

Akshay Deshmane

New Delhi-based investigative reporter. Focus areas: environment, climate, politics, laws and public policies.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance Investigative Reporter

October 2024 – present: working on multiple investigative stories relating to climate, energy, political economy and legal issues.

OCCRP, New Delhi – Trace Foundation fellowship.

October 2022 – October 2024

Received a 10 month fellowship to work on a special project to investigate environmental crimes. This was extended till October 2024.

Freelance Investigative Reporter

March 2022 – September 2022 Researched investigative stories about the following themes: climate, energy, political economy, law making.

The Morning Context, New Delhi —Writer

March 2021 – February 2022

Wrote investigative stories at the intersection of business/economy and environment. Also wrote in-depth pieces about health, media & IT laws.

HuffPost India, New Delhi —Senior Writer

AUGUST 2018 - DECEMBER 2020

Used the RTI system and court records extensively for writing investigative reports about a wide range of public interest issues including environment, legal issues, politics, economy and business.

Frontline, New Delhi —Special Correspondent

OCTOBER 2016 – JULY 2018

Reported stories at the intersection of politics, elections, public policies and political economy issues. Used the RTI system for investigative reporting frequently.

Economic Times, Jaipur & New Delhi—Senior Correspondent

SEPTEMBER 2013 - SEPTEMBER 2016

Wrote about local governments in Delhi & Rajasthan as well as policies of the federal government in addition to ground reports during elections. Occasionally, also wrote investigative stories using a range of sources including documentary evidence gathered in response to RTI applications.

Down To Earth, Mumbai – Senior Reporter

EDUCATION

Ongoing: Post Graduate Diploma In Environmental Law (National Law School of India University, Bengaluru)

2009-10: Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism (Asian College of Journalism, Chennai)

2006-09: Bachelor In Mass Media (Journalism/Mumbai University)

SKILLS

News writing, long form features writing, policy analysis and research.

Using the RTI system for investigations & research.

Special expertise in analyzing, reporting and writing about environmental laws and policies of India.

Analysing legal documents for newsworthy information and writing long-form stories based on it.

LANGUAGES

Can speak, read and write in English, Hindi and Marathi.

JANUARY 2013- SEPTEMBER 2013

Mumbai correspondent for the Down To Earth magazine--India's only environment and science fortnightly.

Daily News & Analysis, Mumbai – Correspondent-cum-copy editor

December 2010 - JAN 2013: Reported city stories about the following beats and themes: transport, environment, political economy, infrastructure politics. Also wrote long form features about the city environment, infrastructure and some state level issues like forest rights of adivasis.

Daily News & Analysis, Mumbai – Trainee journalist

June 2010 – November 2010 (6 months)

Reported general city stories

Hindustan Times – Intern

November 2007 – January 2008 (3 months)

Reported Mumbai's crime, politics, civic issues etc. while pursuing undergraduate studies and an editorial internship with the HindustanTimes, Mumbai,

CNN–IBN – Intern

June 2007 – August 2007 (3 months)

Get tapes, get bites, ingest footage, find footage, go for live links, get voxpopuli etc