

JFA condemns murder of scribe in central India



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[Journalists'](#) Forum Assam ([JFA](#)) has strongly condemned the repeated murder of scribes in the country and urged the Union government in [New Delhi](#) to formulate a strict [policy](#) to safeguard the media persons. The scribe's forum expressed shock that one more journalist (Rajesh Mishra from Uttar Pradesh) was killed on Saturday to erode [India's](#) journo-murder index.

Media reports from Lucknow confirmed that journalist Mishra (40), who used to work for Dainik Jagaran, was shot dead by three motorcycle-borne [gunmen](#) at Kailash Nagar locality of Gazipur district on 21 October 2017.

With the assassination of Mishra, who was inclined to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, [India](#) has lost nine journalists in [ten](#) months of the year. The largest democracy in the globe witnessed three shocking news of journo-murders in the last month, which ignited widespread protests across the country.

The string of journo-killings began with Hari Prakash (killed on January 2) and the [trend](#) continued with the murders of Brajesh Kumar Singh (January 3), Shyam Sharma (May 15), Kamlesh Jain (May 31), Surender Singh Rana (July 29), Gauri Lankesh (September 5), Shantanu Bhowmik (September 20) and KJ Singh (September 23).

[India](#) is ranked 136th among 180 countries in its RSF's World Press Freedom Index (2017), which is just ahead of its neighbors Pakistan (139th), Sri Lanka (141) and [Bangladesh](#) (146). Norway topped the list where [India](#)'s neighbors including Bhutan (84), Nepal (100), Maldives (117), Afghanistan (120), Burma (131) etc are ahead of it. [One](#) party ruled North Korea (180) is at the bottom of the list, where Vietnam and China were placed at 175th and 176th positions respectively. "[India](#) as a nation loses around five journalists to assailants irrespective of any political party regime in [New Delhi](#) or other provinces. Statistics reveal that we lost six journalists to perpetrators in 2016, which was preceded by five cases in 2015. We witnessed murders of two scribes in 2014, but the year 2013 reported as many as 11 journalists' murders," said a statement issued by the [JFA](#).

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