

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

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Date of Birth: 17 (Seventeen) February 1977

Introduction

I am a Communication Designer and Academician. As a designer, I work in the field of documentary films, visual communication design, conservation and ethnographic projects, publication and design consultancy. Clients range from Central and State Governments agencies, international and national corporates and NGO's.

As an academician, I am the Area Coordinator for Design at DAU (Dhirubhai Ambani University) as well as Professor of Practice/Adjunct Faculty at various national institutes of higher learning in the field of design, film and photography, multimedia and graphics.

Recipient of multiple awards, including the prestigious The Scientific Exploration Society Award (2017), Green Oscar Panda Award (2012) and British Film Institute (BAFTA) Award (Documentary Category) in 2006 [As part of production team]. Most recently have been awarded the UNESCO-WNICBR (2021) award for Man & Biosphere Reserve conservation project.

Professional Experience

- **Founding Partner, Runaway Planet** – a communication design agency registered in Mumbai (2013-current).
- **Area Coordinator (Design) & Professor of Practice at DAU, India** (2017-current).
- **Core Design Team Member** with Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute, Port Blair (2013-2022).
- **Executive Director & Head of Design** for '7 Cities Theme Park', Mumbai (2012-2017).
- **Founder-Director, The Ark Foundation** - a registered conservation organisation, Mumbai (2012-2017).
- **Associate Professor** in the Masters in Design (Communication Design) Program at DA-IICT, India (2004-2007).
- **Associate Designer**, National Institute of Design, India (2003).
- **Artist in Residence**, Fabbrica Communication Research Center, Italy (2001 - 2003).

**In total 22 (Twenty-two) years of professional work experience and 18 (Eighteen) years of academic experience.*

Education Record

- Graduate in Visual Communication Design from National Institute of Design (www.nid.edu), Ahmedabad, India with specialisation in Filmmaking & Communication Design. Year of graduation: 2003.
 - Two-year Artist-in-Residency scholarship at Fabrica (www.fabrica.it), the Benetton Group Communication Design and Research Institute in Treviso, Italy. Area of Work - integrating New Media with Video. Years: 2001 - 2002
 - Two years of BSc Zoology from Hindu College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India.
 - High School Final (Class XII) GCE University of London 'A' Level Examination, Science Group: Aggregate 95%
 - School Final (Class X) WBSE State Examination: Aggregate - 90%
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Academic Experience

I am committed to working in both academia and the professional world. This dual role allows me to enrich my teaching with real-world experience and bring an academic, exploratory approach to my professional work. I have designed and audited graduate and postgraduate design programs, and I currently serve as a Professor of Practice and Area Coordinator for Design for the Master of Design Program at Dhirubhai Ambani University (DAU).

Over the last two decades I have taken courses for graduate and post-graduate students at various institutions of higher studies like NID (Ahmedabad), DA-IICT, Chitkara University, UPES, Jagran School of Design, Symbiosis Institute of Design, NIFT, ISDI, DJAD, Pearl Academy, Doon University, Artlab and others.

Courses offered:

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|---|---|
| • Fundamentals of filmmaking | • Fundamentals and Principles of Design |
| • Wildlife filmmaking | • Design Thinking and processes |
| • Ethnographic & Documentary filmmaking | • Information Design & application |
| • Film & Video history and language of cinema | • Elements of Multimedia |
| • Scripting, video production and editing | • Interactive & Experience Design |
| • Photography-Basic & Advanced | • Design for Conservation |
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Professional Projects

The following is a list of professional and other consultancy work done over the past few years. The work has been distributed as:

- (A) Interdisciplinary Projects
- (B) Filmography
- (C) Multimedia projects
- (D) Photography projects
- (E) Other projects.

A. Selected Interdisciplinary Projects

A.1. Reimagined Livelihood for fishing community of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, Tamil Nadu

Using and deployment of innovative co-curated audio-visual PRA techniques to identify and implement innovative supplementary livelihood practices aligned to the traditional practices of the fishing communities along Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.

