

U.S. Department of State Edward R. Murrow Program Participant Spotlight:



Smita Sharma

Smita Sharma is a special correspondent and anchor with IBN7 news, a national 24 hours Hindi news channel, belonging to the largest media group of India, Network18. She specialized in Broadcast Journalism from the premier Indian Institute of Mass Communications at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi in 2003. For the last five years, she has been covering International Affairs and Political beats actively. Crisis situation reporting and political debates/ anchoring are her fortes. She worked with news agency ANI/Reuters and public broadcasters in the past before joining IBN7 (previously Channel7) in 2005.

On the most professionally rewarding part of her Murrow exchange:

“The program provided a unique opportunity to study American society first hand and from close quarters. Sessions on crucial issues of race, religion, education and the economic meltdown provided a deeper insight which would go a long way both professionally and personally for me. Visits to Capitol and State Department , including a luncheon session at the Benjamin Franklin Hall were unique experiences too. The chance to interact with many a respected names in journalism and media, including Bob Woodward, David Ignatius, Philip Benett, Arthur Sulzburger, Sree Sreenivasan was inspiring and rewarding. And so was the chance to interact with fellow journalists from across the globe under one umbrella and learn of their challenges and perspectives.”

On how her visits to different American cities helped her to better understand the United States and its people:

“From DC to Wisconsin , to California to New York ...our travels taught us that there is no single America. The geographical and ethnic diversity amazes. American society's insulation is of concern. The transport systems and infrastructure connectivity are stories of progress that teach as well. The home hospitality sessions in Milwaukee and San Francisco was a chance to interact with and study up, close and personal different American families on different sides of the ideological divide. And not to forget the mesmerising views and sights from one coast to the other will always be a part of my priceless memories.”

On how her program experiences in the United States have been of value to her as a journalist in her home country:

“Personally speaking I was able to shoot a special documentary on the sidelines of the program dealing with issues of Race and Religion in the Race to White House and the impact of the Economic Meltdown. The program was aired on the national Hindi news channel IBN7, I am employed with. And having got a broader insight into American society and its complications, my broadened horizons help add more significant perspective to issues related to America ,its foreign policy and Indo American issues.”