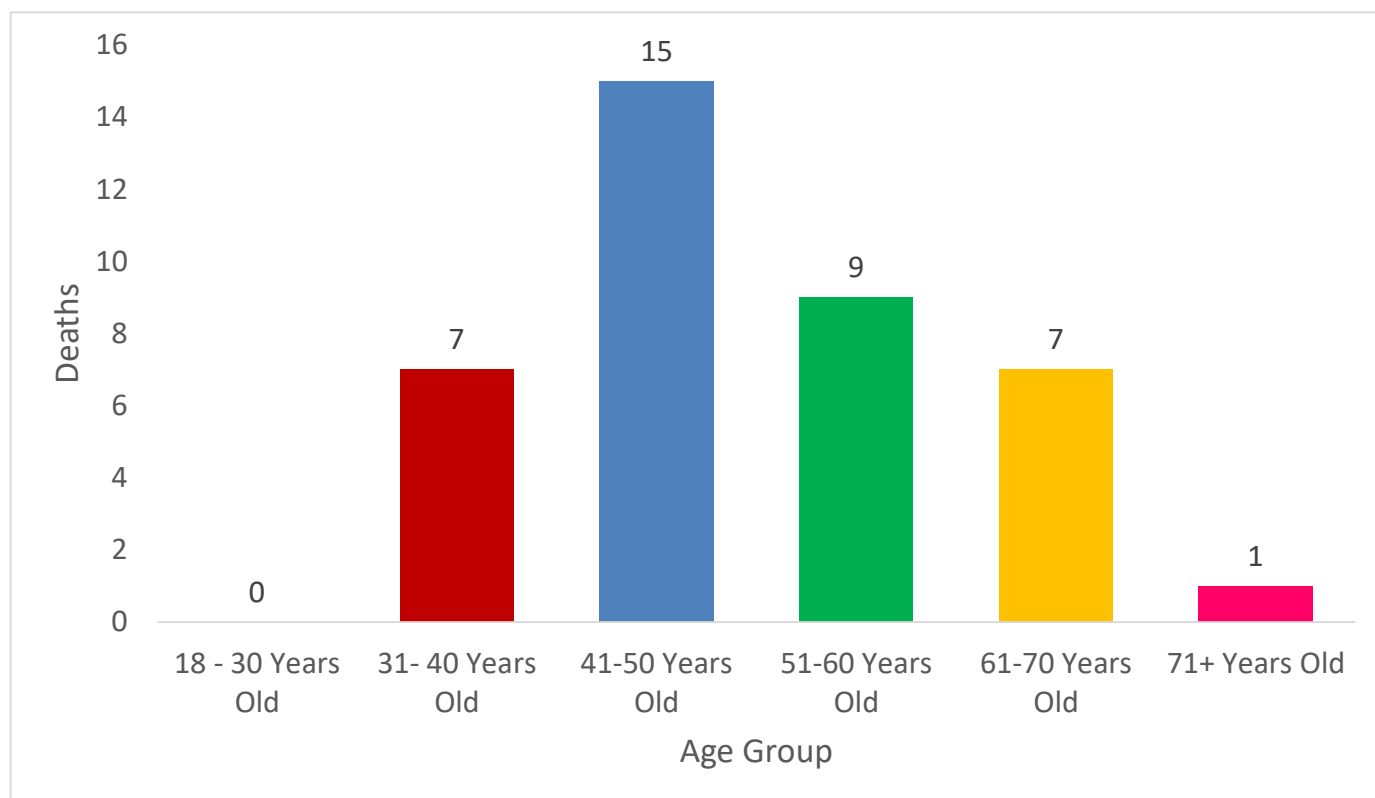


### Summary of Findings on Journalist Deaths

- 284 Verified and 159 Unverified Journalist Deaths due to COVID-19 between April 2020 and May 2021.
- 38 deaths per 10 days in April – May 28, 2021. Whereas, 1 death per 10 days in April – December 2020.
- 110 Journalist Deaths in April 2021. On an average 3-4 deaths every day.
- 109 Journalist Deaths between 1-28 May 2021. Approximately 4 deaths every day.
- 31 % (89) of the deaths occurred in Metro regions; 69 % (195) of the deaths occurred in Non-Metro regions.
- More Journalist Deaths in Non-Metro areas than in Metro areas.
- 57 % of Journalist Deaths are from Print Media across India.
- 29% Journalist Deaths are in the age group of 41-50 Years followed by 19% of Journalist Deaths in the 61-70 age group.

## Case Study – Telangana

### Age-wise – Journalist Deaths in Telangana



- The total verified journalist deaths in Telangana from April 1, 2020 till June 9, 2021 is 39.
- Maximum Journalist deaths in Telangana in the 41-50 age group.
- Second highest Journalist deaths in Telangana in the 51-60 age group.
- Freelancers were 10.26 % of Journalists deaths in Telangana. However this could be because of low reportage of death news.

On April 17, 2021 Rate The Debate began an eight-point campaign and sent 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. Senior Members of Parliament supported our representation, which has also reached the Prime Minister of India.

Our petition campaign at ‘change.org’ received support from journalists, social activists, politicians and public at large. We are happy to report that two of our main suggestions – Journalists should be ‘Frontline Warriors’ and Vaccination for Media – have been accepted by 23 States.

*Institute of Perception and Studies* continues to fight for the following demands:

- 1. Free COVID-19 Treatment in Government and Private Hospitals** – The COVID-19 treatment, which requires several days of hospitalization, is beyond the scope of most journalists. The treatment costs of Media Persons and their immediate families must be borne by the Governments.
- 2. Walk-in Registration/Vaccination for Media Persons** – Journalists of all age groups to be provided the facility to walk into any vaccination center and get the vaccine, as and when available.
- 3. Support to Families of Journalists** – Compensation in the form of ex-gratia or education fees or employment support or housing benefit (as applicable) to the families of Journalists who have succumbed to COVID-19.
- 4. Stop Differentiation** – All support and schemes must be applicable to journalists who are:
  - Accredited and Non-Accredited;
  - Employed and Freelancers;
  - Print, TV and Digital;
  - Photo and Video Journalists;
  - Technicians, Assistants and Support staff.

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.

**Dr. Kota Neelima**

Founder, *Rate The Debate*

Institute of Perception Studies,

New Delhi

Please Note:

- All data has been collected and verified by Institute of Perception Studies, New Delhi.
- All Documents and Letters are available at: [www.ipsdelhi.org.in](http://www.ipsdelhi.org.in).

For more information contact us: Dr. Kota Neelima : 9810395996

Mr Aaron Mirza : 9761085740