

AVIDHA RAHA

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DOB - 09.01.1998

PROFILE

A multimedia journalist specialized in photography; with interest in gender, culture, labor, health, travel and climate. Capable of conducting investigative and independent research.

LANGUAGE(S) PROFICIENCY LEVEL:

Bengali (Native), English, Hindi, Urdu, French(Beginner).

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- **Photo Desk Editor** - USC Annenberg Media Center [2025]
- **Photography Editor** - The LSR College Magazine [2018-19]
- **Executive Board Member** - The LSR English Debating Society [2018-2019]
- **Media Head** - LSR Students' Union [2018-19]
- **Executive Board Member** - The LSR Quiz Society [2017-19]

SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS

- Photo-essay:'Amidst the myriad forms of public transport in Kolkata' (Bengali) - **Alonyash Magazine**. (print only)
- Freedom of riding solo - **National Geographic Traveller India**.
- An antique radio store slipping into oblivion - **The Telegraph**.
- In Rumbak, a Himalayan idyll - **National Geographic Traveller India**.
- The Scenic Route to Tso Moriri Lake (photo-essay) - **Travel+Leisure April 2023 print**.
- Understanding the consequences of climate change through the lens of a humble Himachali festival- **Heritage Himalaya magazine, funded by Ministry of Culture, Government of India**. (print only)
- In Matho: bringing Thangkas back to life - **People's Archive of Rural India(PARI)**.
- Reclaim the night, we want justice -**The Telegraph**
- Across the Indo-Myanmar border village of the Konyak Nagas, Longwa- **German Consulate General supported initiative called 'Documenting and Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Nagaland', exhibited photographs at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata**.
- In Bodhgaya, Buddhists go on hunger strike, demand withdrawal of Bodhgaya Temple Act - **The Wire**.
- In discussion with Homebound filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan - **USC Annenberg Media**

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (USC), LOS ANGELES, USA [2025-26]
Master's in Specialized Journalism

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA [2019-21]
MA History - First Division

LADY SHRI RAM COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI [2016-19]
BA (Honours) History; Minor - Sociology - First Division

SALT LAKE SCHOOL (E.M.), KOLKATA
ISC Board Examinations 2016 - 97%
District Topper

WORK EXPERIENCE

FELLOW - COVERING CLIMATE NOW (2026): 3-month fellowship with weekly trainings. My pitch on erratic precipitation affecting apricot farmers in Himalayas is matched with **Dialogue Earth**. I am working with their editors currently towards publication.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT - CENTER FOR CLIMATE JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATION (2026): Research about climate trends, write blogs, manage documentation for our Director, Allison Agsten.

RESEARCH ANALYST - USC NORMAN LEAR CENTER (2025-26): Coding and analyzing scripted entertainment content.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER - USC IMPACT & SPECTRUM NEWS 1 (2025-2026): Created a short environmental documentary on the Los Angeles River titled 'Concrete v. Vegetation'.

PHOTO DESK EDITOR - USC ANNENBERG MEDIA CENTER (2025-26): Assigned coverage duties to a team of 60+ student photographers. I approved photo-essay pitches from the student body, edited and published them, conducted workshops and filed nomination for awards.

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST - USC ANNENBERG MEDIA CENTER (2025-26): Covered stories for digital, radio and television news, contributing to regular bylines. Additionally, managed the teleprompter for the weekly evening show on Annenberg Television News (ATVN).

INDEPENDENT JOURNALIST (2021-2025): Worked for: **National Geographic Traveller India, The Wire, Travel+Leisure, The Telegraph**. Investigative stories for **People's Archive of Rural India(PARI)** which was cited by platforms like National Herald and South Asia Commons. Also, **voiceover narration for an archaeological documentary** by Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation, funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

CITIZEN HISTORIAN - THE 1947 PARTITION ARCHIVE (2020): Interviewing and historicizing the 1947 Partition survivors. The stories are archived at The Stanford University Libraries.

