

Recent Books from India - June 2023

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Anthropology / Archaeology

Ganga-Brahmaputra and Beyond: Exploring Art and Iconography of Eastern and North-Eastern India / Gautam Sengupta
Delhi: Primus Books, 2023
xv, 492p.; ill. 23 cm.
Includes Index.
9789356877658
900gm.
\$ 43.75 / hb
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849370>

Arts

Sirjana: The Journal of Arts and Art Education Vol. VIII, May 2022 Peer Reviewed
Nepal: Sirjana College of Fine Arts Research Development Unit (RDU), 2022
116p.; ill. 23 cm.
ISSN: 2565-5086
400gm.
\$ 12.50 / pb
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849362>

Architecture

Historical Sites of Nubra Leh, Ladakh / Quentin Devers
New Delhi: Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage, 2022
331p.; ill. 27 cm.
9788195703906
1500gm.
\$ 75.00 / pb
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849363>

State of Built Heritage of India: Case of the Unprotected
New Delhi: Architectural Heritage Division, 2020
xiv, 650p.; ill. 28 cm.
9789382343165

2000gm.
\$ 112.50 / pb

State of Built Heritage of India: Case of the Unprotected is a pioneering Pan-India initiative by INTACH to highlight the plight of unprotected built heritage, for the first time in a systematic and holistic manner. This wide-ranging study envisions to bring to the forefront the challenges and apathy concerning unprotected built heritage as well as recommends the way forward. It draws attention to the need for urgent proactive steps and strategies before much of it is lost permanently.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849364>

Photo Inventory on Progress Status of Post Earthquake Conservation and Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage of Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Property – Jan 2021
Nepal: Government of Nepal, Department of Archaeology, 2021

236p.; ill. 15 cm.

600gm.

\$ 17.50 / pb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849388>

Biography / Memoirs

Rejoice in Adversity Triumph In War: A Military Memoir / Rajpal Punia

Gurugram, Haryana: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023

234p.; ill. 22 cm.

9789356990180

250gm.

\$ 10.00 / pb

Rejoice in Adversity, Triumph in War: A Military Memoir A collection of anecdotes from Major General Rajpal Punias close to four decades in the Indian army, Rejoice in Adversity, Triumph in War is a rare, electrifying memoir. It is a testament to how the army is not a livelihood but a way of life, one that can transport you from a social soiree to a dangerous jungle in the space of a night, and where postings are often to places that the GPS cannot navigate to. Punias dream of a career in the army began when he was ten years.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849373>

Indian National Army: Secret Service / Moti Lal Bhargava & Americk Singh Gill

New Delhi: Reliance Publishing House, 2023

154p.; ill. 23 cm.

9788175102606

250gm.

\$ 8.75 / pb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849376>

The Evolution of Pragmatism in India: an Intellectual Biography of B.R. Ambedkar / Scott R. Stroud

Gurugram, Haryana, India: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023

302p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789356991101

400gm.

\$ 15.00 / pb

The story of how the Indian reformer Bhimrao Ambedkar reimagined John Dewey's pragmatism.

In *The Evolution of Pragmatism in India*, Scott R. Stroud delivers a comprehensive exploration of the influence of John Dewey's pragmatism on Bhimrao Ambedkar, architect of the Republic of India's constitution. Stroud traces Ambedkar's development in Dewey's Columbia University classes in 1913-1916 through his final years in 1950s India when he rewrote the story of Buddhism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849397>

The Indian President: An Insider's Account of The Zail Singh Years / K.C. Singh
Gurugram, Haryana, India: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023

xix, 273p.; ill. 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789356295926

500gm.

\$ 17.50 / hb

"A study of the institution of the President of India, this book is based on the author's term as Deputy Secretary to the seventh president, Giani Zail Singh. In particular, it examines the President's role when authoritarian governments are voted in power. Things are all the more challenging for a president with a popular prime minister who has an overwhelming majority, as happened in the case of Zail Singh and Rajiv Gandhi. The book recounts how the guardrails painstakingly created by the first two presidents - Rajendra Prasad and S. Radhakrishnan - were partly resurrected by Zail Singh. Richly anecdotal and incisively observed, *The Indian President* makes a compelling case for why the Zail Singh years are crucial to understanding both the limits and the possibilities of the country's highest office."

