

9 July 2021
New Delhi

Research Note

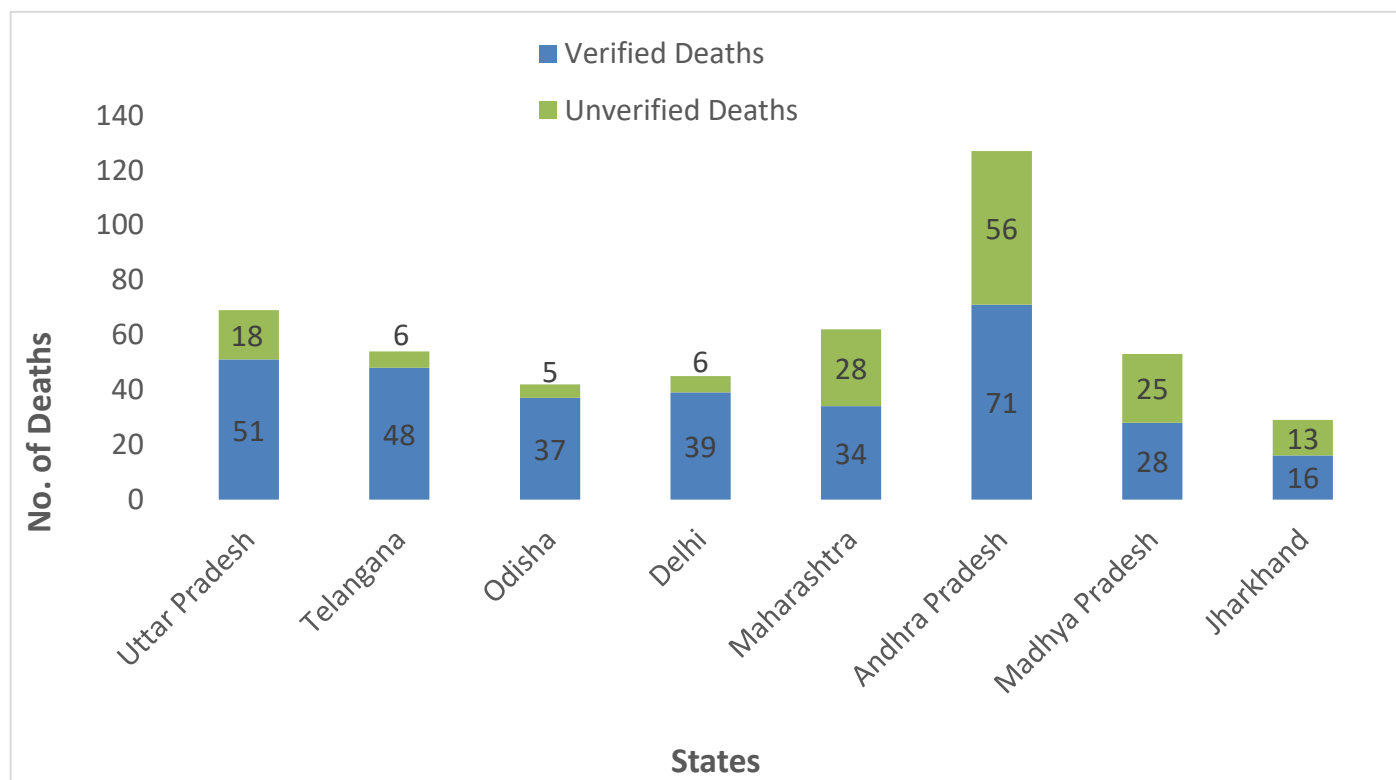
614 Journalists died in India due to COVID-19

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 **614** Journalists died in India due to COVID-19 (73% are verified whereas, 27% are being verified).

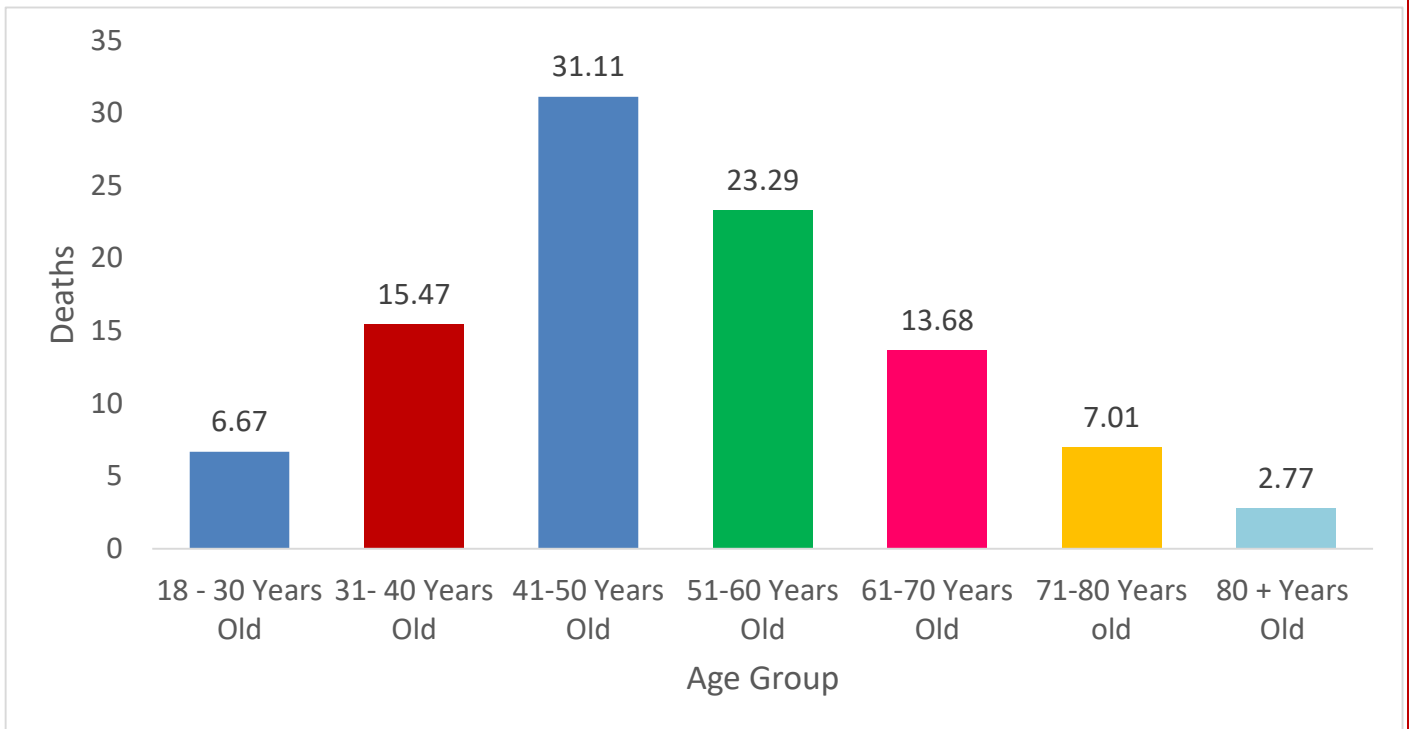
The IPS study has a 3-Step Verification process:

