



SAGE: Studies Abroad for Global Education

Summer SAGE Resource List

Arts and Religions of India

General India Resources

Websites

Indian Ministry of Tourism website. This is a comprehensive site with a video gallery, information about history, language, people, geography, culture, and cuisine.

http://www.incredibleindia.org/newsite/cms_page.asp?pageid=802

U.S. State Department background notes on India. Site includes comprehensive information about India's people, history, government, political conditions, economy, and foreign relations.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>

The Lonely Planet's guide to India. This site includes: fast facts, background information, an image gallery, and information on events, transportation and money matters.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/india>

National Geographic's guide to India. This site includes: facts, maps, videos, and music.

http://www3.nationalgeographic.com/places/countries/country_india.html

Video clips of India. <http://www.searchforvideo.com/countries/india/>

Maps of India. <http://www.mapsofindia.com/>

United Nations Development Programme Human Development Reports. Statistical development profiles for India, covering indicators such as life expectancy, poverty rates, HIV prevalence, literacy rates, GDP, political participation, gender parity, etc.

http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_IND.html,

http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/statistics/countries/country_fact_sheets/cty_fs_IND.html

<http://origin->

hdr.undp.org/reports/view_reports.cfm?year=0&country=C105®ion=0&type=0&theme=0&launched=0

U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Traveler's Health information for South Asia. Site includes information about vaccinations and staying healthy in South Asia. <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/indianrg.htm>

Geert Hofstede Cultural Dimensions website. This site describes a cultural profile of India, covering dimensions such as: power distance, masculinity, uncertainty avoidance, long-term orientation, and individualism.

http://www.geert-hofstede.com/hofstede_india.shtm

Podcasts about Indian music: <http://indianmusic.libsyn.com/>, <http://www.digitalpodcast.com/detail.php?id=2172>,

<http://www.podcastingnews.com/details/www.podiindia.com/aa/rss.xml/view.htm>

Films

A Passage to India

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087892/>

This film tells the story of a young British woman and her elderly traveling companion who journey from England to India, at a time when the British still ruled the country. The film focuses on British bigotry and the condescending attitude that the colonialists had toward the people of India. The screenplay is based on a 1924 novel, written by E.M. Forster, which explores British attitudes of cultural superiority.

Bend it Like Beckham

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0286499/>

Of East Indian origin and of the Sikh faith, the Bhamra family settles in Great Britain for several years. They have two daughters, Pinky and Jessminder. While Pinky is in the process of getting married, Jessminder is preparing to play football - which is not acceptable to her parents. Her parents are clearly uncomfortable with their daughter running around in shorts and chasing a ball, instead of being clad in a traditional salwar khameez, and learning to cook East Indian recipes. To make matters worse, a football tournament is arranged on the very day of her sister's marriage. Will Jessminder be able to play, or will her dreams be shattered?

Born into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0388789/>

Amid the apparent growing prosperity of India, there exists a dark and hidden underbelly of poverty. This film is a chronicle of filmmakers Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman's efforts to show the world of Calcutta's red light district. To do that, they inspired children of local prostitutes to photograph images of life in the sex industry. As the kids excel in their new found art, the filmmakers struggle to help them get away from a life of miserable poverty and to have a chance at a better life.

Gandhi

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/>

It was [Richard Attenborough](#)'s lifelong dream to bring the life story of Indian political and spiritual leader [Mahatma Gandhi](#) to the screen. When it finally reached fruition in 1982, the 188-minute, Oscar-winning [Gandhi](#) was one of the most exhaustively thorough movies ever made. The film begins in the early part of the 20th century, when Mohandas K. Gandhi, a British-trained lawyer, forsakes all worldly possessions to take up the cause of Indian independence. Faced with armed resistance from the British government, Gandhi adopts a policy of "passive resistance," endeavoring to win freedom for his people without resorting to bloodshed.

Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0169102/>

Sometime during latter half of the 19th century, a small village in North India is facing drought conditions. Captain Andrew Russell, the British captain of the nearby cantonment, demands double of the usual land tax (lagaan) from the villagers. When the villagers' representatives go to meet Captain Russell to discuss the situation, Capt. Russell challenges them to a game of cricket with his team after three months. A young villager, Bhuvan, accepts the challenge and starts to build his team of villagers for the showdown with their colonial rulers.