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849399>

Jawaharlal Nehru: A Communicator and Democratic Leader / A.K. Damodaran

Delhi: Primus Books, 2023

xvii, 379p.; 23 cm.

Includes Index.

9789355725233

750gm.

\$ 36.25 / hb

Jawaharlal Nehru: A Communicator and Democratic Leader explores multiple facets of Nehru's experiments in communication as a speaker, writer and formulator of policy as a part of the Congress. In all this, we find, he is affectionately influenced by Gandhi; but, he remains himself, in his style, his attitude to socialism and secularism, his excitement about science and his urge to communicate his own anguish at the tragic divisions of the modern era as well as his hopes of a better world to the younger generation in his country.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849404>

Bipin: The Man Behind The Uniform / Rachna Bisht Rawat
Gurugram, Haryana, India: Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd., 2023
xxiii, 207p.; ill. 23 cm.
9780670097197
550gm.
\$ 15.00 / hb

On the morning of 8 December 2021, India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, and his wife, Madhulika, said goodbye to their daughter, Tarini, and dogs, and left their Delhi home to board a flight for Sulur in Tamil Nadu. Around 11.48 a.m., they boarded an Mi-17 V5 helicopter that took off from Sulur to Wellington, where Gen. Rawat was to deliver a lecture at the Defence Services Staff College. Just a few minutes away from its destination, the chopper crashed, and all fourteen passengers onboard eventually perished. It was a sudden and shocking end to the life of a man who had risen like a meteor in the defence forces.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849409>

Becoming Babsaheb: The Life and Times of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Volume 1: Birth to Mahad (1891-1929) / Aakash Singh Rathore
Gurugram, Haryana, India: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023
xxiii, 274p.; ill. 23 cm.
Includes Index.
9789356991217
550gm.
\$ 17.50 / hb

There are many intellectual biographies of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, but until now none has sought to reveal the personality of the man. They will tell you what he thought or what he wrote, but remain silent about who he actually was, his inner struggles, how he felt. They give information about Ambedkar, but do not talk about his interior life, his personal growth or how he came to be the man who left such an indelible mark on modern India's constitutional, political, social and religious landscapes.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849411>

Cinema Studies

Refocus: The Films of Shyam Benegal / Sneha Kar Chaudhuri & Ramit Samaddar (by)
Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited., 2023
xv, 255p.; 23 cm.
Includes Index.
9789354423277
450gm.
\$ 26/25 / pb

The thirteen essays in this volume explore how Benegal's films articulate his concerns about caste, class, gender, religion, and other allied social, economic, and political problems characterizing the Indian subcontinent. They offer nuanced critiques of the way Benegal's parallel cinema upholds the value of meaningful cinema as a means to create social awareness in the minds of the audience. This collection also includes a full-

length interview with Shyam Benegal, which investigates his perspectives on the art of film-making and provides an analysis of his own films.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849328>

Economics

Caged Tiger: How Too Much Government Is Holding Indians Back / Subhashish Bhadra
New Delhi: Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., 2023

303p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789354359699

450gm.

\$ 20.00 / hb

What is common between the censorship of the film Padmaavat and artificially high 'minimum' support prices for crops? If the police comes down so heavily on peaceful anti-CAA protestors, why did it not show the same harshness towards those violating the COVID-19 lockdown? Why is an otherwise powerful Election Commission unable to enforce free and fair elections within political parties or fully weed out criminals from politics?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849384>

Ecology / Environment

Bryophytes: Collection, Preservation and Identification (Reference to Nepal) / Nirmala Pradhan

Nepal: Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Environment Department of Plant Resources, 2019

72p.; ill. 22 cm.

9789937924825

250gm.

\$ 5.00 / pb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849389>

History

India After Gandhi: A History / Ramachandra Guha

New Delhi: Pan Macmillan Publishing India Private Limited, 2023

xxxvi, 942p.; ill. 23 cm.

