India

FACTFILE

Dieter-Hermann Düwel/Jennifer von der Grün India Profile Facts and Figures

EBU-SPECIAL

| Paul Davenport Arundhati Roy – an Engaged Writer (Sekundarstufe II) | 4 |
|--|---|
| Monika Bremicker Arundhati Roy Portrait of an Indian Woman (ab Klasse 10) | 9 |

LITERATURE

| <i>Reinhold Wandel</i> R.K. Narayan's Short Story "Leela's Friend" An Example of Indian English Fiction | 17 |
|--|----|
| (ab Klasse 11) | |
| A LOOK AT THE PRESS | |

| Dieter-Hermann Düwel/Jennifer von der Grün | |
|---|----|
| "A Good Voice Silenced. Kashmir's Loss Is Also Mine" | 24 |
| A Newspaper Article Dealing with the Kashmir Conflict | |
| (Sekundarstufe II) | |

MEDIA

Lucille Grindhammer **"Salaam Bombay"** A Film about Mumbai (ab Klasse 12)

A WRITTEN EXAM

Martina Peters-Hilger

| Extracts from "Are You Experienced?" by William | N Sutcliffe |
|---|-------------|
| Ein Klausurvorschlag für die Oberstufe | |
| (Sekundarstufe II) | |

Editorial

1

30

37

India – a country of contrasts and contradictions: on the one hand people living in extreme backwardness, illiteracy and poverty, on the other hand an educated and skilled elite at the front of the world's technological developments.

India – a country of superlatives: one of the oldest cultures in the world, one of the world's most populous countries with one of its biggest cities, some of the world's highest mountains and the world's greatest temperature extremes.

India – a country full of mystery, which is barely known to millions of people in the Western world, a country which is thus difficult to grasp and comprehend.

The sheer size and the vast potential of this country allow the conclusion that it will doubtlessly play a decisive role in international politics together with the worldwide economic and cultural developments of the coming years.

All these factors as well as a growing interest in India among German educationalists have contributed to the decision to publish an EBU edition focused on India, although we are fully aware that it is impossible to do justice to the various facets of this country on 40 printed pages.

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Makawana Tejiben aus Indien zeigt traditionelle Handarbeiten auf der Expo in Hannover (© epd-bild/Jens Schulze)

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