

## India Resources

### Non-Fiction: Business, Economy, Culture, Language, Travel

Goldman Sach's BRICs report

India Unbound – Guruchan Das

“One of the most readable and insightful books to appear on India’s tortuous economic path in its 54 years since shaking off British rule.” – *Business Week*

The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty Through Profits - C. K. Prahalad

Collectively, the world's billions of poor people have immense entrepreneurial capabilities and buying power. You can learn how to serve them and help millions of the world's poorest people escape poverty. It is being done-*profitably*. Whether you're a business leader or an anti-poverty activist, business guru Prahalad shows why you can't afford to ignore "Bottom of the Pyramid" (BOP) markets. –*Amazon.com*

Business Maharajas – Gita Piramal

Gita Piramal has clearly enjoyed extraordinary access to seven of India's most powerful business leaders. This access has allowed her to deliver a laudable report of the personalities, their empires, and, at times, a sampling of what drives them. "Business Maharaja" is easy to read and offers a rare look at third world tycoons whose reputations in India far surpasses either that of a John D. Rockefeller or a Bill Gates. This is a "must read" if your interest is the personalities of successful business leaders. –*Amazon.com*

The Art of Wealth: Strategies for Success – Kautilya translated by Thomas F. Cleary

Translations of ancient wisdom verses of the secrets of gaining material wealth & living the prosperous life, punctuated by discourse to expand each golden nugget. –  
*Amazon.com*

The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture and Identity – Amartya Sen

These illuminating essays from Nobel Prize-winning economist Sen offer a timely and cogent examination of the country's long history of heterodoxy and public discourse. Sen reminds readers of a capacious cultural legacy that has nourished a plethora of religious communities (including Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Parsee, Sikh and Baha'i), as well as a venerable line of atheist and materialist thought, while fostering ancient advances in science and mathematics, and inclusive theories of governance. Challenging the notion of the West as sole originator of liberal values, the book ranges over subjects as diverse as India's ancient calendars, nuclear arms policy, relationship with China, and gender / class inequality. (*Oct.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information. –*Amazon.com*

Lonely Planet Hindi & Urdu Phrasebook - Richard Delacy

India (Eyewitness Travel Guides) - DK Publishing

**Movies** (Note: Hindi movies are entertaining even if you don't know the language!)

Gandhi Movie – (English language movie) Ben Kingsley, David Attenborough / Sardar Valabhbhai Patel (Paresh Rawal)

Sholay (Old Hindi movie: action)

Bombay Boys (Americans coming to Mumbai/fusion flick)

Jane Bhi do Yaaro – (Hindi movie: comedy / govt. bureaucracy satire)

Lagaan – (Modern Hindi movie: sports/cricket in colonial India)

Dil wale Dulhaniale Jayage – (Hindi movie: drama)

### **Novels & Historical Fictions**

Shantaram: A Novel - Gregory David Roberts

A young Australian man bearing a false New Zealand passport flies to Bombay in the early '80s. On his first day he meets Prabaker, from whom he learns the Marathi language and settles for a time in a vast shantytown, operating an illicit free clinic. He also meets Karla, a beautiful Swiss-American woman with sea-green eyes and a circle of expatriate friends. Lin's love for her - and her mysterious inability to love in return - gives the book its central tension. "Linbaba's" life in the slum abruptly ends when he is arrested without charge and thrown into the hell of Arthur Road Prison. Upon his release, he moves from the slum and begins laundering money and forging passports for one of the heads of the Bombay mafia. Eventually, he follows the don as an improbable guerrilla in the war against the Russians in Afghanistan. Copyright © Reed Business Information. –*Amazon.com*

A Suitable Boy – Vikram Seth

'You too will marry a boy I choose,' said Mrs Rupa Mehra firmly to her younger daughter . . .

Set in the post-colonial India of the 1950s, this sprawling saga involves four families--the Mehras, the Kapoors, the Chatterjis and the Khans--whose domestic crises illuminate the historical and social events of the era. The story revolves around independent-minded Lata Mehra: Will she defy the stern order of her widowed upper-caste Hindu mother by marrying the Muslim youth she loves? Seth's panoramic scenes take the reader into law courts, religious processions, bloody riots, academia - even the shoe trade. The enormous novel entralls most readers; those who are fazed by a marathon read, however, may gasp for mercy. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. –*Amazon.com*

## Five Point Someone – Chetan Bhagat

This short story recounts the performance pressures, failures and triumphs of a group of friends studying at the famous Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Somehow they survive classes, parents, a bad idea, and an illicit encounter's with the professor's daughter to make it to graduation. –*Amazon.com*

## Gitanjali : A Collection of Indian Poems by the Nobel Laureate - Rabindranath Tagore

This English version of "Gitanjali" is a series of prose poems that reflect on the interrelationships among the poet/speaker, the deity, and the world. Although Tagore had a Hindu background, the spirituality of this book is generally expressed in universal terms. The imagery includes flowers, bird songs, clouds, the sun, etc.; one line about "the riotous excess of the grass" is reminiscent of Walt Whitman. Tagore's language is sensuous and sometimes embraces paradox. Like Whitman and Emily Dickinson, he sometimes seems to be resisting traditional religion and prophetically looking towards a new spirituality. –*Amazon.com*