Includes Index.

9789395624589

1250gm.

\$ 42.50 / hb

'Finally, here is a history of democratic India that is every bit as sweeping as the country itself . . . [A] magisterial work' Financial Times 'Guha has given democratic India the rich, well-paced history it deserves' Washington Post 'An insightful, spirited and elegantly crafted account of India since 1947' Times Literary Supplement 'A magnificently told history of the world's largest democracy' India Today Ramachandra Guha's India After Gandhi is a magisterial account of the pains, struggles, humiliations

and glories of the world's largest and least likely democracy. A riveting chronicle of the often brutal conflicts that have rocked a giant nation, and of the extraordinary individuals and institutions who held it together, it established itself as a classic when it was first published in 2007.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849335>

Placing The Frontier in British North-East India: Law, Custom, and Knowledge / Reeru Ray

New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2023

xxi, 200p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9780192887085

500gm.

\$ 32.50 / hb

This book is about the entanglements between colonial law and spatiality, and indigenous place-making in the frontiers in British India. The book shows that colonial law was central to the spatial transformation of the Himalayan borderland region into a frontier space. It demonstrates material conditions and discursive processes through which the frontier was produced as a particular type of political-legal space.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849347>

The Aeroplane and The Making of Modern India / Aashique Ahmed Iqbal

New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2023

xvi, 286p.; 22 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9780192864208

500gm.

\$ 45.00 / hb

Tracing the Indian state's engagement with aviation, both civil and military, from the Second World War to the nationalization of airlines in 1953, this book argues that aviation played a critical role in state formation in modern South Asia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849350>

A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B.R. Ambedkar / Ashok Gopal

New Delhi: Navayana Publishing Pvt. Ltd., 2023

863p.; 23 cm.

Includes Index.

9788195838516

1150gm.

\$ 25.00 / hb

A Part Apart is a rigorous effort at both asking questions and answering as many as one can about B.R. Ambedkar. Ashok Gopal undertakes a mission without parallel: reading the bulk of Ambedkar's writings, speeches and letters in Marathi and English, and what Ambedkar himself would have read. This is the story of the unrelenting toil and struggle that went into the making of Ambedkar legend.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849382>

Electric Steel and Other Essays: Parallel Stories from Italy, India and the Americas /
Alessandro Portelli
Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2023
68p.; 22 cm.
9789354423598
200gm.
\$ 12.00 / pb

The book consists of three essays by the author: 'Electric Steel: Parallel Stories from Italy, India and the Americas', 'What Makes Oral History Different' and 'A Dialogical Relationship: An Approach to Oral History'. Together the three essays emphasize the importance of oral narratives and acts of translation and interpretation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849393>

Law

The Disappeared: Enforced Disappearance and Human Rights Violations During the
Armed Conflicts / Deb Bahadur Bohara
Kathmandu, Nepal: Pairavi Prakashan (Publishers and Distributors), 2021
426p.; 22 cm.
9789937599917
500gm.
\$ 18.75 / pb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849351>

Khaki On Broken Wings: Cases That Shocked India / Amod K. Kanth
New Delhi: Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt. Ltd., 2023
x, 308p.; 23 cm.
Includes Index.
9789388912105
Police Diaries Book 2
550gm.
\$ 20.00 / hb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849379>

A Constitution to Keep: Sedition and Free Speech in Modern India/ Rohan J. Alva
Gurugram, Haryana, India: HarperCollins Publishers, 2023
xix, 372p.; ill. 22 cm.
Includes Index.
9789356296657
550gm.
\$ 17.50 / hb

When we think of the Indian Constitution, we think of the glorious chapter on fundamental rights which guarantees paramount civil liberties such as freedom of speech. But there is also a tension, because freedom of speech is compelled to co-exist with laws such as sedition - contained in Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). In 2021, numerous individuals petitioned the Supreme Court to take sedition off the law books.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849406>

Literature

Rural India and Peasantry in Hindi Stories: Narratives After Premchand / Vanashree
New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2023

216p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9780192871572

500gm.

