

Usha Rani Das

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Education

- September 2022 – **University College London (UCL), United Kingdom**, MSc Social and Cultural Anthropology.
- September 2023
- Grade- Merit.
 - Specialisms: Nationalism, Ethnicity and Race; Migration and Health; Anthropology of Crime; Anthropocene.
- July 2014 – **Asian College of Journalism, India**, PG Diploma Print Journalism.
- May 2015
- Grade- High Second Division.
 - Recipient of the SAF-Madanjeet Singh scholarship, covered in eight SAARC countries
 - Specialisms: Print Journalism; Child Rights; Journalism and the Law
 - Worked as a reporter and copy editor of the ACJ newspaper, The Word.
- July 2009 – **Haldia Institute of Technology, India**, B. Tech Information Technology.
- July 2013
- Grade- 8.45/10
 - Awarded the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship, MHRD, Government of India.
 - Started the departmental wall magazine which became a monthly poster covering major events of the university. Worked as its Editor for 3 years, managing a team of seven people.

Professional Experience

- January 2024– **RESOLVER**, FREELANCE RISK ANALYST, *Variable hours depending on job queue*.
- October 2024
- Analysed risk signals in digital content, predicting their severity and preventing their spread and impact. Predicted complex risks in real-time to enhance AI Risk Intelligence technology to build a safe online space amidst the digital chatter.
 - Worked along with Risk Analysts based in India to moderate digital content related to politics and elections in India. Through analysis of various types of risks, contribute to building AI Technology to tackle misinformation, and fake news before elections.
- July 2021 – **TIMES OF INDIA**, SENIOR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT, *Full-time 45 hours/week*.
- September 2022
- Worked as district courts reporter. Filed at least 3 news stories every day and one long-form in-depth article per week.
 - Wrote exclusive stories on the toolkit document case in which climate activist Disha Ravi was arrested, plight of the students returning back from war-hit Ukraine to India, plight of trans men in the country, pendency in the Indian judiciary and communal riots.
- August 2018 – **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT, *Full-time 45 hours/week*.
- March 2021
- Worked as district courts reporter.
 - Filed the major legal news stories of the day in the district courts in Delhi. Worked on a strict deadline without compromising on the accuracy.
 - Broke the story on JNU and Jamia students being charged under the controversial anti-terror law in connection with riots in Delhi. Covered north east Delhi riots cases, farmers' protests, sedition cases, Unnao rape case, Muzaffarpur shelter home rape case, Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case.

- May 2016 – **INDIA LEGAL**, STAFF WRITER, *Full-time 45 hours/week*.
- August 2018
- Reporter on field covering legal, environment and human rights issues.
 - Filed one in-depth long-form article every week. Also worked with the magazine production team, editing and proofreading stories.
 - Filed long-form articles on issues like violation of environmental norms and court orders by steel-pickling plants in Delhi, alleged illegal foreign funding of political parties, nepotism in judiciary, security threat to the economy due to involvement of private players in GST, high cost of litigation in India.
- May 2015 – **BUSINESS INSIDER INDIA**, STAFF REPORTER, *Full-time 45 hours/week*.
- May 2016
- Filed 5 news stories every day for the digital platform, while maximising SEOs using keywords and meta tags.

Research Experience

University College London (UCL).

- Carried out ethnography in India to explore how different conceptualisations of the Ganga River produce different responses to 'Anthropocenic' problems like pollution.
- Completed a 15,000-word dissertation using participant observation and semi-structured interviews, thematic analysis techniques and literature review. Purposive and random sampling techniques were used to recruit participants. Techniques of reliability and replicability, like refutational analysis, use of comprehensive data comparison, were used to achieve consistency in qualitative research.
- Received training in quantitative and qualitative research methods, data collection and management, data analysis techniques and good ethical research practice.

Asian College of Journalism.

- Completed a 8,000-word dissertation on the rights of 'mentally ill' children in India, especially in Chennai. Analysed the effectiveness of the Mental Health Bill draft submitted before the Ministry for review through interviewing children with disabilities and their parents. Filed a report on the gaps in policy making due to the sharp contrast between real and perceived solutions.
- Carried out extensive on-field visits to several psychiatric hospitals and institutions in the city for a period of one month. Conducted interviews of children with mental health problems who were physically abused. Worked closely with policy makers who are part of the Mental Health Bill draft submitted to the Ministry.

Software Skills

- MS Office: Used MS Office extensively to design exhaustive research report. Also used it to write articles for print and digital platforms.
- EndNote: Competitively used it to carry out literature review and cite sources in articles and thesis.
- Content Management System: Used CMS platforms to produce, edit and publish news articles on digital platforms.
- SEO: Used SEO strategies extensively to maximise visibility and increase reach of news articles on digital platforms.
- Python: Acquired understanding of how to use the language for basic data analysis.