

*Indian Authors Contributions*

*To*

*The World of English Literature*

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**Introduction:**

Indian authors have influenced an entire generation with their writing. Over the years, Indian writers have contributed to the world of English literature and books in regional languages. Indian authors in English deserve a special mention as they have portrayed India; its rich cultural heritage and societal norms to readers in the west. Indian writers have also striven to add variation to the pre-existent and chiefly dominant genres.

An Indian author is known by his literary prowess, his penchant to write about India and life outside the safe cocoon of one's homeland. Famous authors of Indian origin have earned a standing in the literary circles by their sheer writing expertise. Such an Indian author is the nation's pride. Famous authors are offbeat writers that have earned a niche in acclaimed literary spheres. The list of famous authors also includes the up-and-coming Indian writers from non-literature backgrounds.

Since they hail from varied educational and cultural backgrounds, Indian authors present a kaleidoscopic overview of the vibrant nation. Their writings have influenced readers from all walks of life and will continue to do so.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The most prolific Indian poets of all time; Rabindranath Tagore is a Nobel laureate, writer, philosopher and ambassador of the Indian culture to the rest of the world. Manasi, Gitanjal and Ghare-Baire are among his important works.

**R. K. Narayan**

Best known for his novels based in the fictitious town of Malgudi, R.K.Narayan is a prolific Indian author. He wrote with special grace, ingenuity and humor. He is honored with the Padma Bhushan for his contribution to literature.

**Kiran Desai**

She is an Indian author of international repute. Her novel had a generous vision and portrayal of the human quandaries. The Inheritance of Loss won the coveted 2006 Man Booker Prize and National Book Critics Circle award for fiction.

**Mulk Raj Anand**

His debut book 'Untouchable' published in 1935; garnered him much popularity. Mulk Raj Anand mainly worked on books that depicted the lives of the poorer castes in India and he was aptly acclaimed as the 'Charles Dickens' of India.

**Salman Rushdie**

Well known as a courageous writer, Salman Rushdie depicts magical realism in his essays and novels. He mainly wrote on the link between the east and the west and has been appointed a Knight Bachelor for his services to literature.

**Vikram Seth**

A novelist, travel writer, librettist, poet, memoirist and novelist, Vikram Seth is best known for his epic novel 'A Suitable Boy'. He is the distinguished winner of the 'WH Smith Literary Award' and the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

**Khushwant Singh**

Popular novelist and journalist, he is best known for his clear-cut secularism, lucid and expressive writing. Kushwant Singh is a post-colonial writer and winner of the coveted Padma Bhushan, Punjab Rattan and Padma Vibhushan awards.

**Anita Desai**

Her debut novel 'The Peacock' set the stage for her prolific career as writer and she was one of the authors included in the Five Indian Novelists by V.V.N. Rajendra Prasad. Journey to Ithaca, Diamond Dust and The Zigzag Way: A Novel, were her other works.

**Arundhati Roy**

An Indian novelist and social activist, Arundhati Roy rose to fame with her 'God Of Small Things' which got her world-wide acclaim. She is the winner of coveted awards like Booker Prize, Cultural Freedom Prize and Sydney Peace Prize.

**Gita Mehta**

She is a writer, documentary filmmaker, journalist and essayist. Gita Mehta is best known for her essays. Her important works include Raj, A River Sutra and Karma Cola. Her works focus on Indian history, rich culture and politics.

**Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

A novelist, poet, professor, and short story author, Chitra Banerjee is indeed a gifted writer. Her significant works include *Palace of Illusion*, and *Mistress Of Spice*. She was awarded the American Book Award for '*Arranged Marriage*'.

**Vikram Chandra**

Vikram Chandra is a noted Indian writer who currently teaches creative writing at the University of California, Berkeley. '*Red Earth and Pouring Rain*', '*Love and Longing in Bombay*' and '*Sacred Games*' are amongst his notable works.



**Amit Chaudhuri**

An internationally recognized Indian English author and academic, Amit Chaudhuri has authored many prominent works. Amit Chaudhuri has won the coveted Betty Trask Award, Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Sahitya Akademi Award.

**Raj Kamal Jha**

An internationally renowned novelist, editor and journalist; Raj Kamal Jha has worked as the Senior Associate Editor in India Today. 'The Blue Bedspread', 'If You Are Afraid of Heights' and 'Fireproof' are among his important works.

