India – Culture Smart!

The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

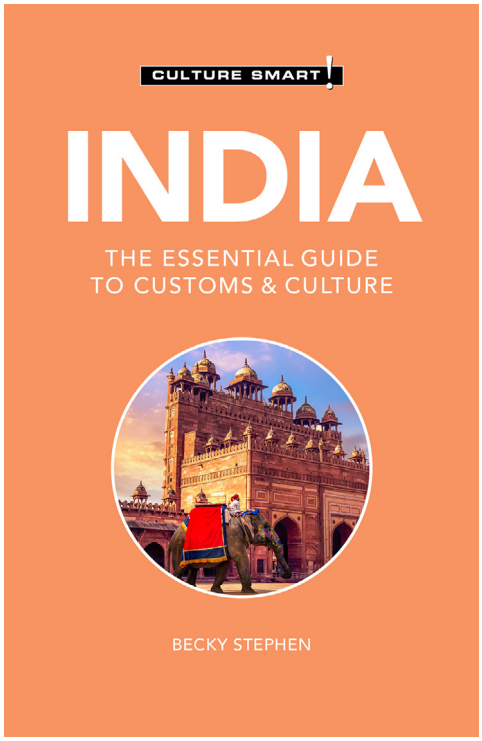
By Becky Stephen

India's huge population of 1.2 billion is as varied and colorful as the spice markets of Old Delhi. Each region, caste, and community has its own culture, reflecting unique histories shaped by conquest, creativity, and religion. Steeped in ancient traditions, exceptionally fatalistic, and intensely passionate about their culture, the Indians are also ingenious, creative, and world leaders in cutting-edge science and technology. Show interest in their country and it will be reciprocated with genuine warmth and friendship.

Culture Smart! India will make you aware of the essential values and behavioral norms, show you how to navigate often profound cultural differences and build relationships, and offer invaluable insights into this great, endlessly fascinating land.

***Culture Smart!* guides are created to help travelers have a more meaningful and successful time abroad through a better understanding of the local culture. Chapters on values, attitudes, customs, and daily life will help you make the most of your visit, while tips on etiquette and communication will help you navigate unfamiliar situations and avoid faux pas.**

Becky Stephen was born in the US as an "airforce brat," growing up in several states, as well as in England. Long fascinated by Indian culture and philosophy, she moved to India in 1988 to study Hindi at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. There she met her South Indian husband and ended up living in Varanasi for five years. Becky has a Masters in Intercultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, and has developed and led cross-cultural and other training programmes and events in the US, India, Eurasia, Europe, and the Arabian Peninsula.



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