Monsoon Wedding

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0265343/>

This story is set in the modern upper-middle class of India, where telecommunications and a western lifestyle mix with old traditions, like the arranged wedding young Aditi accepts when she ends the affair with a married TV

producer. The groom is an Indian living in Texas, and all relatives from both families, some from distant places like Australia, come to New Delhi during the monsoon season to attend the wedding. The four-day arrangements and celebrations will see clumsy organization, family parties and drama, dangers to the happy end of the wedding, lots of music and even a new romance for the wedding planner Dubey with the housemaid Alice.

The Namesake

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0433416/>

The Namesake, directed by Mira Nair, is a heartwarming drama spanning two generations of an Indian American family and exploring the generational and cultural conflicts that arise as a result of their assimilation into society.

Shortcut to Nirvana

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0420723/>

Every 12 years, over 70 million pilgrims gather at the meeting of India's holiest rivers, the Ganges and the Yamuna, for a spectacular spiritual festival: the Kumbh Mela. This documentary takes a voyage of discovery through this colorful event through the eyes of several Westerners and an ebullient young Hindu monk, Swami Krishnanand. The film features encounters with some of India's most respected holy men and includes exclusive footage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Water

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0240200/>

This film examines the plight of a group of widows forced into poverty at a temple in the holy city of Varanasi. It focuses on a relationship between one of the widows, who wants to escape the social restrictions imposed on widows, and a man who is from the highest caste and a follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

Bollywood Films

The "Bombay Hollywood" film industry (affectionately known as 'Bollywood') is the largest in the entire world, producing almost twice as many films each year as Hollywood. There is a vast array of films to choose from and it would be impossible to cover all of them here. Here are some general Bollywood links, along with some recent film recommendations:

General Bollywood websites: <http://www.bollywhat.com/>, <http://www.bollywoodworld.com/>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood>

Kal Ho Na Ho: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0347304/>

Rang de Basanti: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0405508/>

Books

Untouchable, by [Mulk Raj Anand](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0140183957/aharondaniel>

In Mulk Raj Anand's finest and most controversial novel he conveys precisely, with urgency and barely disguised fury, what it might feel like to be one of India's Untouchables. Bakha is a young man, a proud and even an attractive young man, but none the less he is an outcast in a system that is now only slowly changing and was then as cruel and debilitating as that of apartheid. Into this re-creation of one day in the life of Bakha, sweeper and latrine-cleaner, Anand poured a vitality, fire and richness of detail that have caused him to be acclaimed as his country's Charles Dickens as well as this century's greatest revealer of the 'other' India.

India - Culture Smart!: A Quick Guide to Customs and Etiquette, by [Nicki Grihault](#)

http://www.amazon.com/India-Culture-Smart-customs-etiquette/dp/1857333055/ref=pd_bbs_sr_5/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177945158&sr=8-5

India--Culture Smart! provides essential information on attitudes, beliefs and behavior in India, ensuring that you arrive at your destination aware of basic manners, common courtesies, and sensitive issues. This concise guide tells you what to expect, how to behave, and how to establish a rapport with your hosts. This inside knowledge will enable you to steer clear of embarrassing gaffes and mistakes, feel confident in unfamiliar situations, and develop trust, friendships, and successful business relationships.

India After Gandhi, by [Ramachandra Guha](#)

http://www.amazon.com/India-After-Gandhi-Ramachandra-Guha/dp/0230016545/ref=sr_1_38/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177946092&sr=8-38

Born against a background of hardship and civil war, divided along lines of caste, class, language and religion, independent India emerged, somehow, as a united and democratic country. The story of its making has never been told before. Now, in this remarkable book, we have an epic account of the world's largest and least likely democracy. As Ramachandra Guha points out, India may sometimes be the most exasperating country in the world but it is always the most interesting. Guha writes compellingly of the myriad protests and conflicts that have peppered the history of free India. But he writes also of the factors and processes that have kept the country together, kept it democratic, and defied the numerous prophets of doom who believed that its poverty and heterogeneity would force India to break up or come under autocratic rule. Moving between history and biography, *India After Gandhi* is peppered with incredible characters from the longstanding Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi to peasants, tribals, women, workers and musicians. Massively researched and elegantly written, this is the work of a major scholar at the height of his powers.

Planet India: How the Fastest Growing Democracy Is Transforming America and the World, by [Mira Kamdar](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Planet-India-Fastest-Democracy-Transforming/dp/0743296850/ref=pd_bbs_sr_4/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177944916&sr=8-4

Mira Kamdar takes the seemingly endless historical and cultural cross currents of India and weaves them together into a story that bears on the whole world. She combines her admiration and affection for India and its people with a keen eye for its contradictory impulses, taking readers deep inside an India that is fighting for modernity on its own terms, but also changing, for good and ill, in response to dynamics beyond its control.