Sponsor: UNESCO & World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves (Phase 1: 2021-2023. Phase 2: Proposed from 2024)

A.2. Andaman & Nicobar Tribal Research Institute (ANTRI)

Associated with ANTRI to document the material culture of the Indigenous communities of the Andaman Islands.
Sponsor: Andaman & Nicobar Administration & ANTRI (2013-2022)

A.3. 7 Cities Theme Park & Themed Entertainment Destination

Concept & Design Lead for the '7 Cities Theme Park' - US\$4 Billion project themed around Indian history, civilisation and culture to be constructed in Agra, India.
Client: Kingdom Entertainment Private Limited (2012-2018)

A.4. Lesser Florican Conservation Project

Project leader for the design and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy for the conservation and protection of the Lesser Florican (*Sypheotides indicus*) in western Madhya Pradesh.
Sponsor: Conservation Leadership Program (2007-2016. Project handed over to Wildlife Conservation Society)

A.5. Onge Aboriginal Group Shelter Design Project

Design of post-tsunami shelters based on Onge vernacular architecture and cultural needs for the tsunami affected hunter-gatherer tribal community of Little Andaman.
Client: AAJVS, A&N Admin. & Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Govt. of India (2005-2009)

B. Filmography

B.1. 'Positive Deviance Tool Training Film' (Documentary, 2K, 17 minutes)

Script & Direction for a documentary-style training film on Positive Deviance tool for Anganwadi workers.
Client: GIZ, India (2025)

B.2. 'Gold in the Grass: First look at Finn's Baya' (Documentary, 2K, 15 minutes)

Script, Direction & Cinematography for documentary on the critically endangered Finn's Baya.
Client: Nature Science Initiative, India (2024)

B.3. 'Seeds of Change' (Documentary, 2K, 15 minutes)

Script, Direction & Cinematography for documentary on the integrated project to address malnutrition amongst various tribal communities in the border areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
Client: GIZ, India (2024)

B.4. 'Jangal ki Aankhe: Story of the nature guides' (Documentary, 2K, 10 minutes)

Script, Direction & Cinematography for documentary on the nature guides who protect natural landscapes.
Client: Nature Science Initiative, India (2023)

B.5. 'Musibat ki Potli' (Documentary, 2K, 15 minutes)

Script, Direction & Cinematography for documentary on plastic pollution and its effect on terrestrial wildlife.
Client: Nature Science Initiative, India (2022)

B.6. 'The Hunt' (Documentary, 2K, 25 minutes)

Direction & Cinematography for a film on Jarawa pig hunting practice in the Andaman Islands.
Client: Oil & Natural Gas Commission and ANTRI, India (2021)

B.7. 'Eco-India Series' (Documentary, HD, 8 Episodes x 15 minutes)

Direction & Cinematography for a series of short documentaries on environmental issues from around India.
Client: Scroll.in & DW TV, India & Germany (2020-2022)

B.8. 'Uneyholo: Searching' (Documentary, HD, 15 minutes) ^[1]

Direction & Cinematography for film on honey-collection practice of Jarawa community of Andaman Islands.
Client: The Scientific Exploration Society, UK (2017-2018)

B.9. 'Waterdogs of Moyar & The Frog Chronicles' (2 Documentaries, HD, 2 films x 10 minutes)

Direction & Cinematography for this set of documentaries that explore two CLP sponsored project on the otters in Moyar river and the Toad Skin Frog in Munnar.

Client: Conservation Leadership Programme, UK & USA (2016)

B.10. 'Bridging Worlds Series' (5-part Historical Documentary Series, HD, 5 films x 45 minutes)

Cinematography & Direction for this 4-part documentary series that explores the history of the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean, South-East Asia, France and French Overseas territories.

Client: Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, India (2010-2015)

B.11. 'On Road to Recovery: One year after the Himalayan Tsunami' (Documentary, HD, 25 minutes)

Direction & Cinematography for this documentary on the Uttarakhand recovery after the devastating 2013 'Himalayan Tsunami'.

