

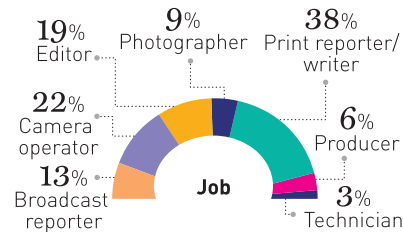
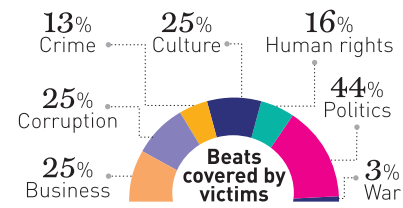
Source: Freedom House; Committee to Protect Journalists

Journalists under attack

India is increasingly becoming a less free and more dangerous environment for journalists.

BY R. SURESH

Journalist deaths in India*



Medium: Print 66%, Television 31%, Radio 3%
Gender: Male 97%, Female 3%
Local/ Foreign: Local 100%
Type of death: Murder 59%, Dangerous assignment 41%
Freelance: 16%

Suspected source of fire in murder cases

Political group 47%
 Criminal group 21%
 Government officials 5%
 Paramilitary group 5%
 Unknown 21%

Impunity in murder cases

Complete impunity 95%
 Partial justice 5%

All figures are rounded to the nearest full percentage point.

* May add up to more than 100 per cent because more than one category applies in some cases

Global press freedom has fallen to its lowest level in over a decade, according to "Freedom of the Press 2014", a survey brought out by Freedom House, a United States-based non-governmental organisation.

The share of the world's population with media rated "Free" remains at just 14 per cent, or only one in seven persons. Far larger shares live in "Not Free" (44 per cent) or "Partly Free" (42 per cent) media environments.

Of the 197 countries and territories assessed during 2013, a total of 63 (32 per cent) were rated Free, 68 (35 per cent) were rated Partly Free, and 66 (33 per cent) were rated Not Free. The edition of 2012 featured 63 Free, 70 Partly Free, and 64 Not Free countries and territories.

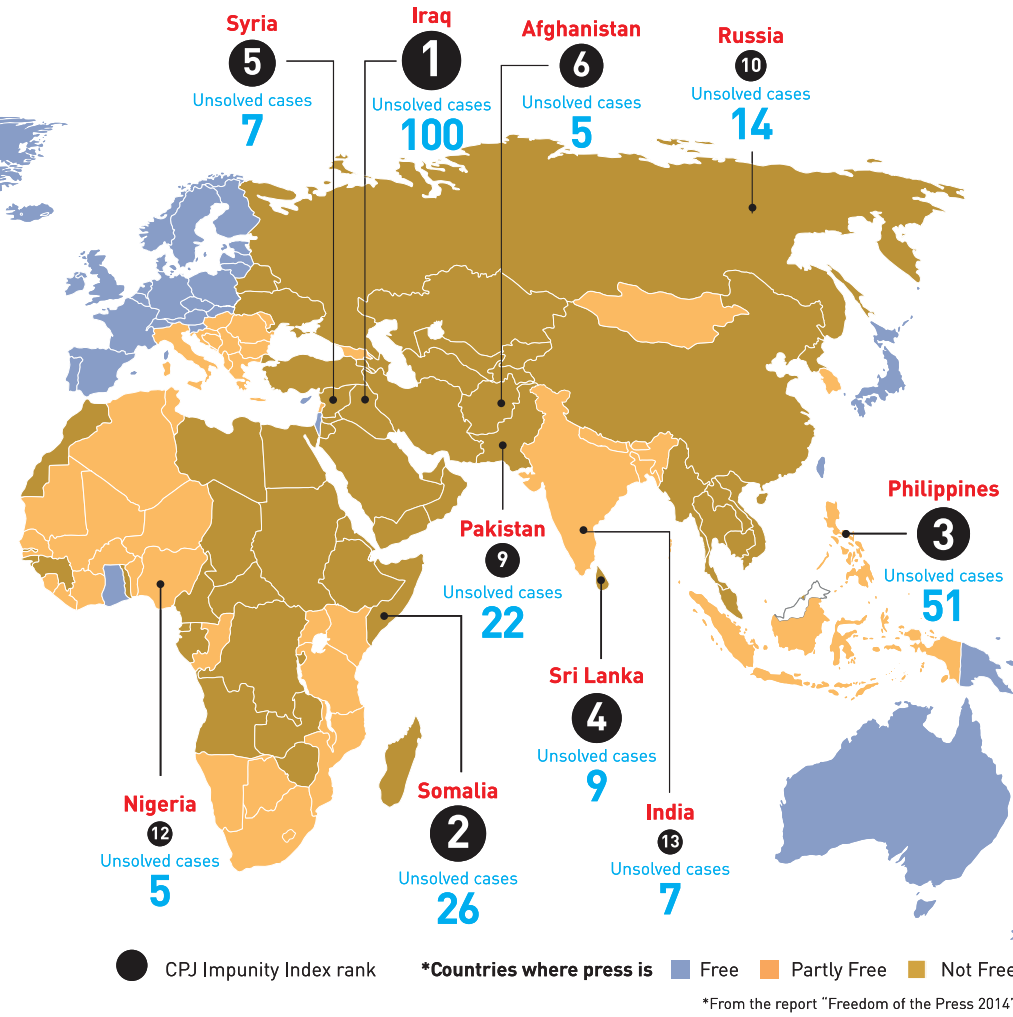
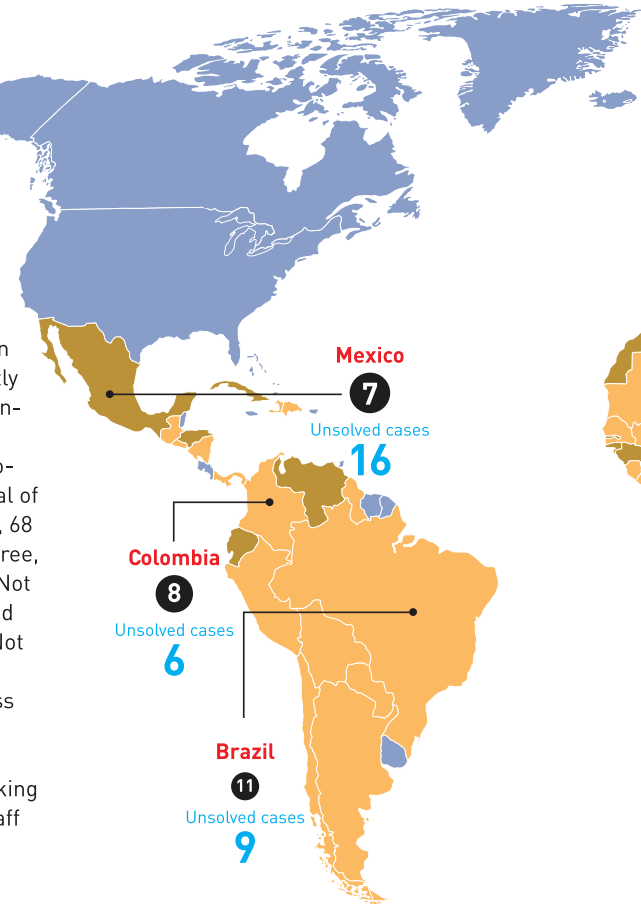
India also saw a decline in press freedom in 2013 as reflected in increased interference by media owners in editorial decision-making and dismissal of key editorial staff in several instances.