\$ 45.00 / hb

Drawing on a rich storehouse of short stories in Hindi, after Premchand, the book evokes the entire spectrum of crises that the rural world has experienced since the early decades of independent India through the period of liberalization till the recent decades. The transcribed excerpts poignantly carry the spirit of rural India.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849330>

Belles-Letters: Writings of Hijab Imtiaz Ali with Foreword by Haider Shahbaz / Sascha A. Akhtar

New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2022

111p.; 22 cm.

9780190132644

200gm.

\$ 22.50 / pb

The book is a collection of set pieces that are inter-linked, not in any direct way, but through thematic elements. At the heart of it, it is a metaphysical work with contemplations on life, death, and the nature of existence. The non-linear, fragmentary form of this work is very different from what Hijab Imtiaz Ali's contemporaries were writing, and suggests that Ali was at the forefront of Urdu Modernist literature.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849371>

Reading with the Rsi: A Cross-Cultural and Comparative Literary Approach to Valmiki's Ramayana / Robert P. Goldman

Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited., 2023

xvii, 54p.; 22 cm.

9789354422829

Sub Series IV: Lectures

200gm.

\$ 10.00 / pb

The work examines the nature and contents of the Sanskrit epic poem, generally called the Valmiki Ramayana, in the form(s) it has come down to us in modernity. It discusses the issues the poem presents to the translator and reader in light of the ancient epic's popularity and profound influence on religious, ethical, social and political thought since its composition, on the culture of India and other nations of Southeast Asia. The essay examines the poem in terms of western and Indian aesthetic norms and tastes as a work of world literature and as an outstanding example of Indian poetry.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849395>

Kabir Poems in Transformation: A Fountain of Creativity / Peter Friedlander

Delhi: Primus Books, 2023

viii, 311p.; 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789355727275

650gm.

\$ 42.50 / hb

Kabir Poems in Transformation: A Fountain of Creativity explores how images of Kabir, in circulation amongst his Hindi-speaking followers at the start of the twentieth century, were transformed into versions of Kabir more acceptable to global English-speaking audiences in contemporary times. This work investigates how the creation of an image of Kabir as an ideal Indian mystic poet led to the eclipse of Kabir as the voice of the lower castes and marginalized communities in India. The argument is that rather than seeing an idealized version of his persona through the lens of any particular segment of the audience, Kabir should be studied through the multiplicity of images transmitted amongst diverse communities within India and around the world. This book focuses on the networks of contexts in which these verses were transmitted, and where such a significant transformation took place. These include Hindi print editions published 1907 onwards, Bengali anthologies by Kshitimohan Sen in 1910–11, and English translations by Rabindranath Tagore and Evelyn Underhill published as One Hundred Verses of Kabir in 1914.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849402>

Revisiting Sadeq Hedayat's Blind Owl: Writings on a Modern Persian Novel / Syed Akhtar Husain, Md. Arshadul Quadri

Delhi: Primus Books, 2023

x, 245p.; 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789356877672

550gm.

\$ 36.25 / hb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849413>

Politics

The People of India: New Indian Politics in The 21st Century / Ravinder Kaur & Nayanika Mathur (ed)

Gurugram, Haryana, India: Penguin Random House India Pvt. Ltd., 2022

xxx, 248p.; 23 cm.

Includes Index.

9780670096053

600gm.

\$ 20.00 / hb

'The People' And 'New India' Are Terms That Are Being Invoked Freely To Both Understand And Govern India As She Enters Her 75th Year Of Post-colonial Nationhood. Yet, There Is Little Clarity On Who These People Of India Really Are, What They Do,

Their Desires, Histories And Attachments To India. Similarly, The Phrase 'New India' Is Used Far

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849336>

Small States In A Globalized World: Vitality of Nepal's Sovereign Life / Dev Raj Dahal
Nepal: Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), Tribhuvan University, 2022

84p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789937095730

200gm.

