**Sumanta Ray Chaudhuri**

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**Experience SUMMARY:**

• **General:—** Over 23 years of experience in journalism (reporting) in various fields namely State Administration in West Bengal, Assembly proceedings in West Bengal, State Finance in West Bengal, political developments nationally and in West Bengal, international affairs relating to cross- border issues and social issues, among others.

• **Specialized areas:** Banking, state finance, economics- politics interface, government- industry interface and social issues of human interest

• **Related Additional skills:** Well adapted to two formats of current day journalism — a) detailed reporting with analysis skills for print version b) Instant reporting for the Internet version in brief with all salient points mentioned

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:—(Current)**

**Associated with The Echo of India, a growing English daily as Executive Editor. My present role with The Echo of India is essentially an advisory one, where I am responsible for giving assignments, story selection and editing for the newspaper’s Siliguri and Gangtok editions. Occasionally, I also contribute articles and special columns for the newspaper.**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:—(Past)**

1. **Special Correspondent, Hindustan Times, Kolkata. (January, 2011, —June 2019)**

• Single- handedly covered the developments in the current West Bengal state secretariat at, *Nabanna*

• Covered West Bengal assembly proceedings with specialization on state budget, debates on home affairs, state finance, state commerce & industries, personal & administrative reforms, among others.

• Provided supporting backup to Senior Assistant Editor, Tanmoy Chatterjee in covering opposition politics in West Bengal related to Left Front and Congress

• Occasionally wrote full page feature stories on specialized issues like chit fund or ponzi menace, LGBT (lesbian- gay- bisexual- transsexual movement) in India, present day corporate involvement in Bengali festivals, among others.

• Occasional rewriting of copies of junior reporters with value addition

**b) Special Correspondent, Daily News & Analysis (DNA)’s Kolkata Bureau— (From July 2005— January 2011— Joined in July 2005 as Principal Correspondent and promoted as Special Correspondent in April 2010)**

• Single- handedly covered state politics (ruling & opposition)

• Single- handedly covered major incidents in West Bengal like Singur agitation, Nandigram massacre, Gyaneshwari and Saithian Train mishap, Rizwanur Rehman tragedy, among others

• Single- handedly covered the 2006 West Bengal assembly elections

* Single- handedly covered the 2008 Panchayat elections in

West Bengal

• Single- handedly covered the 2009 Lok Sabha elections (West Bengal part)

• **Major assignment—**.In 2010, I was posted to Ayodhya for 20 days to cover the situation there in wake of the Babri Mosque demolition verdict by the three- judge bench of Allahabad High Court. There I single- handedly covered the entire pre- verdict and post- verdict scenario in Ayodhya as well in its adjacent town of Faizabad.

1. **Principal Correspondent, The Financial Express — (November 2000 — June 2005— Joined in November 2000 as Senior Correspondent and Promoted to Principal Correspondent in April 2003)**

• Covered purely financial issues with specialization in banking and state finance, industry— politics interface in West Bengal (Some of my special stories related to bank scams and state finance were also simultaneously carried in The Indian Express)

• Also covered political issues like 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

• **Major achievements: —** Major breaking stories on bank loan defaulters in West Bengal as part of Indian Express Group’s (The Indian Express and The Financial Express) most popular series “The Indian Bank Robbery”

1. **Staff- reporter — cum — sub editor , The Statesman (March 1997 to October 2000)**

• Performed the dual performance of collecting information and filing stories as well as subbing stories for the Business Desk

• **Major Achievement:—** A major breaking story on the main Employment State Insurance (ESI) Scheme defaulters in West Bengal

1. **Staff reporter, The Asian Age, From March 1996 to March 1997(Joined as a trainee reporter in March 1996 and got confirmed as staff reporter in July 1996)**

• As a junior reporter my assignment was related to covering day- to- day assignments related to different event organized by different chambers of commerce

**EDUCATION:**

• BA (English, Economics, Political Science)

• Post Graduation in Journalism

**Extra- curricular activities (certification)**

• Participated in second division football league for Southern Athletic Club

• Completed advance course in mountaineering from West Bengal Adventure & Mountaineering Federation

**Extra- curricular activities (pursued)**

• Associated with Action Aid, International as volunteering team leader for educating street & platform children

• Occasionally participate in counseling of parents with children with alternative sexual orientation for an NGO, Solidarity Against Campus Homophobia (SACH)

**Salary expected—** Negotiable

**References:** a) Somnath Dasgupta

Former Editor (online) The Telegraph

and former Resident Editor of

The Financial Express, Kolkata

(Mobile: 9830061526)

b) Anirban Chowdhury,

Editor, 24 ghanta and former Deputy Resident

Editor of Hindustan Times, Kolkata

(Moblie—9830273295)

c) Bhaskar Podder,

Vice President, HSBC-HDPI,

(Mobile— 9836615333)