



# Girish Gupta

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**Girish has a background in physics, two decades of full-stack programming experience and his investigative and multimedia reporting from Venezuela, the Americas and Middle East has been published by everyone from *Reuters* to the *New Yorker*. His analytical mind, grit and ability to get things done have allowed him to land in many difficult, remote places with no money or contacts and make things happen. As well as deep reporting, he has created products and startups, advised government and enjoys playing music, keeping fit and always satiating his curiosity.**

Girish started teaching himself to code at eleven, writing software and building database-driven websites from scratch. A popular music site he created in his early teens, in 2000, was listed by MTV as one of the then nascent web's top twenty sources.

In physics, which he studied at Cambridge and Manchester, his interests lie broadly on the theoretical end of the spectrum—spacetime, quantum mechanics and particles. His Master's project, the abstract to which was published, was a simulation of the heart to investigate atrial fibrillation.

As a reporter, Girish was based primarily in Venezuela for nearly a decade where he produced groundbreaking investigations, covered daily clashes and reported on a humanitarian crisis. From Caracas, he traveled the world and reported across TV, photos, radio and text.

As a freelancer, he investigated diamond smuggling from illegal jungle mines in the Amazon, Glencore profiting from a Colombian paramilitary massacre and, separately, the killing of wildcat gold miners there. He worked with some 40 news outlets and stood up to sloppy reporting, slow payments and unpaid work in his own industry. As a Senior Correspondent at *Reuters* covering Venezuela, Girish demonstrated—always with documents—high-level, multi-billion-dollar government corruption, exaggeration of electoral results and that the country's Chief Justice was arrested on suspicion of murder.

Girish has lived and worked across the world, often in its most hostile environments: Venezuela, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, Mexico, India and many others.

He went beyond traditional media by bringing math and code to journalism, automating story-writing and, wanting to properly understand the roots of Venezuela's humanitarian crisis, creating software to provide thousands of people with live and historic data on the country's dire economy. He expanded the *Venezuela Econ* platform into a company, *Data Drum*, which offered automated, clean and elegant global macroeconomic data. He failed, though, to make it profitable.

In Mumbai, he created a data science unit at a public policy non-profit that worked with government in applying computing to everything from urban planning and mapping to data governance and the COVID-19 response.

Now, as Chief Technology Officer at Stanford-conceived, France-based startup *Deepnews.ai*, Girish is building a machine learning algorithm to help identify quality journalism.

### **Chief Technology Officer, Deepnews.ai**

*April 2020 –*

- Led technology at Stanford-conceived, France-based startup, funded by Google and others.
- Worked on an algorithm to identify quality journalism using NLP machine learning techniques (word embeddings, convolutional neural networks, TensorFlow).
- Built up an efficient serverless architecture on GCP (including App Engine, Cloud Run), slashing costs 70%

### **Head of Data Science, IDFC Institute, Mumbai**

*May 2019 – May 2020*

- Created a solid, broadly-skilled data science unit at a public policy non-profit think/do tank—funded in large part by the Rockefeller, Gates and Ford Foundations.
- Team conducted research, built platforms and advised government on urban mobility (using Uber data), open-source mapping, privacy/data governance and COVID-19.
- Liaised with U.S. funders, senior Indian officials and academics.
- Held lectures, discussions and mentored on computing, writing, presenting, management.
- Upgraded and managed IT infrastructure on AWS.

### **Founder/Chief Executive Officer, Data Drum, Inc.**

*May 2018 – April 2020*

- Created a U.S. C corporation and platform providing automated, clean and elegant data to explain the world, innovating at the intersection of data science, journalism and finance.
- Held fully automated economic data on half a dozen countries as well as issues such as COVID-19.
- Led a team including developers, economists and regional experts.
- Met with potential customers, investors and partners—and gave speeches—across the world.
- Created AWS- then GCP-hosted platform in HTML, PHP, etc., linked to SQL databases. Managed React Native mobile apps, Node.js API, JavaScript Google Sheets and Microsoft Excel add-ins (highlighted at Microsoft developers' conferences) and PHP, Python data acquisition. Stripe.

### **Creator, Venezuela Econ (absorbed into Data Drum, Inc.), based in Caracas**

*December 2014 – April 2018*

- Created the go-to data platform on one of the world's most opaque countries, used by 15,000 people including politicians, investors and journalists for everything from live black market exchange rate fluctuations to details of the brisk money-printing fueling the world's highest inflation.
- Wrote iOS/WatchOS, Android and web apps, as well as an API, providing automated live and historic economic and social data, customizable visualizations, calculators and a flight-tracker.
- Backend and website in PHP, MySQL, HTML, etc.; iOS app in Swift; Android app in Java.

