



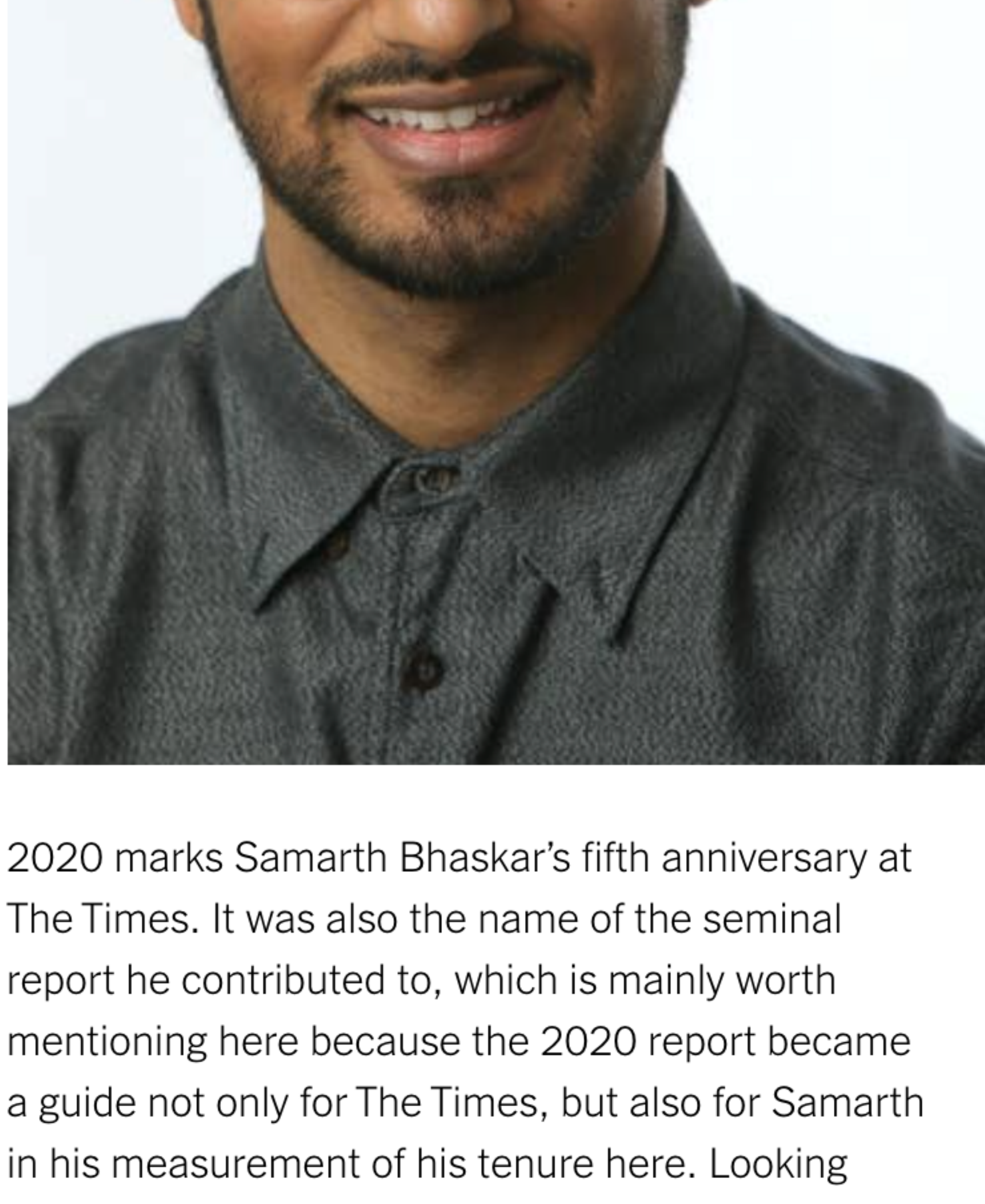
On the Move

Samarth Bhaskar Is Departing

After five years of supporting the newsroom through major changes, Samarth is moving into politics and plans to write a novel. We'll toast him on Wednesday, June 17, at 6 p.m. Eastern. Read more in this note from Kim Perry.



By Aimee Harris
New York
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2020 marks Samarth Bhaskar's fifth anniversary at The Times. It was also the name of the seminal report he contributed to, which is mainly worth mentioning here because the 2020 report became a guide not only for The Times, but also for Samarth in his measurement of his tenure here. Looking back, it's clear that his work has reached far into the newsroom, and will have a lasting impact. Samarth has often said 2020 was always going to be the year to reassess goals and to consider what was next. And sadly for us that's leading him back to his first passions, politics and the election. He also plans to spend time writing a novel.

