Hi,

I am a television journalist with an experience of 7 years working in India’s premier English general news channel, CNN-IBN with both on-field as well as backroom expertise in editorial and production.

In a vastly changing world of television, news channels are not just competing with each other but also more crucially scrambling for viewers attention and loyalty by having to reinvent themselves constantly in the face of fast evolving digital world. Today news is social, where a reporter must ask herself is this a story compelling enough to be shared. As chaotic and uncertain as this profession may seem to be now, as a journalist it gives me great hope and confidence in how the world has changed and what we have achieved so far. The self-importance of a journalist delivering news with first hand information of a story has been demolished with multiple sources from the ground who don’t necessarily need news organizations to reflect their stories. Social news to me is the most exciting and most relevant aspect of journalism as it exists today because as a reporter one can engage with hundreds of voices from across the world and choose the most relevant and most credible one to be the voice of a story.

As a correspondent, I have covered politics, conflict, disaster and general news stories apart from anchoring and producing special shows from one of the politically volatile regions of West Bengal and North-Eastern part of India. Major breaking news stories include India’s worst hospital fire tragedy in Kolkata, earthquake in Sikkim which killed more than 100 people, the longest economic blockade in insurgency hit state of Manipur and the historic 2011 elections in West Bengal which toppled the longest running communist led government in the country. I believe my experience as a reporter from India with my insight into its politics and society, along with the newly acquired skills make me a fit candidate who has the right perspective, training and approach to understand what will make news in the days to come and be alert to the feelers online.

In the last seven months, I have been training to be a multimedia journalist at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism aided by the prestigious Fulbright scholarship. I am learning the basics of HTML, CSS, aggregation and digital news design along with extensive camera training. I have no practical newsroom experience in online journalism but I believe that I have the right approach and attitude towards journalism as it exists in 2014 and is willing to change and evolve to stay relevant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

Priyanka Gupta

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