### **Senior Correspondent, Reuters, based in Caracas**

*June 2015 – May 2018*

- Exclusively revealed, with electoral council documents, that the results of a national Venezuelan election were fabricated; secrets about the country's military, including documents showing surface-to-air missile inventories and lists of soldiers arrested for treason and rebellion; that the country's Chief Justice was arrested on suspicion of murder and tried to persuade a judge to release a suspected arms/drug trafficker, with intelligence documents and audio; and high-level, multi-billion dollar corruption at Venezuela's state oil company, with documents and audio.
- Produced text, photos and TV on Venezuela's hyperinflation, social decay, food riots and protests.
- Built sources in Washington, New York, and across Latin America. Worked in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Wrote software to automate story-writing, data-gathering and admin.
- Coordinated on-the-ground and digital security in an extremely hostile environment.

### **Freelance foreign correspondent, Reuters, New Yorker, New York Times, TIME, BBC..., based in Caracas**

*October 2010 – May 2015*

- Produced text, photos, video and radio in Venezuela, as well as Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador,

Egypt, [Guyana](#), [Jordan](#), Lebanon, Peru, and [Mexico](#), for more than 40 major news outlets.

- Covered the cancer, election and [death](#) of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, the messy transition to Nicolás Maduro's rule and the crisis that followed, including daily [violent unrest](#).
- Investigated [diamond smuggling](#) from [illegal jungle mines](#) in the Amazon, Glencore profiting from a Colombian paramilitary massacre and killing of wildcat gold miners linked to a multinational there.
- Conducted on-the-ground investigations for *Control Risks*, *K2 Intelligence* and *Ergo*.
- Built a sustainable business with \$10,000 monthly revenue in a notoriously difficult industry.
- Fined many clients for late payment and successfully took to court those who refused to pay fines.

### Physics (MPhys) at *University of Manchester*, **England**

September 2006 – June 2010

- Abstract to Master's project—a computer simulation, in C, of the heart exploring atrial fibrillation—[published](#) in the *Proceedings of The Physiological Society*.
- Bachelor's project on negative index of refraction; first year essay on the physics of music.
- News editor at the *Mancunion* student newspaper. Hosted a radio show.
- *British Army Officers' Training Corps*: first aid, weapon handling, leadership and military tactics.
- Interned at news outlets, including *Reuters*, *Guardian* and *Times of London*, and worked in bars, clubs.

### Natural Sciences: Math, Physics, Chemistry and Geology at *King's College*, *Cambridge University*, **England**

September 2005 – June 2006

- Social Secretary at *Cambridge University Canoe Club*.

### Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology (A-Levels) at *Burnham Grammar School*, **England**

September 2003 – June 2005

- Physics projects included a flash-rate monitor and a report on the Special Theory of Relativity.
- Worked at a supermarket, bookshop and various bar, waiting jobs.

### Creator, *Music Goes On, Ltd.*, **England**

May 2000 – November 2001

- Built (PHP, MySQL, HTML, etc.) a music [website](#) listed by *MTV* as one of the web's top 20 sources.
- Assembled computers, wrote a BPM counter, VAT calculator, word processor, etc., in Delphi and C++.

Side-Projects: [According to Documents](#) 2020 Highlight document-based investigative reporting.  
[Readwise2Roam](#) 2020 Convert *Readwise* book and article highlights to *Roam* notes.  
[GlobalOTP](#) 2019 Receive SMS-based 2FA messages via email. PHP, FireStore, Twilio, Stripe.

Code: C, C++, Java, Swift, PHP, Python (+Flask), R, MATLAB, SQL, HTML, JavaScript (+D3).

Server: AWS (Lightsail, EC2, RDS, SES, Route 53).  
GCP (Compute Engine, App Engine, Cloud Run, SQL, FireStore).

Software: Adobe Creative Cloud (Lightroom, Illustrator, InDesign, Audition).

Languages: English, Spanish, Hindi/Urdu, basic French and Arabic.

Interests: Science, math and their history. Health and fitness. [Photography](#). Travel. Music.

Online: [Website](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [GitHub](#), [Angellist](#).