Client: UNDP, India (2014)

B.12. 'Museum of their Own' (Ethnographic Documentary, HD, 25 minutes)

Cinematography & Direction for this ethnographic documentary that explores through dialogues the ideas of memories and preservation of cultures of the various indigenous communities of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Client: AAJVS, India (2013)

B.13. 'Man VS Animal' (Wildlife Documentary, HD, 45 minutes)

Cinematography for this natural history film which explores human-animal conflict.

Client: Ministry of Environment & Forest & National Geographic Channel, India (2011)

B.14. 'Ganga: The Ribbon of Life' (Natural History Documentary, HD, 45 minutes) ^[2] ^[3]

Direction & Cinematography for this natural history film which explores aspects of pollution, exploitation and misuse of the culturally important River Ganga.

Client: Ministry of Environment & Forest & National Geographic Channel, India (2010)

B.15. 'Seven Hours after Boxing Day' (Exploratory Documentary, DigiBeta, 90 minutes) ^[4]

Associate Director/Cinematography for the India/Sri Lanka section for this BBC commissioned film on Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004.

Client: FBC Media Pvt Ltd., India/Diverse TV Ltd. & BBC One, UK (2005)

B.16. 'Portrait of a Living City' (Video Art, MiniDV, 21 minutes)

Cinema Verite styled Video Art on the lives of 'Pol' residents of Ahmedabad.

Client: French Embassy in India/Alliance Francaise d'A Ahmedabad, India and Government of France (2006)

B.17. 'Popcorn' (Video Art & Installation, MiniDV, 2 minutes) ^[5]

Direction, Cinematography and Editing for this short experimental film and video installation. This film has been showcased at various electronic arts biennales.

Client: Fabrica, Italy (2002)

B.18. 'Diary on Man.Monkey' (Wildlife Documentary, DV, 25 minutes) ^[6]

Direction & Cinematography for this natural history documentary on the life of the Hanuman Langurs in Ahmedabad.

Client: NID, India (2001)

[1] Winner of Scientific Exploration Society Neville Schulman Award and Grant, 2017

[2] Winner of Panda Award at Wildscreen 2012, Bristol, UK

[3] Nominated for competitive section of Vatavaran Film Festival, 2011 and MIFF 2012

[4] Winner of BAFTA 2006 (Sound & Editing) and nominated for Emmy for Best International Documentary Film, 2006

[5] Screened and exhibited in Swiss Museum of Modern Art, Berne, Switzerland

[6] Nominated for Wildscreen 2002 (Bristol); Planet in Focus (Toronto); Cineco 2002 (Lisbon); Vatavaran 2005 (New Delhi); MIFF 2002 (Mumbai)

C. Selected New Media Projects

- C.1. Uganda Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (UETCL) Learning Management System 2024**
- C.2. Laila Khan Furniturewala website – (www.lailakhan.com) 2024**
- C.3. ISBAT Learning Management System - (www.ilearn.isbatuniversity.ac.ug) 2022**
- C.4. Farah Khan Fine Jewellery Website - (www.farahkhanfinejewellery.com) 2013**
- C.5. Tata Institute of Social Science website - (www.tiss.edu) 2010**
- C.6. Global Fund (India Chapter) website - (www.tissgfatmr7.com) 2010**
- C.7. Project Tiger Resource website - (www.tigerindia.org) 2005-06**
- C.8. Fabrica SPA, Italy website - (www.fabrica.it) 2002**
- C.9. Colors Magazine website no.47-52 - (www.colorsmagazine.com/archive) 2001-2002 ^{[1][2]}**
- C.10. Information Architecture for the Benetton (Italy) corporate site (www.benetton.com) 2001**

[1] Colors 48 'School' finalist in FlashForward 2002 San Francisco

[2] Colors 49 'Tours' winner in FlashForward 2002 New York

* Note: Some of the links may be inactive or changed. Refer to www.anirban.co for original designs.

D. Selected Photography Projects

D.1. 'Uhuu'

Photoshoot for a coffee-table book on unique honey collecting by the Jarawa hunter gatherer community.

Client: ANTRI, India (2019)

D.2. 'Italics'

Experimental series of travel photographs from Tanzania.

Client: Self-Initiated (2016)

D.3. 'Bangalore/Bengaluru'

Photoshoot on Bangalore for Hilton Bangalore.