PHOTOJOURNALIST- DU EXPRESS (2017-2019): Covered academic, political, commercial and cultural events across Delhi.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **2026 Gregory Yuen Yee Training Grant** - Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA)
- **Finalist, LA Press Club Awards 2026** for Best Arts Writing/O8 (Results on June 28)
- **Finalist, LA Press Club Awards 2026** for Multimedia Package/B5 (Results on June 28)
- **Arts and Climate Collective Grant** by USC Annenberg Innovation Lab [2025]
- **Sustainability Superstar Award** by USC Sustainability [2025]
- **Selden Ring Investigative Journalism Fellowship** by University of Southern California (USC). [2025]
- Featured on **TravelXP** [2025]
- Featured on **Outlook Responsible Traveller** [2025]
- Featured on **Royal Enfield Himalayan Festival** [2024]
- Photographs exhibited at **Kolkata Centre for Creativity**, under Emami Art. [2023]
- **Winner - Nikon Street Photography Competition** [2023]
- Published in Print - **Travel + Leisure** [2023]
- Featured on **Getty Images** [2023]
- Featured on **The Journal Collective** [2022]
- **Winner, Daily Shot - National Geographic Traveller** [2022]
- Top 15 - **Sony BBC Earth Photo Contest** [2022]
- Featured on Tripoto [2021]
- **Honourable Mention** at Unexposed Southasia - Women Street Photographers from South Asia. [2021]
- Photographs exhibited at **Indian Council for Cultural Research, Ministry of External Affairs** [2021]
- Multiple features - **National Geographic Traveller India** [2021]
- **2020 Choice Award** - Viewbug International Photo Community [2020]
- **Winner**, 'Framed' Photography Contest - Lady Hardinge Medical College [2019]
- **Chirasree Chakraborty Memorial Award for Writing in Indian Languages** - Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR) [2018]
- **Best Speaker** - St. Stephen's College annual debate, Delhi [2017]
- **Best Speaker, Negotiation Table** - IIT Delhi [2016]
- **Ankur Samman Award for Academic Excellence** - CESC Limited [2016]
- **Highest Scorer:** History (100) & Sociology (99) [2016]
- **Rankholder's Prize** - Salt Lake School [2016]

INTERNSHIPS

RESEARCHER- CHILD IN NEED INSTITUTE (2018):

Conducted surveys around Kolkata slums to research children's health and maternity care.

BUSINESS REPORTER - THE TIMES OF INDIA (2017):

Contributed to multiple bylines and interviews. My article on GST made it to the front page on June 28, 2017.

PHOTOGRAPHER - DELHI FOOD WALKS (2017):

Documented Old Delhi food trails and culinary histories.

SCHOLARSHIP, TEACHING & WORKSHOPS

- **Randy Hagihara News Coaching** by Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) [2025]
- **Photography Educator & Editor** - Himalayan Cultural Heritage Foundation. [2023-24]
- Conducted **lectures on Photojournalism** at Lady Shri Ram College for Women in Delhi University, as a notable alumna. [2023]
- **Lecturer - Global Nomad Summit**- Spoke on sustainable travel practices and giving back to local communities. [2021]
- **Oral History Workshop** with The Partition Museum. [2020]
- **Bhikchandani Scholarship - Tata Trusts** for documenting stories for The 1947 Partition Archive. [2019]
- **Religion through Scriptures:** Online course from Harvard University. [2019]
- Bridging the gap in learning by **Teach for India**. [2017]

VOLUNTEERING

ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION (AAJA) - Student Volunteer [2025]: Logistical and technical support for AAJA events happening in Los Angeles.

ZANSKAR BUDDHIST NUNNERY - Teacher [2023-2024]:

Lived in the remote Zaskar Valley (4400m) of the upper Himalayas at a Buddhist nunnery with 20 nuns. Taught little nuns from nearby villages English language.

PARTITION MUSEUM, AMRITSAR - Interviewer [2020]:

Interviewing Partition witnesses and their families to be archived at the Museum.

COVID-19 HELPLINE INDIA - Content Writer [2020]:

A pro bono healthcare service providing emotional support during the stressful time of Covid-19 induced lockdown. I have written 20+ published blog posts for them.

SKILLS

Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Premiere Pro, Front-end Coding, Photojournalism, Documentaries, Broadcast Writing, On-Air trained, Canva, Teaching, Research, Text & Photo Editing.