\$ 9.50 / pb

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849361>

Negotiating Borders and Borderlands: The Indian Experience / Gorky Chakraborty,
Supurna Banerjee (ed)

Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2023

vii, 370p.; 22 cm.

9789354423741

500gm.

\$ 23.00 / pb

Borders have always been seen as physical lines of separation, which mark the 'other' and group geographical spaces into territories and nation-States. However, can borders and borderlands also simultaneously exist as gateways for trade and commerce while being rigid institutions that disallow the movement of people from one part to another? Are some borders seen while others are only felt? Negotiating Borders and Borderlands shows how these 'in-between' spaces of borders have their own stories to tell. The chapters move beyond the Statist view of borders and provide a picture of borderlands from the perspective of those who inhabit such spaces. The authors show how the impact of Partition still echoes in the borderlands of postcolonial India, located along the land boundaries of Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849391>

Where the Madness Lies: Citizen Accounts of Identity and Nationalism / Kishalay
Bhattacharjee

Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Private Limited, 2023

287p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9789354426117

400gm.

\$ 23.75 / pb

Drawing from years of on-ground reportage, extensive interviews and fieldwork, Where the Madness Lies foregrounds the perspectives of ordinary, often marginalised Indians and their everyday efforts to carve out a place for themselves in their own country. The author makes poignant use of family histories, memories, experiences of migration and dislocation, and genealogies to expand upon the theme of identity. 'Citizenship' becomes a concept where diverse identities crisscross to create new forms of meaning and interaction.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849392>

West Asia and the World: Geopolitical Shifts, Multipolarity and Energy Development /
Vrushal T. Ghoble

Delhi: Primus Books, 2023

xviii, 213p.; 2 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9789356870499

550gm.

\$ 31.25 / hb

Contents: Preface. Introduction. 1. Geopolitics. 2. Big, Small, Powerful and Weak States: Analysing Aid and Infrastructure Expansion. 3. The Arab Uprisings and Multipolar West Asia. 4. Geography, Intervention and Gas Developments in Saudi Arabia. 5. Gas as a Catalyst for Conflict Resolution in the East Mediterranean. 6. India, the United States and West Asia. 7.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849407>

Religion – Buddhism

Dust on the Throne: The Search for Buddhism in Modern India / Douglas Ober

New Delhi: Navayana Publishing Pvt. Ltd., 2023

391p.; ill. 23 cm.

Bibliography Includes Index.

9788195539291

650gm.

\$ 17.50 / hb

Received wisdom has it that Buddhism disappeared from the land of its birth between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, long forgotten until British colonial scholars re-discovered it in the early 1800s. Its full-fledged revival, the story goes, occurred in 1956, when the Indian constitutionalist and civil rights pioneer, Dr B.R. Ambedkar, converted to Buddhism along with half a million of his Dalit followers. Dust on the Throne provides a radically new perspective on what has long been called India's modern Buddhist revival.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849386>

Sociology

Women's Sexuality and Modern India: In a Rapture of Distress / Amrita Narayanan

New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2023

200p.; 22 cm.

Includes Index.

9780192859815

400gm.

\$ 45.00 / hb

How can feminism fight patriarchy while preserving some women's desire for patriarchal sex and other women's desire to liberate themselves from it? In a Rapture of

Distress argues for a more capacious definition of sex-positive, via a curious rather than a moral spectatorship upon the sex life of women of different cultures and generations.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849341>

Mudra: The Language of Kuttiyattam, Kathakali, and Mohiniyattam: Classical Theatre and Dances of Kerala - 1341 Hand Gesture Notations / G. Venu
Kerala: Natana Kairali, Research and Performing Centre for Traditional Arts, 2023
744p.; ill. 24 cm.
9789357863667
1800gm.
\$ 75.00 / hb

Already at first glance its sheer scope is impressive: 1341 hand gestures rendered in minute detail. As “non-specialist” I feel free to explore it from various angles, some interrelated in surprising ways. Much looks familiar for someone like me having seen several of the productions it discusses. To a degree this also applies to the teaching methods even if in need of being adjusted to the talents of individual learners.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=849345>
