

NIRMAL MITRA

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EDITOR/CORRESPONDENT

A journalist with a strong track record on breaking news and making news judgments on deadline. Worked with several newspapers in the U.S. as well as magazines and dailies in India. Active in social networking. Reported from the United Nations for an Indian news agency, won a Dag Hammarskjold Scholarship at the U.N. and a Reuter/John S. Knight Fellowship at Stanford University for stories on Indian social and political issues.

HONORS & AWARDS

- “Rising Star” award for leadership and editing of stories on the anthrax attack at a South Jersey postal distribution center in the aftermath of 9/11.
- Dag Hammarskjold Memorial Scholarship to cover the U.N. General Assembly.
- Panelist on environmental reporting at the Investigative Reporters and Editors conference in Chicago.

EXPERIENCE

News editor, Opinion, Newsday, Melville, NY *July 2021-present*

- As the production editor and a member of the Newsday editorial board, I help brainstorm editorials and op-ed pieces and edit and produce the digital and print editions of the Opinion section with an eye on metrics. The board also meets and interviews representatives of public and private organizations in the news as well as political figures and election candidates to decide on editorial policy and endorsements.

Assistant Editor, Newsday, Melville, NY *February 2012-July 2021*

- Performed a variety of roles while in this position, including real estate editor from October 2019 to July 2021, as well as pinch-hitting as an assigning editor handling breaking news on the long Island desk from time to time. Regular duties included editing local news and wire stories for the newspaper and website. Worked on several special investigative projects, including one into the award of concessions by Nassau County and how judgeships are made on Long Island.

Copy Editor, Newsday Westchester, New York, NY *February 2012-July 2013*

- Played critical role in editing and improving stories, writing SEO headlines, editing photo galleries and databases for Newsday’s new website covering Westchester, Rockland and four other counties in the Hudson Valley.
- Doubled up as content editor and web producer on Saturday nights and wrote breaking news stories.
- Helped conceive and develop an interactive Hudson Valley parks guide.

Slot/Page One Editor, Asbury Park Press, Neptune, NJ *May 2009-February 2012*

- Edited front-page stories, heads, cut lines and quotes for four Gannett dailies – Asbury Park Press, Home News Tribune, Courier-News and Daily Record – on the Universal Desk, formed in 2009 as part of Gannett’s consolidation of its New Jersey papers.

Senior Editor, News India-Times, New York, NY *November 2008-May 2009*

- Covered the South Asian community for the second-largest paper serving South Asians in the U.S., and Desi Talk, a free newspaper for South Asians in the tristate area.
- Organized the local and wire sections, paginating them on QuarkXPress.

Breaking News Editor, Asbury Park Press, Neptune, NJ *May 2005-August 2008*

- Supervised a five-member team covering accidents, crime and courts, editing and posting breaking news updates and reports for the Web and newspaper.
- Planned and executed enterprise packages, including coverage of Shore storms, back-to-school features, Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month and Chinese New Year.
- Organized community roundtables to get feedback from readers and brainstorm ideas.

Assistant Metro Editor, Courier-Post, Cherry Hill, NJ *June 2000-May 2005*

- Nightly breaking news editor Tuesday through Saturday in the intensely competitive South Jersey-Philadelphia news market, posting stories on the Web.
- Lead editor on a “1,000-year storm” package, which won a Gannett “Well-Done” award.
- Conceived and edited Shore adventure sports series, which won a Gannett “Well-Done” award.

Topic Editor, Times Herald-Record, Middletown, NY *Dec. 1998-June 2000*

- Ran the community, health and social Issues team when the paper was trying out a configuration of topical rather than geographical beats.

Assistant News Editor, Poughkeepsie Journal, Poughkeepsie, NY *Jan. 1997-Nov. 1998*

- Helped manage a nine-member copy desk and worked as slot editor four days a week, with sole charge of the newsroom on Sundays. Edited copy, paginated on QuarkXPress.
- Produced the readers guide to life in the Mid-Hudson region, acknowledged as one of the paper’s best.
- Attended workshop on compelling storytelling at the American Press Institute, Reston, Va.

Senior Editor, India Abroad, New York, NY

Sept. 1993-Jan. 1997

Covered Indian businesses and social and cultural activities, and India-related news in the United Nations for the weekly paper serving the growing Indian American diaspora, and for India Abroad News Service, which fed about 40 newspapers in India. I began my stint at India Abroad after 16 years of reporting and editing a wide range of stories for publications in India.

EDUCATION

- B.A., political science (honors), St. Xavier’s College, Calcutta University, India, with economics as minor.
- Reuter/John S. Knight Fellow, Stanford University; audited courses in fiction writing, English literature, Asian American literature, drama, photography.

SKILLS/CERTIFICATIONS

- An avid sketcher, painter and illustrator, I work in watercolor, acrylics and mixed media and have done artwork for several newspapers I have worked for, including the Courier-Post, Asbury Park Press and Newsday. I have also done a course in comic storytelling.
- Certificate in digital design (Web design track) from Baruch College, City University of New York, in 2011. Completed courses in XHTML, CSS, Advanced Flash, Dreamweaver, InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator.
- HTML and Web design and marketing, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ (Sept. 2008-Nov. 2009). Proficient in Microsoft Excel and page design and graphics on QuarkXPress and Corel Painter.