**Shobha De**

Shobha De is an Indian author, copywriter, freelance writer and columnist, best known for her columns in *The Week*. Her other works include *Starry Nights*, *Socialite Evenings*, *Sister* and *Spouse*. She is known as India's Jackie Collins.

**Jhumpa Lahiri**

Her debut book was a collection of short stories which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and her second book 'The Namesake' was made into a movie. Jhumpa Lahiri has also won the coveted O. Henry Award, and the PEN/Hemingway Award.

**Kiran Nagarkar**

Kiran Nagarkar is a popular bilingual author, playwright, novelist, and drama critic. His best works include 'Ravan and Eddie' and 'Cuckold'. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award for Cuckold. He has also won the Rockefeller Fellowship.

**V. S. Naipaul**

He is a Nobel laureate, British novelist and essayist of Indo-Trinidadian descent and winner of literary prizes like John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, 'Somerset Maugham Award', 'Hawthornden Prize', 'Booker Prize' and the 'David Cohen Prize'.

**Vikas Swarup**

An illustrious novelist of international repute, and diplomat; Vikas Swarup is best known for his novels 'Q & A' and Six Suspects. His debut novel 'Q & A' was made into the highly acclaimed Danny Boyle movie 'Slum dog Millionaire'.

**Satyajit Ray**

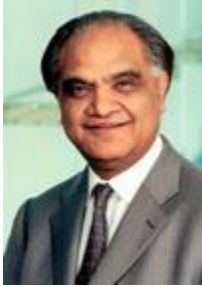
He is a highly acclaimed Indian film maker of very high repute. Satyajit Ray's movies have a humanistic touch and have been very well received. He has won 32 National Film Awards, Silver Bear for Best Director, and an honorary Oscar.

**Shashi Tharoor**

A peace-keeper, human rights activist and diplomat; Shashi Tharoor, is also a writer. His works include 'The Great Indian Novel' and 'Show Business'. He won the very coveted 'Commonwealth Writers' Prize' for 'The Great Indian Novel'.

**Premchand**

Munshi Premchand was a well known writer of modern Hindi-Urdu literature and his contribution to literature are characterized by simple language. His works include Panch Parameshvar, Mantra, Prem Purnima and Ram Katha to list a few.

**Ram Charan**

He is best known for his incredibly popular books on business, including 'Boards That Deliver', 'What the CEO Wants You to Know', 'Boards At Work' among others. Besides writing, Ram Charan is also a speaker and business consultant.

**Ruskin Bond**

Ruskin Bond is a prolific and contemporary Indian writer of British descent. He is a renowned children's author and top novelist whose works are often semi-autobiographical. He has won the Sahitya Akademi award for English writing.

**Tarla Dalal**

Tarla Dalal is the best-selling author of cookbooks with over 4 million copies sold till date. Her books have been translated into Indian and foreign languages. She won the Padma Shri in 1997 for her services in the field of cookery.

**Nita Mehta**

Nita Mehta is a post graduate in Food & Nutrition. She has authored over 300 books on cooking and food and nutrition. 'Zero Oil Cookbook', 'Cooking for Growing Children' and 'Chocolate Cookbook', are amongst her award winning books.

**Deepak Chopra**

Deepak Chopra is a doctor, author and self-help specialist. He is famous in the West for his healing practices that combine Yoga, Ayur Veda, and Western Medical Science. Deepak Chopra has authored bestsellers on self-help and healing.

**Shiv Khera**

He is a popular motivational writer and author of several bestsellers. His first book "You Can Win" was published in 1998. It sold more than a million copies. He writes motivational books to change the lives of millions of people.



**Rohinton Mistry**

He is an acclaimed Indian author in the global arena. He studied in Mumbai and went to Canada in the 70s. His early works were published in Canadian Magazines. His debut novel "Such a Long Journey" won the Commonwealth Writers Prize.

**Amitav Ghosh**

Amitav Ghosh is an anthropologist and prolific writer. He was born in Calcutta but his student life coursed across Delhi, Oxford and Egypt. His most popular works are The Circle of Reason, The Shadow Lines, and In an Antique Land.