Culture Shock! India: A Guide to Customs and Etiquette, by [Gitanjal Kolanad](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Culture-Shock-India-Customs-Etiquette/dp/1558681450>

You'll never feel intimidated and awkward about the customs and etiquette of another country again. With the insights provided in this *Culture Shock!* Guide, you'll learn to see beyond the stereotypes and misinformation that often precede a visit to a foreign land. Whether you plan to stay for a week or for a year, you'll benefit from such topics as understanding the rules of driving and monetary systems, religious practices and making friends. There are tips on political traditions, building business relationships, and the particular intricacies of setting up a home or office. Great for the business traveler, the foreign exchange student, or the tourist who makes a sincere attempt to cross the bridge into a new and exciting culture.

In Spite of the Gods: The Strange Rise of Modern India, by [Edward Luce](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Spite-Gods-Strange-Modern-India/dp/0385514743/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177944487&sr=8-1

A burgeoning economic and geopolitical giant, India has the 21st century stamped on it more visibly than any other nation after China and the U.S. It's been an expanding force since at least 1991, explains journalist Luce, when India let go of much of the protectionist apparatus devised under Nehru after independence in 1947 from Britain. Luce illuminates the drastically lopsided features of a nuclear power still burdened by mass poverty and illiteracy, which he links in part to government control of the economy, an overwhelmingly rural landscape, and deep-seated institutional corruption. While describing religion's complex role in Indian society, Luce emphasizes an extremely heterogeneous country with a growing consumerist culture, a geographically uneven labor force and an enduring caste system. This lively account includes a sharp assessment of U.S. promotion of India as a countervailing force

to China in a three-power "triangular dance," and generally sets a high standard for breadth, clarity and discernment in wrestling with the global implications of New India.

50 Great Curries of India, by [Camellia Panjabi](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Great-Curries-India-Tenth-Anniversary/dp/1904920357/ref=sr_1_31/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177945745&sr=8-31

This is the ultimate celebration of the authentic Indian curry, encompassing both the classic and the unusual dishes from across India. With insightful information on spices, herbs, and chilies, and what exactly a curry is, as well as 100 mouth-watering recipes, Camellia shares the secrets she has learnt from curry lovers and cooks--from top chefs to housewives--to inspire and excite your taste buds.

The God of Small Things, by [Arundhati Roy](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/God-Small-Things-Arundhati-Roy/dp/0060977493>

With sensuous prose, a dreamlike style infused with breathtakingly beautiful images and keen insight into human nature, Roy's debut novel charts fresh territory in the genre of magical, prismatic literature. Set in Kerala, India, during the late 1960s, the story begins with the funeral of young Sophie Mol, the cousin of the novel's protagonists, Rahel and her fraternal twin brother, Estha. In a circuitous and suspenseful narrative, Roy reveals the family tensions that led to the twins' behavior on the fateful night that Sophie drowned. Beneath the drama of a family tragedy lies a background of local politics, social taboos and the tide of history. Roy captures the children's candid observations but clouded understanding of adults' complex emotional lives. Plangent with a sad wisdom, the children's view is never oversimplified, and the adult characters reveal their frailties. Roy's clarity of vision is remarkable, her voice original, her story beautifully constructed and masterfully told.

Cracking India, by [Bapsi Sidhwa](#)

http://www.amazon.com/Cracking-India-Novel-Bapsi-Sidhwa/dp/1571310487/ref=pd_bbs_12/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1177945385&sr=8-12

The narrator of Sidhwa's novel about the violent 1947 partition of India is the extremely observant Lenny Sethi, whose family belongs to the Parsee community in Lahore. As a child, a polio victim and a member of a minority, she is the perfect witness to the historic upheaval. Sidhwa tempers Lenny's hyper-awareness, however, by capturing the whole range of her fears and joys as her innocence becomes another casualty of the violence among Moslems, Sikhs and Hindus. Lenny's honesty is compelling, and the reader, like many in the story, cannot help but trust her. She is alternately thrilled and frightened by the events she dutifully records, and so, in the end, is the reader.

