

SUHANA SANYAL

Researcher · Designer · Sustainability Communicator

Kolkata, West Bengal · hello@suhanasanyal.com



India-based researcher and multimedia specialist with 5+ years of experience at the intersection of social movements, archival documentation, and digital storytelling. Experienced in conducting field research, semi-structured interviews, and community narratives across West Bengal, Jharkhand, Orissa, and Chhattisgarh. Demonstrated ability to bridge grassroots communities with international organizations (GIZ, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, US Embassy) through storytelling, visual documentation, and stakeholder coordination. U.S. State Department alumna with deep engagement in protest culture, social justice activism, and cross-cultural exchange, making her uniquely positioned to support the adaptation of memory culture and social movement narratives into the Indian context.

FELLOWSHIPS & DISTINCTIONS

Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative · U.S. Department of State

Jun 2024 – Jan 2025

- One of 10 young leaders selected from India & USA for this fully funded U.S.-India exchange program focused on civil rights, social justice, and leadership
- Year-long immersion: nonviolent action theory, and cross-cultural activism - directly applicable to this project's focus on protest culture and social movements funded by the U.S. State Department
- Studied philosophies of Gandhi and MLK Jr. through immersive academic sessions; developed strategies for inclusive leadership and transformative change
- Featured by U.S. Consulate Kolkata for multimedia reflection on democracy and shared values; profiled as participant spotlight

Section Leader · Stanford University- Code in Place

Apr – May 2025

- Mentored a cross-cultural student cohort in Python; facilitated intercultural dialogue and collaborative problem-solving

Overall Events Head- Elan 2024 · St. Xavier's College Kolkata, in collaboration with WWF

2024

- Led a two-day national-level sustainability and creativity conference; coordinated sponsors, guest speakers, and a multidisciplinary team
- Event covered by The Telegraph; valedictory address by British Deputy High Commissioner Dr. Andrew Fleming

Common Earth International Climate Cohort · Common Earth Academy, Canada

Dec 2023

- 16 immersive sessions on systems thinking, circular economy, and climate justice with an international cohort of changemakers

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Empanelled Research Associate · University of Glasgow & IIM, Calcutta- Women in STEM

2024

- Semi-structured interviews, market surveys, transcription & translation across 4 states (WB, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh)
- Bridged linguistic and cultural gaps between international researchers and local community participants

Communications Expert · GIZ India - IGGSP (Equal Gender Participation in Green Skills) Nov 2024 – Jun 2025

- Produced documentary and multimedia content on women-led solar cooperatives in tribal communities across Jharkhand
- Project video presented at India Week, GIZ Germany- direct Indo-German collaboration and international showcase
- Coordinated stakeholder communications with ITIs, local government, and green businesses across aspirational districts

Research & Communications Consultant · Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung India- Women & Workers in Energy Transition

Jun 2023 – Sep 2024

- Built digital storytelling strategies archiving grassroots women eco-entrepreneurs' voices across rural India
- Invited speaker at FES multi-stakeholder dialogue on gendered mobility and urban transport policy (March 2024)
- Supported policy dialogues on gender equality in energy transition; led social media and web archiving campaigns

Research & Design Associate · Sustainable Design Research Consortium (SDRC) May 2019 – Jun 2023

- 5 consecutive US Embassy-supported projects: Gender & Sustainability in Env. Entrepreneurship (2020), Serious Sustainability Practices (2020), Post-COVID Roadmap for Women-Focused Green Livelihoods (2021), E4 – Environment, Employability & Empowerment of the Eves (2022), Tech-Enabled Energy Transition for Women Ecopreneurs (2023)

- Designed visual identity, social media content, and communication materials across all projects; supported policy dialogues and climate awareness campaigns

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Girl Gamers Project- “Arriving in Germany”** · Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata 2025-2026
- Developing interactive narrative game on migration, cultural memory, and belonging; mentored by Prof. Dr. Sonia Fizek (Cologne Game Lab)
- Design Sprint Creator & Lead** · St. Xavier's College Kolkata Apr 2025
- Independently designed and facilitated a gamified design thinking sprint for undergraduate students; received enthusiastic faculty and student feedback

VOLUNTARY & ARCHIVAL WORK

- Head of Editorial Board & Lead Designer – Chronicle of a Century** · St. Xavier's College Kolkata 2022
- Led historical research, content curation, and design of a 100-year institutional memory publication from the Goethals Indian Library
- Senior Under Officer** · National Cadet Corps (NCC) 2019- 2023
- Highest rank a student can achieve; led 150+ cadets in parades, drills, and tactical training; Alpha (Distinction) in C & B Certificate Examinations (2021–2022)
- Design Head (Pro Bono)** · African Entrepreneurship Support & Mentorship Program, Nigeria 2019- 2020
- Shaped visual identity for a UN Women Nigeria-supported NGO promoting vocational education for women and girls
- BCG CSR Volunteer** · Boston Consulting Group Sep 2022
- Showcased intangible heritage of Bengal- handicrafts, local produce, and indigenous artefacts- to an international audience

EDUCATION

- Integrated Masters – Multimedia & Design (Animation)** · St. Xavier's College, Kolkata · University of Calcutta
· CGPA 7.8
- Indian School Certificate (ISC)- Pure Science** · Calcutta Girls' High School · CISCE 2019 · 90%
- Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE)** · Calcutta Girls' High School · CISCE 2017 · 96.2%

CERTIFICATIONS

Google GenAI Exchange Program (2025) · Google Project Management (2024) · Google UX Design (2024) · IBM Data Science (2023) · Common Earth Circular Economy (2023) · IBM Enterprise Design Thinking

SKILLS

Research: Semi-structured interviews, field documentation, transcription & translation, market surveys
Storytelling: Video production, motion graphics, documentary archiving, narrative design, animation
Software: Adobe Suite (Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Animate), DaVinci Resolve, Maya, Blender
Tech: Python (NumPy, pandas, scikit-learn), HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Figma, UX Research
Languages: English (native) · Bengali (native) · Hindi (native) · German (beginner) · Japanese (beginner)