

Preface

Going to India was an unfulfilled ambition; well almost. I had been there briefly in 1980 for an overnight in New Delhi, but that does not count. Or does it? Strangely the old New Delhi of Ambassador cars and empty roads that I saw in 1980 contrasted strongly with the teeming mass of humanity that Delhi is today.

Since 1980 I have wanted to go back, but there have always been more pressing priorities. Until now. Morag my daughter was going either with me or on her own and so it became a pressing priority!!! As it turned out it was a wonderful experience. But why "India on the Move"? Well because on our four-week trip we never stopped getting on and off trains. Or getting into auto rickshaws, often driven by manic drivers, who were incensed by their remuneration, or Uber drivers that communicated electronically or rickshaw drivers that never seemed to have any of these qualities.

India is on the move under the Modi government. There is massive construction in the big cities we visited, New Delhi, Jaipur, Amritsar and strangely none in Varanasi, in Modi's home state. And everyone we spoke to lauded his efforts and were fearful that he would only last one term. India they said looks back to it's religious and caste roots in a way that is unique and difficult to understand, holding it back and strangely, holding it together.

Enjoy,

alex

November 2016

Introduction

"India on the Move" is a photographic record of our four-week train journey around Northern India. Our base was in New Delhi. We started off with the deeply religious Varanasi, in the monsoon. Moved on to the classic tourist destination of Agra. Then on down to the gem city of Jaipur. Thereafter we headed for the desert, which scarcely resembles a desert, at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan. Taking the time to camel safari, visiting the nomadic and village people. Finally, we headed up to Amritsar, home of the Sikhs and the Wagah Border with Pakistan.

"India on the Move" is a flavour of what we saw as we navigated the classic marble triangle that tourists visit, always reminded that this is the second most populous country in the world. The book captures everyday life and life on and from the train. There is something awe-inspiring about travelling second class AC sleeper and wakening up in the morning to the sight of India flying past the window and watching the sunrise over the Rajasthan or Punjabi countryside.

What we found was an India steeped in it's religious and caste system present. An India that was nervous about its youthful past and worried about its challenging future, as the world's most populous country. Four weeks is too short to make a deep and profound statement, but we gained a flavour of it through the diverse group of people we met. Particularly our friends in New Delhi the Mehtas and the Kumars, whose warmth and hospitality was the high point of our trip.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to our friends the Kumars and Mehtas who encouraged us to visit India and enriched our experience.

Copyright

This book with its images is © copyright to Alex W Milne 2016. The author retains all rights to the contents of this publication.