Samarth first worked as an analytics manager with the then-new Audience Development team. He was a frequent partner to the newsroom Strategy team, contributing research and analysis to the [2020 Report](#) on the future of the newsroom and, more broadly, helping the entire newsroom understand how data can inform decision-making and can promote a better understanding of our operation and audience. He then joined Digital Transition (now Newsroom Development and Support) as one of our first team members — he took a leap of faith, into a new team and an ambitious role — and surpassed all expectations.

Samarth has supported the newsroom through massive changes. He helped create and run the editing pilot that turned into the strong desk transition. He drafted the first newsroom goals framework that came out of a three-month pilot with the National desk, which eventually became newsroom goals that were launched last year. That work turned into a summer audience institute that coached editors to learn new skills and scrutinize their desk's data each month. He's facilitated many, many brainstorms — you might remember his tact for drawing out the group, identifying solutions or his impeccable whiteboarding and handwriting. Most recently, he's been managing a team working on audience products and tools, and supporting teams by helping them build better workflows and systems. These are just the major headlines. There's no counting the influence he's had on his N.D.S. (a.k.a. D.T.) colleagues. To every project he worked on, Samarth brought guidance and support, kindness and thoughtfulness. And in responding to a challenge or crisis, he could always be counted on to be a moral compass, giving us another way to look at the situation. It's not an overstatement to say that Samarth is one of the most talented, thoughtful and capable people I've ever met.

He's one of those rare people who are as impressive personally as they are professionally. Just to prove that: He's a 5 a.m. riser — every morning — where he works out and then meditates and journals, sometimes makes dinner, and has even admitted to watching a movie — BEFORE WORK. He's also [incredibly well-read](#). In 2018 he was named in [Brooklyn magazine's 30 Under 30](#). And in 2008, he helped elect President Barack Obama.

In our conversations about what was next for him, Samarth said to me that, in his life, taking great leaps has always led to greater opportunities and challenges. This shouldn't surprise me. He is indeed a person capable of all.

Samarth, you will be sorely missed. We'll be cheering for you. Since we won't have a proper sendoff, here a couple thoughts from colleagues (others will be shared at the virtual sendoff):

- I often felt as if Samarth was the only person who could actually hear me when I was struggling and failing to solve or explain something. And only he could then also relay the essence of that half-baked babbling thought to others. I will be both sad and misunderstood without him.
Choire Sicha
- Samarth was the consummate colleague: the smartest guy in the room, but also the most humble. He led by example, thoughtfully organizing retreats, embeds and cookie runs. His calm demeanor and thought-provoking questions always pushed us to go deeper and do better. He went out of his way to help others, and trust me, we regularly asked for his assistance. He often said that one of his goals was to be a “real journalist,” but that was never the case — he made us all better from the start.
Melissa Hoppert
- Samarth, I will miss you. You helped me understand this place and find my bearings in my projects, no matter how busy you were. You encourage people to bring their whole perspectives in their work. You're collaborative and also efficient; two qualities that are sometimes viewed as diametrically opposed. I wish you well, but you don't need my wishes; I know you will succeed and grow no matter what you do next.
Bo Kim

Samarth's last day will be July 2. We'll be toasting him Wednesday, June 17 at 6 p.m. Eastern. [Join us then.](#)

— Kim

CAREER / ON THE MOVE

More in On the Move

Welcome Leslie Pedro to Delivery Engineering

Leslie joins The Times as a software engineer on the Application Services team.

21 HOURS AGO



Next Steps for Race/Related

Jamie Stockwell, a deputy National editor who grew up in south Texas, will expand her role to include Race/Related and its newsletter, as the acting editor. Read more in this note from Marc Lacey.

1 DAY AGO



Kate Lanphear Returns to T

Kate returns to T after working at Marie Claire, Elle and Google, among others. Read more in this note from Hanya Yanagihara.

4 DAYS AGO



Audience Adds Visual Editor

Lily Benson, who comes from the Instagram team, will work closely with News Design and the other desks to produce shareable visuals we know will draw readers in.

1 WEEK AGO

New Faces In London

There have been a number of new faces in London. Please join us in welcoming them to The Times.

2 WEEKS AGO

