

Further Reading for *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*

[India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy by Ramachandra Guha](#)

The history of modern India from Partition to the present. He covers the cultural changes, political evolution, and economic surge with great (but not overwhelming) detail. A bit on the longer side, but suggested for anyone who wants to learn more about how India got where it is today.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/356824.India_After_Gandhi

[A Free Man: A True Story of Life and Death in Delhi by Aman Sethi](#)

Aman Sethi meets a man named Mohammed Ashraf, who studied biology but ended up as a homeless day laborer in Delhi. Sethi tells his story and the story of others like him, bringing the reader to the streets of Delhi to show how things are in the new India.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13707595-a-free-man>

[The Epic City: The World on the Streets of Calcutta by Kushanava Choudhury](#)

After years in America, Choudhury travels to the sprawling city of Calcutta where his family is from – a city that in the early 2000s was home to 15 million people. Choudhury shows the sometimes chaotic world of modern Calcutta and the everyday lives of people caught between modernity and the traditional in a post-globalized world.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/34933179-the-epic-city>

[Cracking India by Bapsi Sidhwa](#)

A novel about the Partition of India in 1947 that shows its pain, tragedy, and upheaval. The main character, a young girl from Lahore, India (now in Pakistan), witnesses the rioting and violence perpetrated by Muslim and Hindu alike – leading to the tensions that persist to this day.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/40238.Cracking_India

[A Fine Balance by Rohinton Mistry](#)

Another novel, this one about the State of Internal Emergency declared in 1975. The characters live in an incredibly corrupt India and struggle with both caste violence and unfulfilled dreams. It's a story about finding "a fine balance between hope and despair." Although a different time and place, many similar themes to *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5211.A_Fine_Balance

[The Beautiful and the Damned: A Portrait of the New India by Siddhartha Deb](#)

Deb shows the contrasts and contradictions of modern India, from a wealthy man who emulates Gatsby to a woman with two degrees now working as a waitress in a hotel that caters to arms dealers. A broader look at post-globalized India through stories from different segments of society.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/10805570-the-beautiful-and-the-damned>