# **NIKITA MANDHANI**

Journalist | Filmmaker | Audience strategist

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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Led the launch of <u>BBC News India's YouTube</u> <u>channel</u>, growing it to 75k subscribers in its first year through new, data-driven video formats

Revamped <u>BBC India-Instagram</u>, adding new video formats and 100k followers in six months

Led in-person video journalism training for reporters in Zambia for BBC Media Action, 2025

Selected for <u>Future Cities Go Glocal</u> 2025–26 cohort advancing policy on social justice & digital inclusion

Founded In Sync, a 10-part interview series exploring innovation in non-fiction video

Judge for Online News Association's journalism awards for video and social media, 2024, 2025

Won a <u>WAN-IFRA award</u> for 'Best use of video' for a short documentary series, 2023

Won a <u>WAN-IFRA award</u> for short-form video production covering an Indian election, 2022

Won a <u>BBC News award</u> for Outstanding Initiative for Reaching New Audiences in 2021

Received reporting grants to cover <u>migration</u>, <u>business</u> and human rights in Illinois, Michigan, California, Puerto Rico and Germany, 2016

### **EDUCATION**

Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, United States Master of Science in Journalism September 2015 - December 2016

**Rajiv Gandhi Technological University**, India Bachelor of Engineering, IT August 2007 - June 2011

## **SKILLS**

Spoken languages: English, Hindi/Urdu (Fluent)

**Multimedia**: Final Cut Pro (Advanced), Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop, CapCut, InShot, Edits

**Other skills**: YouTube Studio, Meta Business Suite, in-depth audience analytics, SEO, Canva

**Certificate/courses**: Reporting on AI (intensive), HEFAT, PADI Open Water Diver, and more

## **JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE**

Senior Producer/Journalist, Self-employed, India Nov 2024 – Present

- Directing, producing and editing a film on digitization of healthcare in India for the <u>Solutions Storytelling Project</u> Asia fellowship
- Archival producer for an international documentary on caste
- Drive video and social coverage on big news days for the BBC
- Run <u>training</u> workshops on <u>video</u> production & viewer engagement
- Develop and produce multi-format stories for news outlets & NGOs

#### BBC News, Delhi, India

#### Senior Video Producer

Nov 2022 - Aug 2024

- Directed, produced, presented and edited award-winning <u>short</u> <u>documentaries</u>, explainer videos and <u>Instagram reels</u>
- Managed video and social team, executive produced 100+ short docs, and news and feature shorts under tight deadlines
- Led production of eight YouTube series covering <u>tech</u>, <u>food</u>, <u>culture</u>; managing all phases from concept development to final delivery
- Collaborated with TV, graphics and marketing teams to craft and lead an impactful rollout of global stories on different platforms
- Produced field and studio shoots, including pre-interviews, logistics coordination and working closely with on-camera talent
- Monitored social and video analytics and developed overall video strategy to reach underserved audiences on different platforms

## Senior Video Journalist

Dec 2018 – Nov 2022

- Developed new formats to reach young and female audiences on <u>YouTube</u>, <u>IGTV</u>, <u>Instagram Reels</u> and the BBC website
- Filmed, edited and produced videos on <u>inequality</u>, <u>climate</u> change, coronavirus etc. reaching 10m+ people globally
- Reviewed scripts and storyboards and supervised BBC's language video teams in Asia, Africa and Europe to produce explainers, character-led videos and short documentaries
- Ran <u>trainings</u> across 42 language teams on using social media for reporting, filming remotely, creative editing and scripting

#### **Digital Journalist**

Feb 2018 - Dec 2018

- Field produced a documentary on <u>India's cow vigilantes</u> for BBC
  Newsnight finalist for Asian Media Award, 2019
- Reported, wrote and edited daily news and feature pieces covering gender, global relations, and protests across India

## Washington Post, Washington DC

Feb 2017 - Jan 2018

## Video Producer

- Conceptualized, filmed and edited a five-part video series,
  <u>Between Two Cultures</u>, on daughters of immigrants in the US
- Edited video output for social media verticals and website

## Freelance Reporter, Washington DC

*Dec 2015 – Feb 2018* 

- Covered stories focused on <u>refugees</u>, <u>immigrants</u>, <u>business</u> and <u>culture</u> for AJ+, NBC News, Business Insider, Upworthy and others
- Video intern at Vox.com, USA Today covering the 2016 US election