Success with Asian Names: A Practical Guide to Getting It Right in Business and Everyday Life, by Fiona Swee-Lin Price

<http://www.interculturalpress.com/store/pc/viewPrd.asp?idcategory=0&idproduct=160>

Have you ever wondered how to address Asian people in correspondence? Been unsure how to pronounce an Asian name? Felt embarrassed, even rude, because of difficulty with Asian names? Dr. Fiona Swee-Lin Price has developed an essential reference guide to success, covering names from 14 languages – Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Japanese, Malaysian, and key language groups from the Indian subcontinent such as Hindi, Sikh, Tamil, Sinhalese, Pakistani and Bangladeshi. The book explains cultural differences, variations in writing systems and the diversity of name structures. *Success with Asian Names* provides specific naming customs, typical names in each language, practical advice on pronunciation, and the proper ways to address people.

Lists of novels set in India or written by Indian authors:

<http://www.amazon.com/Books-by-Indian-authors/lm/20AJI1R034W74>

<http://freeyasoul.blogspot.com/2006/10/novels-by-indian-writers.html>

<http://www.amazon.com/25-Top-Novels-Set-In-India-Pakistan-During-Post-British-Raj/lm/GT0027MOZXCH>

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/20-Indian-Novels-Authors/lm/2V7HLGIICTN0X>

<http://indianeconomy.org/2006/06/18/ten-best-books-on-india/>
<http://www.amazon.com/Best-Novels-of-India/lm/3HBT3CMEJY6AD>

Arts and Religions of India

Websites

Vijnana Kala Vedi Cultural Center. A cultural education institution in the state of Kerala. Students learn alongside Indian artists and can choose from classes in: Kathakali mythological drama, classical Carnatic vocals, traditional dances of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Hindu mural painting, Kerala cooking, woodcarving, Hathayoga, Kathakali make-up techniques, and in Kalaripayattu, one of the world's most ancient martial arts.

<http://www.vijnanakalavedi.org/>

Bangalore: <http://www.bangalorebest.com/index.asp>

Kerala: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/traveler/articles/1028kerala.html>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerala>

Newspapers in southern India: <http://www.hindu.com/2007/04/26/23hdline.htm>,
<http://www.deccanherald.com/deccanherald/mar252007/update.asp>

Bollywood websites: <http://www.bollywhat.com/>, <http://www.bollywoodworld.com/>,
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood>

Madurai: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/tamilnadu/h3s2910.htm>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madurai>,
<http://www.kerala-tourism.net/tamilnadu/madurai-mahabalipuram-travel.html>

Meenakshi Temple: <http://www.pbase.com/oochappan/meenaksi>,
<http://www.indiasite.com/tamilnadu/madurai/meenakshitemple.html>

Vailankani: <http://www.annaivailankanni.org/annaivailankanni/index.html>, <http://www.vailankannichurch.org/>

Nagapattinam: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagapattinam>, <http://nagapattinam.nic.in/>

Sri Aurobindo Ashram and society: <http://www.sriurobindoashram.org>,
<http://www.sriurobindosociety.org.in/sriuro/sriuro.htm>

Auroville: http://www.auroville.org/av_brief.htm

Podcasts about Indian music: <http://indianmusic.libsyn.com/>, <http://www.digitalpodcast.com/detail.php?id=2172>,
<http://www.podcastingnews.com/details/www.podiindia.com/aa/rss.xml/view.htm>

Books

Darsan: Seeing the Divine in India, by Diana Eck
<http://www.amazon.com/Darsan-Diana-Eck/dp/0231112653>

Eck's book, *Darsan*, is simply one of the best short introductions to Hinduism available. The book is an essential read for anyone who is interested in religion or in south Asia. Eck's work is enthusiastically recommended as required reading for undergraduate students of the Hindu tradition.

The Camphor Flame, by C.J. Fuller

<http://www.amazon.com/Camphor-Flame-C-J-Fuller/dp/0691020841>

Popular Hinduism is shaped by worship of a multitude of powerful divine beings--a superabundance indicated by the proverbial total of 330 million gods and goddesses. The fluid relationship between these beings and humans is a central theme of this rich and accessible study of popular Hinduism in the context of the society of contemporary India. Lucidly organized and skillfully written, *The Camphor Flame* brings clarity to an immensely complicated subject. C. J. Fuller combines ethnographic case studies with comparative anthropological analysis, and draws on textual and historical scholarship as well. Hierarchy is at the heart of Hinduism and Indian society, and Fuller examines the many contexts in which unequal relationships between deities and people, and among people themselves, are expressed--or denied--in popular religion. Throughout he proposes new ways of looking at many aspects of popular Hinduism and society in India, such as the relationship between worship and sacrifice, the importance of kingship even at the local level, the ritual power of goddesses and women, and the connection between alternative explanations of misfortune.