## Kim- Rudyard Kipling

Kim O'Hara, the orphaned son of an Irish soldier stationed in India, is neither innocent nor victimized. Kim is recruited as a spy in Britain's struggle to maintain its colonial grip on India. Kipling was, first and foremost, a man of his time; born and raised in India in the 19th century. Yes, there is the stereotypical Westernized Indian Babu Huree Chander with his atrocious English, but there is also Kim's friend and mentor, the Afghani horse trader Mahub Ali, and the gentle Tibetan lama with whom Kim travels along the Grand Trunk Road. The humanity of his characters consistently belies Kipling's private prejudices, and raises *Kim* above the mere ripping good yarn to the level of a timeless classic. –*Amazon.com*

## History

### Freedom at Midnight – Collins, Dominique Lapierre

This book is an account of the year 1947 in context to the freedom of India from the British Raj. It takes the reader on a journey of significant events that lead to the independence of India. On the way, the reader is introduced to many brilliant characters that shaped history. Why did Prime Minister Clement Atlee who took office dedicated to break the Empire apart choose Louis Mountbatten, a member of the royal family to be the last viceroy of India? What happened to the Maharajas, the palaces, the tigers, the jewels and the harems? What lead to the demise of fantastic royalty in India? –  
*Amazon.com*

### The Travels of Marco Polo – Marco Polo

Chosen as one of the ten best adventure books of all time by *National Geographic Adventure*. *The Travels of Marco Polo* remains a wondrous adventure narrative. Chronicling the thirteenth-century world from Venice, his birthplace, to the far reaches of Asia, Marco Polo tells of the foreign peoples he meets as he travels by foot, horse, and

boat through places including Persia, the land of the Tartars, Tibet, India, and China. –  
*Amazon.com*

### White Mughals: Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth-Century India - William Dalrymple

James Kirkpatrick, an officer for the East India Company and the British Resident, represented the British government in the Indian city-state of Hyderabad. Kirkpatrick, who converted to Islam and, after a celebrated and notorious romance, married Khair un-Nissa, the teenage great-niece of the region's prime minister, exemplifies the "White Mughals," British colonialists who "went native." One of the book's strengths is its stunningly detailed depiction of day-to-day life-gardens, food, sexual mores, modes of travel and architecture-and portraits of British governors-general, Indian politicians, their wives and families, and adventurers. It is also an astute study of the political complications Kirkpatrick faced because of his conversion and cross-cultural marriage, and the difficulties his divided loyalties caused him in his role as agent of the increasingly imperialistic British. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. –  
*Amazon.com*

### The Discovery of India - Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India was a thorough intellectual. Though western educated, he had an intense love and hope for India. While Nehru took intense pride in India's rich heritage, he always emphasised that we cannot live in the past. His dreams and hopes for India as a forward looking, modern and tolerant nation fostering peace and co operation in the world are pretty well brought out in the book. Overall this book is in many ways a very enjoyable, informative and profound read. –*Amazon.com*

## Religion / Philosophy

### The Bhagavad Gita (Penguin Classics) - Juan Mascaro (Translator)

The eighteen chapters of *The Bhagavad Gita* (c. 500 b.c.), the glory of Sanskrit literature, encompass the whole spiritual struggle of a human soul. Its three central themes-love, light, and life-arise from the symphonic vision of God in all things and of all things in God. –*Amazon.com*

### The Rig Veda (Penguin Classics) - Wendy Doniger

The earliest of the four Hindu religious scriptures known as the Vedas, and the first extensive composition to survive in any Indo-European language, *The Rig Veda* (c. 1200–900 bc) is a collection of more than 1,000 individual Sanskrit hymns. A work of intricate beauty, it provides unique insight into early Indian mythology and culture. Fraught with paradox, the hymns are meant "to puzzle, to surprise, to trouble the mind," writes translator Wendy Doniger, who has selected 108 hymns for this volume. Chosen for their eloquence and wisdom, they focus on the enduring themes of creation, sacrifice, death, women, and the gods. –*Amazon.com*

## Mother Teresa: In My Own Words - Mother Teresa

The legendary Mother Teresa's work for—and among—the poor has become the yardstick by which the entire world measures compassion, generosity, and selflessness. Her words and actions have inspired millions of people from every race and religion and country to help the poor and needy, a legacy that is her gift to all mankind for generations to come. From 1950, when she founded the order of Missionaries of Charity, to winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, and then, in 1985, being awarded the Medal of Freedom—the United States' highest civilian award—to her final days, Mother Teresa served the world as a beacon shedding the light of hope, comfort, and peace on all. Here are the same quotes, stories, and prayers that helped strengthen and inspire the poor, the dying, the suffering, and the doubting who she met during her lifetime, and that will continue to strengthen and inspire all who read them. —*Amazon.com*