Client: Mantri Realty, India (2012)

D.4. 'Africa: See You, See Me'

Selection of images showcased in a curated traveling exhibition on changing perception of the African continent.

Client: AfricaCont, NY (2008)

D.5. 'On the Edge of Silence'

Solo exhibition of images from Ladakh, India held in Mumbai.

Client: Sama Jewellery, India (2008)

D.6. 'Handmade in India - West Bengal'

Photographic documentation of handicraft of West Bengal for the DC(Handicraft) & NID Project 'Handmade in India'.

Client: National Institute of Design & Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), India (2005)

D.7. 'Alang'

Photoshoot on the Alang Shipbreaking yard in Alang, Gujarat.

Client: Gujarat Maritime Board, Indian (2000)

E. Other Projects

E.1. World Social Forum Mumbai 2004, Gujarat Exhibition and Film (2004)

Visualisation and execution of an exhibition and film showcasing the two faces of Gujarat - the 2002 riots and the 2001 earthquake at the World Social Forum. Sponsored by Gujarat Social Forum and Citizens Initiative.

E.2. School for Children, Gujarat Earthquake (2000-2003)

Rebuilt, restarted and sustained, as part of reconstruction efforts, the primary school at Moti Chirai, Kutchh for children immediately after the earthquake of January 2001 with the help of the Army and Citizens Initiative. Part of NID Student volunteer's initiative.

E.3. King Cobra & Water Monitor Lizard Breeding Programme, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust (2000)

Worked on redesigning enclosures and breeding programme setup for captive breeding and management of King Cobra (*Ophiophagus hannah*) and Water Monitor Lizard (*Varanus salvator*). Also designed and developed a new communication campaign for MCBT.

E.4. Eco-Ethology of extended maternal care displayed by *Lycosidae Spp.*, Indian Academy of Sciences (1999)

Pioneering study on extended maternal care displayed by species of *Lycosidae* spider in its natural habitat. Study conducted as part of Indian Academy of Sciences grant.

Awards and Other Qualifications

1. Recipient of UNESCO-WNICBR Award (2021)

Recipient of the prestigious UNESCO-WNICBR Award to implement an experimental supplementary livelihood project amongst the fishing community of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

2. Recipient of The Scientific Exploration Society Neville Shulman Film Award (2017)

Recipient of the prestigious 'The Scientific Exploration Society Neville Shulman Film Award 2017' for project to document honey collecting practice of the Jarawa community of Andaman & Nicobar Island. The award is also known as the 'Oscar for Exploration'.

3. Winner of Panda Award, Wildscreen, Bristol, UK (2012)

Panda Award for the film 'Ganga: Ribbon of life' at Wildscreen 2012, world's premiere wildlife and natural history film festival. The award is also known as the 'Green Oscar'.

4. Recipient of Conservation Leadership Program (CLP) Grant (2008-2009 & 2010-2013)

CLP is an umbrella grant given by 4 largest global conservation organisations (WCS, Conservation International, Birdlife International, Flora & Fauna International) for conservation of Lesser Florican in Madhya Pradesh.

5. Recipient of the Benetton Scholarship (2001-2003)

A scholarship given by Benetton Group to pursue research in Communication and New Media Design for the period 2001-2003 at Fabrica Communication Research Institute in Treviso, Italy.

6. Recipient of the National Scholarship in Photography (2000-2001)

Government of India scholarship for experimentation in the field of Photography.

7. Indian Academy of Science Research Fellow (1999)

Research work at the Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India under Dr.Raghavendra Gadagkar. Investigated the ecological behaviour of Lycosa Spider (*Aranea: Lycosidae*).

8. National Institute of Mountaineering Degree (1998)

Professional Grade A qualification in mountaineering (rock, snow, ice-craft) from the National Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi, India. Maximum height-gain set at 17000 feet (5200 Meter).

9. Assistant Zookeeper, Delhi Zoo & Kamala Nehru Zoological Gardens, Ahmedabad (1996-2007)

Assistant Keeper of the Avian and Small Mammals section.
