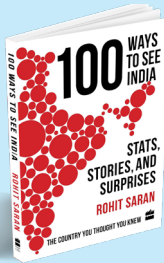


## 100 WAYS TO SEE INDIA: STATS, STORIES AND SURPRISES



Rohit Saran's book, "100 Ways to see India" (2026) published by HarperCollins India, reminded me of M.J. Moroney's book, "Facts from Figures" (1951) published by Penguin Books, Great Britain. Back in the early 1960s, when I was studying statistics in college, I remember Moroney's book was highly referred to the students of statistics by the then professors of the department. In this book, Moroney explained lucidly the different statistical techniques that were available for one's use for data analysis for various purposes. He cautioned about the way one made use of data and remarked, "There is an art in handling figures, just as handling chemicals" (Moroney 1951: 458).

*Title:* 100 Ways to See India: Stats, Stories and Surprises

*Author:* Rohit Saran

*Publisher:* HarperCollins India

*Edition:* First Edition, 2026

*ISBN:* 978-9369894475

*Pages:* 212–216 pages (approx.)

*Language:* English

*Format:* Hardbound

*Price:* ₹799–₹999 (varies by seller)

*Place of Publication:* New Delhi, India

Needless to say, Saran's book is indeed able to demonstrate vividly the art of handling data. The book consisted of seventy (75) chapters with interesting titles. Every chapter is comprised of ample amount of data analysis and data presentation based on extensive use of statistical tools, charts and diagrams. What caught my attention most is his use of multiple statistical indicators ranging from simple rates and ratios to SDG indicators (for example SDG Goal 1 on "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"). Moreover, it is absolutely commendable that Saran managed to gather such a massive volume of data from various national and international sources – surely an undeniable feat!

In his book, Saran has ensured that the large-scale data analysis and data presentation could be easily understood by anyone seriously interested in knowing India. Furthermore, it is certainly admirable to note his deft handling of the huge quantum of data and the interpretation of data using simple language that has avoided technical or statistical jargon. He did not forget to add 'metadata' at the end of his book for all curious readers.

I believe the novelty in Saran's work stems from the unusual manner of arrangement of the chapters and appendices into four (4) categories. These categories are designated as "Life", "Growth", "Future" and "Explore". Next, each chapter comes with its own surprises that makes reading definitely pleasurable. At this point, I have to mention his style of writing. Saran's style reflects a suspenseful story-telling that ends with thought-provoking and valuable ideas. Quite Maupas-sant-like!

At the end of the book, there is a full chapter dedicated to data sources and links that could be of much use to scholars, researchers and anyone interested. The best part of this book is Saran's assurance that readers would be provided with updated data "free of cost" once contacted at in100charts@gmail.com (Saran 2026: 183). In all, Saran's book is highly engaging. At the same time, I hope the author may like to consider re-sequencing some of the chapters within each category, particularly under the category called "Life". Besides, it may not be uncommon for a reader to expect additional chapters that focus on contemporary issues that are being debated worldwide such as (i) "Unpaid work" vide Beijing Declaration and Platform of Actions, SDG 5.4.1 and ILO resolution 2013 and (ii) "Work-life balance". I wish the author consider the above suggestions in the next edition.

Undoubtedly, Saran has adroitly accomplished a tough job of representing India in 100 ways. The book design, by Sajeew Kumarapuram, is both attractive and dazzling.

I would certainly recommend Saran's book to academicians, scholars, researchers, politicians and more. I believe this book is truly worth one's personal library, national and public libraries.

## About Reviewer



### **Dr Swaraj Kumar Nath, ISS (Retd.)**

Dr Swaraj Kumar Nath is a distinguished statistician and former Director-General of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Government of India, with over three decades of experience in India's National Statistical System. A PhD holder in Business Management and Gold Medalist in M.Sc. Statistics from the University of Calcutta, he has represented India at the UN Statistical Commission and contributed to global statistical initiatives. Post-retirement, he has served as an international consultant for organisations such as the UN, World Bank, ADB and FAO.

Email: [eskaynath@hotmail.com](mailto:eskaynath@hotmail.com)