Rare Earth Publications

New Delhi



























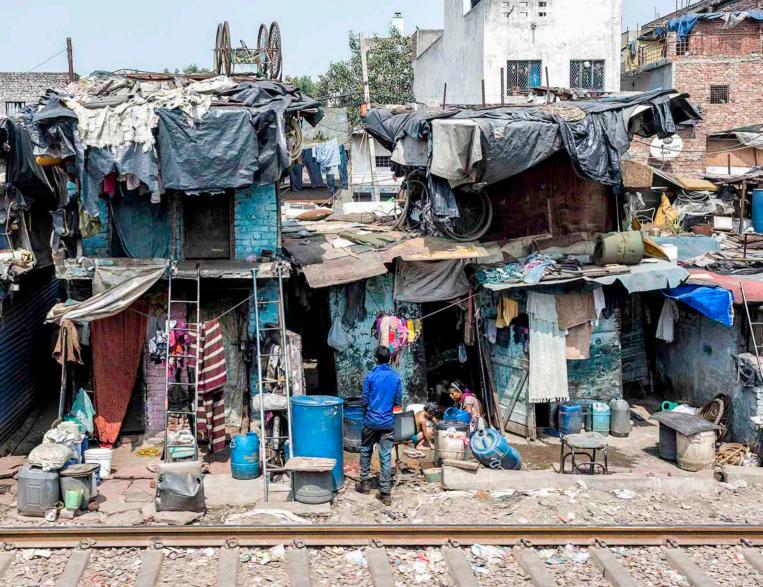
































Uttar Pradesh











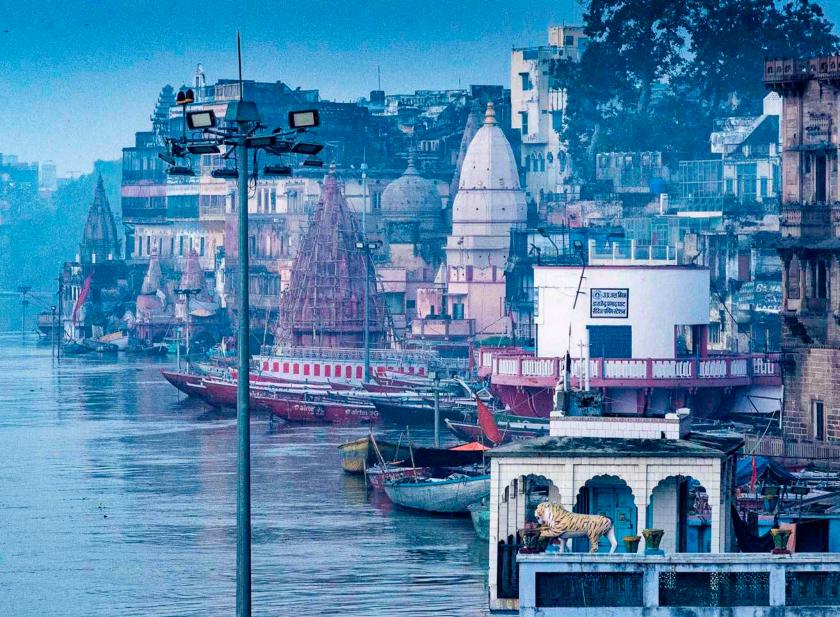


Varanasi



























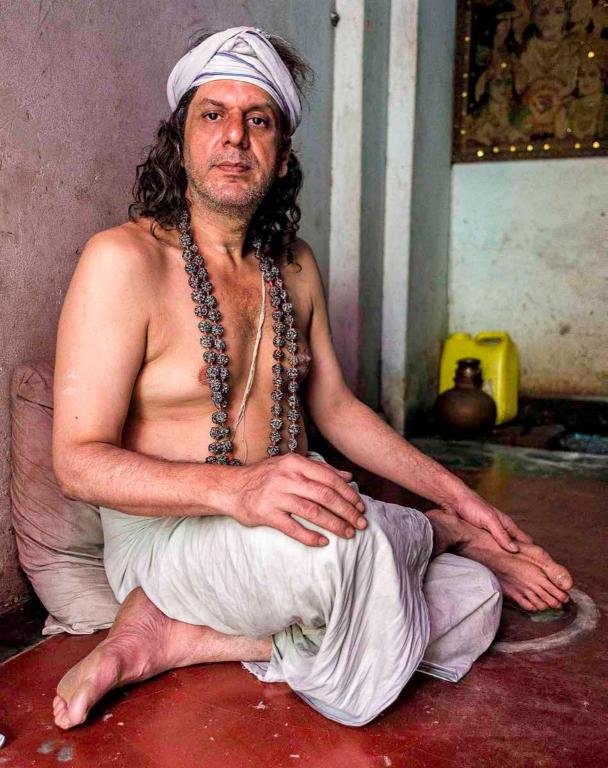






























Jaipur

















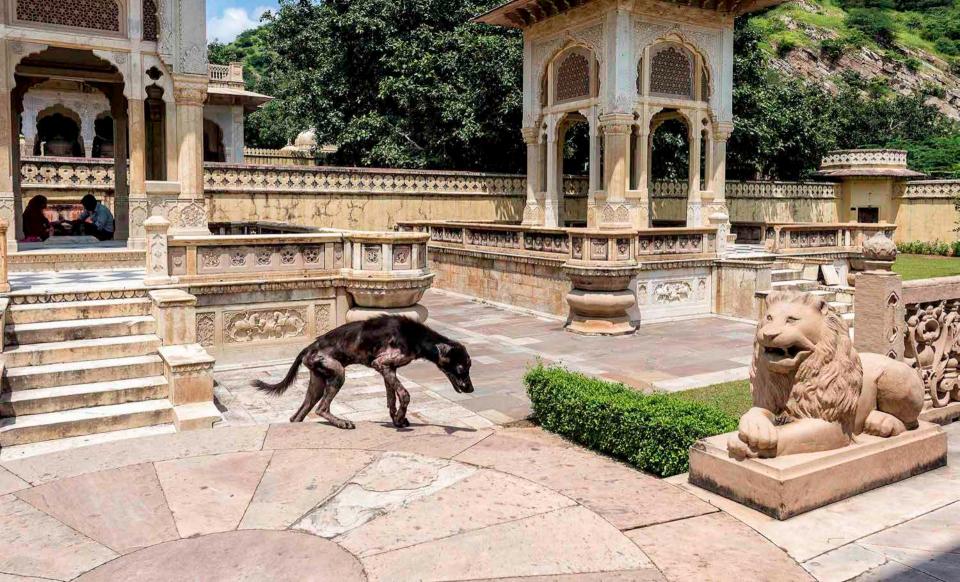












Rajasthan

























Jaisalmer







































Amritsar

























Punjab















Footnote









Technical

All images were taken using a Nikon D800 with prime lenses. Files processed in Adobe Camera Raw and Photoshop. Output as JPEGs to Adobe Acrobat.

Bibliography

India's Unending Journey. Mark Tully. Rider 2007

In Spite the Gods. The Strange Rise of Modern India. Edward Luce. Little Brown 2006

Links

Sir Mark Tully Interview 2016

India Rail Tickets in the UK - SD Enterprises

Seat 61 Train Travel Mega Site