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## Paperback Pickings

### New paths and old lands

**Jack is Back in Corporate Carnival** (*HarperCollins, Rs 150*) by **P.G. Bhaskar** is a tale of business, enterprise and the young professional's life in a post-recession world. But it is more than just that. This is a book filled to the brim with brilliant, and typically Indian, humour. It speaks of Anand, who calls himself Andy ("rhymes with Randy"); of Gavas aka Gavaskar, whose last name is Tendulkar; of paan-flavoured condoms, "anagrams" of 'DK Bose', real-estate businesses (one of them called Milk Builders). This is a world where a 78-year-old man claims to speak 'good' English because his teacher "raped" him — on his knuckles, "with foot rule. Like thees. Tak! Tak! Tak!" This is that perfect "drink some lassi and chill *kar, bhai*" novel — unputdownable and wildly entertaining.



**Delhi: 14 historic walks** (*Westland, Rs 495*) by **Swapna Liddle** maps the well-known walking routes in the capital city — including those to world heritage sites like the Qutub Minar, Humayun's tomb, the Red Fort and the Lodi Gardens, and lesser known places like Satpula and Khirki. Liddle's language is crisp, uncluttered and conversational, lending accessibility that penetrates the shroud of history around each 'walk'. Her descriptions of architecture, administration and even water supply are fascinating in their details. The most attractive part of the book is the black-and-white photographs accompanying the chapters. A section of details precedes each

chapter; it lists ticket prices, the best time to attempt the walk in question, the closest metro station, amenities and parking spaces available, and even the "difficulty level" of the walk. A glossary and a timeline of events are also provided. This is a complete guide — and a tribute — to Delhi.

**Acts of faith: Journeys to Sacred India** (*Hay House, Rs 299*) by **Makarand R. Paranjape** is an exploration of the innate spirituality of India, which transcends mere religion, just like the guru is an ideal that "transcends individuals". Paranjape speaks about the quest for faith and fortitude that does not die — *na hanyate*. He describes the sacred and the secular in changing India, and emphasizes the need to "choose India" in order to successfully navigate spirituality. His style is essentially academic; he takes up various texts and teachings by scholars to make his points. It is a pleasantly enlightening book, but one would need to devote as much focus to the details as one intends to devote to spirituality.

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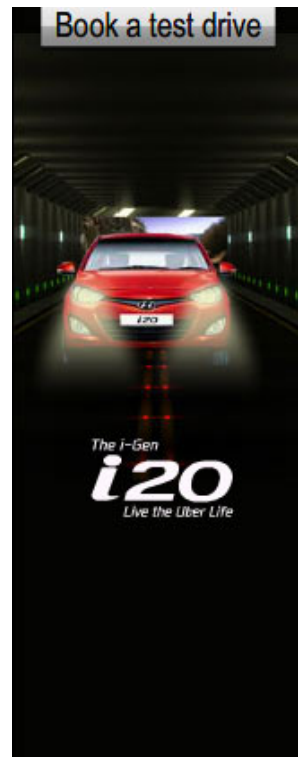
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