Kathakali: An Introduction to the Dance-Drama of Kerala, by Clifford R. Jones and Betty True Jones

http://www.amazon.com/Kathakali-Introduction-Dance-Drama-Kerala-Clifford/dp/B000MNC03K/ref=sr_1_3/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1178137298&sr=1-3

Hinduism: A Cultural Perspective, by [David R. Kinsley](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Hinduism-Cultural-Perspective-David-Kinsley/dp/0133957322>

This reference book provides an overview of the Hindu religious tradition and describes the essence of the Hindu vision of reality. It also provides a historical and analytical discussion of Hindu mythology, art, rituals, and social structure; gives extended portraits of important Hindu thinkers and saints; offers a fuller picture of the role of women in the Hindu religious tradition; shows how the concepts of Dharama and Moksha conflict with one another and how the Hindu tradition insists upon both concepts as essential in fulfilling human destiny. Kinsley's book is a valuable reference for courses in Asian Religion, Theology, and Asian Philosophy.

Hindu Goddesses: Visions of the Divine Feminine in the Hindu Religious Tradition, by [David R. Kinsley](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Hindu-Goddesses-Religious-Tradition-Hermeneutics/dp/0520063392>

Kinsley has assembled a compendious survey of major Hindu goddesses in one delightful volume. This book is mandatory reading for all scholars and students interested in South Asian religion, comparative mythology, or models of the feminine in sacred literature. Kinsley's *Hindu Goddesses* is the kind of book that one can readily recommend to students for clear, reliable information and reasonable commentary about Hinduism and goddesses.

Radical Simplicity: Small Footprints on a Finite Earth, by [Jim Merkel](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Radical-Simplicity-Small-Footprints-Finite/dp/0865714738>

Imagine you are first in line at a potluck buffet. The spread includes not just food and water, but all the materials needed for shelter, clothing, healthcare, and education. How do you know how much to take? How much is enough to leave for your neighbors behind you--not just the six billion people, but the wildlife, and the as-yet-unborn? In the face of looming ecological disaster, many people feel the need to change their own lifestyles as a tangible way of transforming our unsustainable culture. *Radical Simplicity* is the first book that guides the reader to a personal sustainability goal, and then offers a process to monitor progress to a lifestyle that is equitable amongst all people, species, and generations. Combining lyrical narrative, compassionate advocacy, and absorbing science, *Radical Simplicity* is a practical, personal answer to twenty-first century challenges that will appeal as much to Cultural Creatives and students as to spiritual seekers, policy makers, and sustainability professionals.

Notes on Love in a Tamil Family, by [Margaret Trawick](#)

<http://www.amazon.com/Notes-Tamil-Family-Margaret-Trawick/dp/0520078942>

Love, as a force in human affairs, is still not given much attention or credence by social scientists. With *Notes on Love in a Tamil Family*, Margaret Trawick places the notion of love prominently in social scientific discourse. Her unforgettable and profusely illustrated study is a significant contribution to anthropology and to South Asian studies. Trawick lived for a time in the midst of one large South Indian family and sought to understand the multiple and mutually shared expressions of *anpu*--what in English we call love. Often enveloping the author herself, changing her as she inevitably changed her hosts, this family performed before the young anthropologist's eyes the meaning of *anpu*: through poetry and conversation, through the not always gentle raising of children, through the weaving of kinship tapestries, and through erotic exchanges among women and men. She communicates with grace and insight what she learned from this Tamil family, and we discover that love is no less universal than selfishness and individualism.

Indian Classical Dance: Tradition in Transition, by [Leela Venkataraman](#) and [Avinash Pasricha](#)
http://www.amazon.com/Indian-Classical-Dance-Tradition-Transition/dp/8174362169/ref=sr_1_1/103-5455928-1146241?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1178136831&sr=8-1

This book explains the evolution of classical Indian dances and the different dance techniques and forms that took shape and developed over the centuries. Venkataraman and Pasricha present all the major dance forms of India in intricate and interesting detail, from their origin till the present.

Articles

Online articles related to the philosophy and principles of Auroville:

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=1463>, <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=1473>,
<http://www.wie.org/j25/collective.asp>