**Robin Sharma**

Robin Sharma has authored international bestsellers on leadership and personal development. His books are published in more than 50 countries and in over 70 languages with his most popular work being "The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari."

**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is well known for his work on ballistic missiles and rocket technology. The 11th President of India has authored the 'Wings of Fire', 'Scientist to President', and 'Ignited Minds'. His works reflect patriotism.

**Sudha Murthy**

Sudha Kulkarni Murthy is renowned for her writing and active role in social services. Sudha Murthy worked as systems analyst and teacher. Her flair for writing is evident in her books like Dollar Sose, originally written in Kannada.

**Ramachandra Guha**

Described by the New York Times as perhaps the best of India's non-fiction writers, Ramachandra Guha is also a bestselling author, ecologist, historian, activist, and cricket enthusiast. His works on cricket have earned him acclaim.

**Devdutt Pattanaik**

Intrigued with the history and myths of India, Devdutt Pattanaik has written real eye-openers while dissecting the folklore and myths of India. His works analyze myths with respect and intelligence thereby separating seed from chaff.

**Chetan Bhagat**

Chetan Bhagat is a bestselling author from India. He has authored four novels which have inspired major movies, making him a youth icon. The New York Times termed him the biggest selling English language novelist in India`s history.

**Bharati Mukherjee**

She is an American author of Indian origin whose works mainly are around themes of immigration and nostalgia. Her works are special and Candia McWilliam of 'London Review of Books' described her as "A writer both tough and voluptuous."

**Gulzar**

Gulzar is one of the most famous lyricists, writers, and poets of India. His songs continue to create magic even to this day. His originality has given memorable moments for Indian cinema and has retained the charm with time.

**Amrita Pritam**

Amrita Pritam is the first woman recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award. Her fiction writing was also close to the people of the society. She has penned over 100 books some of which have been translated into international languages.

**R K Laxman**

R.K. Laxman is one of the best cartoonists in the history of India. Blessed with a sense of satire, his "common man" cartoons have gained legendary status in India. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan title in recognition of his talent.

**Kuldip Nayar**

Kuldip Nayar began his career as an Urdu journalist. He has also written more than eleven books including favorites like "Between the Lines," "Distant Neighbors: A Tale of the Subcontinent," "India after Nehru," "The Martyr," and others.

**Subroto Bagchi**

Subroto Bagchi is the co-founder of MindTree, one of India's most internationally admired companies. He writes extensively in leading newspapers and magazines. "The High Performance Entrepreneur" - his debut was an instant bestseller.

**Amartya Sen**

Amartya Sen is a Nobel laureate in Economics, influenced by the causes of poverty. His theories assert that starvation is not caused by lack of food but lack of economic access to food. His economic views are reflected in his works.

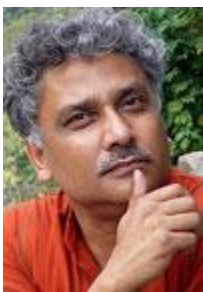
**Ankit Fadia**

He achieved fame with his website 'Hacking Truths' and then wrote books on ethical hacking. He is the youngest author to be published by Macmillan. He won 'IT Leader Award' and the Indo-American Society Young Achiever Award in 2005.



**Upamanyu Chatterjee**

He is an Indian author and administrator, best known for his short stories, and novels like *English* and *August* which recreate life in Indian family system. Upamanyu Chatterjee joined the IAS in 1983 and has since been an administrator.

**Kunal Basu**

Kunal Basu is a well known author of international repute. His three acclaimed novels include *The Opium Clerk*, *The Miniaturist*, and *Racists*. His work 'The Japanese Wife' (2008) was made into a film by the Indian filmmaker Aparna Sen.

**Anita Nair**

Anita Nair is an Indian-English writer whose novels are passionately woven on the thread of human nature and values; with a female oriented component. Her 'Mistress' was included in the list for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction.

**Mohsin Hamid**

He is a Pakistani author who attained fame with 'Moth Smoke'- his debut novel which was an instant hit in India and Pakistan. The book was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award and was eventually adapted for television in Pakistan.

**Rashmi Bansal**

Rashmi Bhansal is a writer, entrepreneur and youth expert, who attained fame in the readers' circles with her 'Stay Hungry Stay Foolish'. Founder of JAM magazine, she inspires the youth with her blogging and inspirational insights.