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.

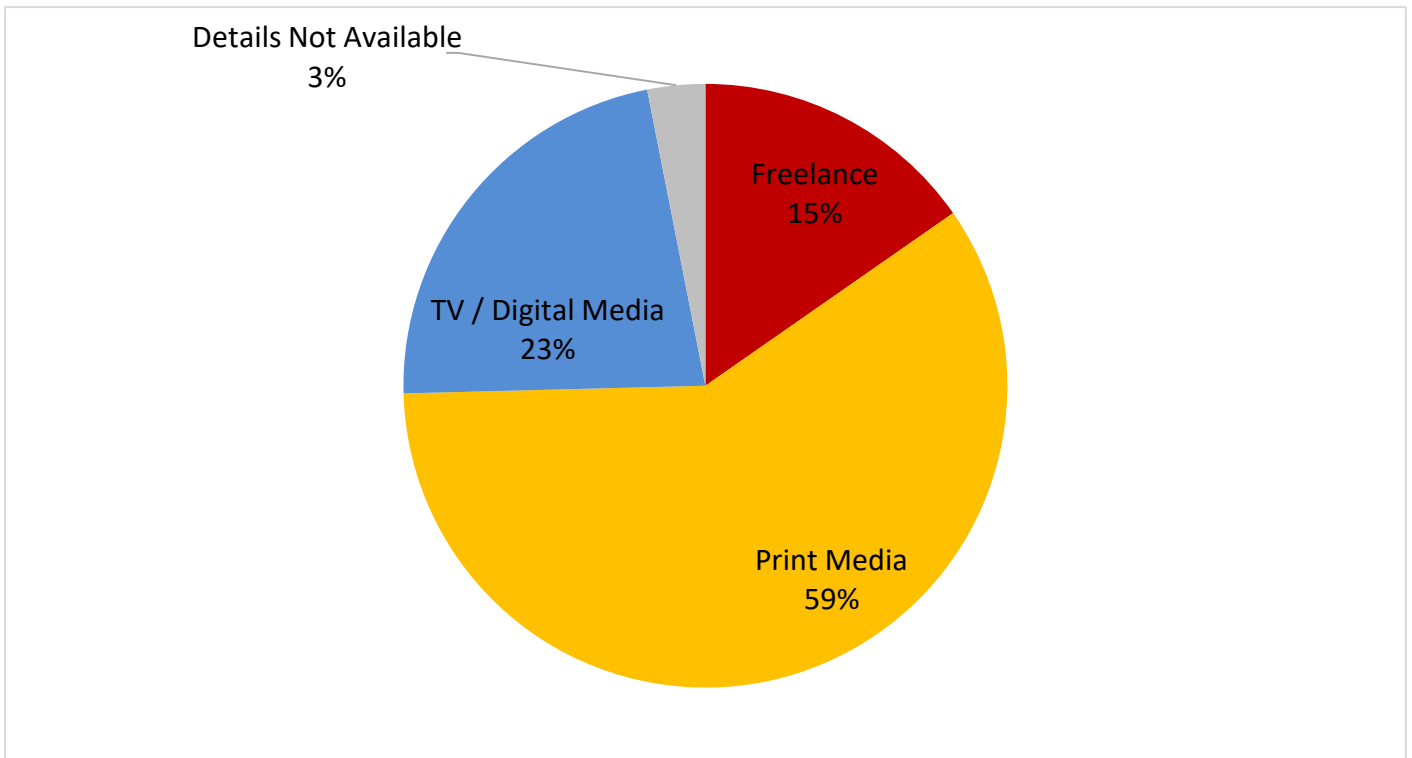
Top 8 States – Journalist Deaths



Age-Wise – Journalist Deaths



Media Categories – Journalist Deaths



Summary of Findings on Journalist Deaths

- 614 Journalists have died due to COVID-19 as of July 9, 2021.
- 31 % (143) of the deaths occurred in Metro regions; 69 % (471) of the deaths occurred in Non-Metro regions.
- More Journalist Deaths in Non-Metro areas than in Metro areas.
- 59 % of Journalist Deaths are from Print Media across India.
- 31.11% Journalist Deaths are in the age group of 41-50 Years followed by 23.29% of Journalist Deaths in the 51-60 age group.

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. 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.
- 3. 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

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

Mr. Aaron Mirza: 9761085740