Under peril

Also published in the U.S., by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a non-profit organisation, is the "2014 Impunity Index". It compiles the list of countries where journalists' murders are most likely to go unpunished.

India ranks 13th in the list of countries where journalists are

On press freedom & journalists' murders unsolved



● CPJ Impunity Index rank *Countries where press is Free Partly Free Not Free
 *From the report "Freedom of the Press 2014"

slain and killers go free. The report says the world's largest democracy's repeated failure to advance justice in the killings of its journalists has kept it on CPJ's Index since the survey started in 2008. At least seven journalists, all working for local print publications

and reporting on corruption, politics, or crime, have been slain in connection with their work in the last decade, with state responses rarely going beyond a perfunctory police investigation. Two journalists were murdered with impunity in 2013. One of them was Narendra Dabholkar, who was shot by two

gunmen on motorcycles as he took an early morning walk in August. Dabholkar had received threats in the days before his murder and often published articles on sensitive issues, including religious superstition, farmer suicides, slums, and the Maoist movement.

For full list: www.cpj.org



Sai Reddy, *Deshbandhu*
 December 6, 2013



Rajesh Verma, *IBN 7*
 January 31, 2013



Narendra Dabholkar, *Sadhana*
 August 20, 2013



Ashok Sodhi, *Daily Excelsior*
 May 11, 2008



Asiya Jeelani, *Freelance*
 April 20, 2004



Parvaz Mohammed Sultan, *News and Feature Alliance*
 January 31, 2003



Dwijamani Singh, *Prime News*
 December 23, 2012



Rajesh Mishra, *Media Raj*
 March 1, 2012



Pradeep Bhatia, *The Hindustan Times*
 August 10, 2000



Parag Kumar Das, *Asomiya Pratidin*
 May 17, 1996



Vijay Pratap Singh, *Indian Express*
 July 20, 2010



Shivani Bhatnagar, *Indian Express*
 January 23, 1999

Methodology

The Freedom of the Press study was conducted by examining 23 methodology questions and 132 indicators, which looked at legal, political and economic factors affecting the press in 197 countries. The higher the number of points allotted, the less free the press were considered to be.

Besides the overall safety of journalists to carry out their work, factors such as state interference and media ownership were also taken into account.

A country's final score (from 0 to 100) is based on the total of the scores allotted for each question: A score of 0 to 30 places the country in the Free press group; 31 to 60 in the Partly Free press group; and 61 to 100 in the Not Free press group.

CPJ's Impunity Index calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. For this index, CPJ examined journalist murders that occurred between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2013. Only those nations with five or more unsolved cases are included on this index. The CPJ defines murder as a deliberate attack against a specific journalist in relation to the victim's work. Murders make up more than 70 per cent of work-related deaths among journalists, according to CPJ research. This index does not include cases of journalists killed in combat or while carrying out dangerous assignments such as coverage of street protests.