

Name : Rajat Roy

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Academic Qualification: MA in Philosophy (First Class) from Visva Bharati, Santiniketan

Professional Experience: A senior journalist with wide experience in both Print and Electronic media. I started my journalistic career under two legendary journalists Gourkishore Ghosh and Hamdi Bey, when Aajkaal, a Bengali daily was launched in 1981. Later on, I joined Anandabazar Patrika. During my 18 years stay in Anandabazar Patrika I shouldered various responsibilities, such as, member of Delhi bureau, Chief of Delhi bureau, Chief Reporter (West Bengal districts), News Coordinator, News Editor and Associate Editor (Editor).

In 2005-6, I also played a key role in setting up a new Bengali 24X7 news channel Kolkata TV, where as Executive Producer, I was responsible for Recruitment and Training of journalists as well as the news management. In 2007 I left Kolkata TV and started writing for a Delhi based news magazine Hard News. Then I joined Sakaal Times, an English daily from Pune as its Kolkata bureau chief. In 2009 I entered with an arrangement with Business Standard, a reputed business daily and regularly contributed to it for five years.

Many vernacular and English news channels, e.g., 24 Ghanta, Kolkata TV, News Time, CNN IBN, Times Now, Aaj Tak, sought my service as a political analyst and commentator. I have been frequently interviewed by Le Monde, BBC Bangla, Washington Post, Al Jajira etc. During 2013-16 I was associated with Prothom Alo, the leading daily in Bangladesh where I not only contributed as a political analyst, also I was involved as an Editorial Consultant to suggest ways to restructure the News Management of the paper.

Presently, as a freelancer, I write occasionally for The Print (web news magazine) and Outlook magazine.

Domestic Experience: In my journalistic career I had covered news of various categories in Bengal, India and abroad. Both Mondal and Ramjanambhumi-Babri Mosque controversies were covered by me from close proximity. The process of economic reform and liberalisation initiated by P V Narshima Rao and Manmohan Singh in 1991 was covered by at great length. I did cover and studied first hand the Electoral Politics in India and USA. Covered Bhopal Gas Disaster, post Babri demolition Bombay Riot, Share Scam of 1992 and consequent Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe.

International Exposure:

I covered NAM 1995 at Cartagena (Columbia) and NAM 2003 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In 1987, covered Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Sri Lanka where the accord was signed by the two countries and consequently Indian Peace Keeping Force was sent against LTTE. Also, an attempt was made on PM Gandhi's life by a Sri Lankan soldier during the farewell guard of honour there.

When in 1995 the 50 years of UNGA was observed I was there to cover that event where the Victors of Cold War (Clinton of USA, John Major of Britain etc.) were seen to be dictating terms on the vanquished (Fidel Castro of Cuba).

Covered SAARC summit at Colombo in 1998 where PM A B Vajpayee and Pak PM Nawaj Shariff had a failed bilateral meeting on the sideline of the summit.

In 1996 covered Bangladesh general election that catapulted Sheikh Hasina to power for the first time.

Research Exposure: N337180693321960

Though I have devoted my professional life as a journalist, my interests are not restricted to mere journalistic works. Thus, I was a member of the advisory group that supervised the DFID project (of British govt.) in West Bengal for Capacity Building of Panchayat bodies during 2009-10. At present I am a member of a reputed

research organisation Calcutta Research Group (CRG) that has Refugee Studies and Forced Migration as its core area of research.

Some of my publications are mentioned below:

Economic & Political Weekly: Endemic Hunger in West Bengal, May 2009

Economic & Political Weekly: Election Results of state assembly elections in Bengal, an analysis, May, 2016

Economic & Political Weekly: BJP Upbeat in Bengal, an analysis, April, 2017

SEMINAR: Two Decades of Left Rule in Bengal, January 2001

SEMINAR: Regime Change in the Offing? April, 2011

Book Edited: Political Ecology of Survival; co-edited by Ranabir Samaddar, Madhurilata Basu and Rajat Roy, Orient BlackSwan. 2018

Books Translated:

a) Good Muslim Bad Muslim by Mahmood Mamdani into Bengali—Bhalo Mussalman Mando Mussalman

b) Indian Society by S C Dube into Bengali—Bharatiyo Samaj