Areena Arora

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EXPERIENCE

Editorial Coder | May 2025 -
The Hindu, Chennai

- Responsible for turning data stories into interactive for a digital audience.
- Building and maintaining datasets to be used for reporting projects.

Data and Investigative Reporter | Sept 2022 - Feb 2025
Knox News, Knoxville (local daily newspaper)

- Watchdog public education-beat reporter. Generated an average of 100,000+ monthly page views.
- Created and managed databases on property sales, crime and government budgets. Conducted newsroom data trainings.

Senior Sub-Editor | Dec 2019 - July 2021
InMobi Glance, Bengaluru (Curated feed for mobile lock screens)

- Co-led a team of six editors curating news feed for millions of users in India, Singapore, and U.S.
- Wrote and edited breaking news, worked closely with designers to optimize content for 100 million+ users.

News Publishing Specialist | July 2018 - Dec 2019
Reuters, Bengaluru

- Redesigned bond market and forex market newsletters to make them clearer. Also streamlined workflow for newsletter creation. Trained in company news reporting.

Reporter | June 2017 - April 2018
Idaho Press, Nampa (local daily newspaper)

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Graduate School of Journalism
M.S. Data Journalism, August 2022

- Honours in Media Ethics

Ohio Wesleyan University
B.A. Journalism and Economics, May 2017

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Hindi and Punjabi
Beginner level in Odia

SELECT PROJECTS

- Chennai heat index: **Interactive project** on how heat and humidity affect people differently.
- Investigated **the effect of private fundraising on public schools** using nonprofit data.
- Built a database disproving government's claim about **police chief searches**.

TALK
Lightning talk at NICAR 2022 in Atlanta

SKILLS

- **Reporting and editing**
- **Data analysis:** Python (Pandas, BeautifulSoup, Selenium), SQL and R
- **Data visualization and mapping:** Adobe Illustrator, QGIS, Mapbox, D3.js and Python libraries
- **Web development:** HTML, CSS, JavaScript

AWARDS

Golden Press Card, East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists
May 2025
First place in general reporting, two second place awards in government/politics reporting and series writing
May 2024
First place for continuing coverage on special ed
May 2025
Two first and one second place

Tennessee Press Association
July 2024
Three first place awards: Best Education reporting in the state, single feature and digital presentation

OpenNews Scholarships+
February 2022
OpenNews funding to attend NICAR

Shobhana Bhartia Fellowship
August 2020