Modern Indian Business History: A Bibliographic Survey

N. Benjamin and Prabhash Narayana Rath
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
Pune 411004.

Abstract

Business history has been a neglected area in both Economics and History due to various reasons. However, some scholars have attempted to write books on business history basing upon whatever material they could lay their hands on, whereas some others have written individual corporate histories, which are usually sympathetic accounts of the perspective corporate houses and are of restricted circulation. Realising the importance of business history accounts for proper understanding of the overall business and economic scenario of India, an attempt has been made to present a bibliographic survey of business history books in English language pertaining to the colonial and modern period. The paper aimed at presenting a comprehensive account of the books of the following types: viz. general business histories; industrial histories; in-house histories of different companies; souvenirs of the various chambers of commerce and industry; histories of the business houses; accounts of the business communities; and biographies and autobiographies of the businessmen. In the study, more than 550 books have been covered under eight sections each representing one of the above-mentioned types of business histories.

Business History has been a neglected area in both Economics and History. One reason for this has been the dearth of source material. Many businessmen like Naval H. Tata willed that their papers be torn to pieces and burned after they passed away. Corporate managements have also allowed the papers to be destroyed rather than preserved once a monograph or book was written based on them. For example, after writing the biography of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, F.H. Harris destroyed all the records. Even where the records have survived, they have been wary of making them available to scholars for the fear that it may result in adverse remarks. But papers of businessmen and corporate bodies provide an inside view to the scholars which is not possible from the official records. The use of the personal papers of businessmen in economic and business history is as important as the use of the personal papers of political leaders in writing history of the country’s freedom struggle.

Notwithstanding these limitations, some business history books have been written by scholars based on whatever materials they could lay their hands on. Others have been written at the instance of the corporate bodies which present a sympathetic account. These books are mostly not available in public libraries and are given by them only selectively for consultation. In view of all this, we think that a bibliographical survey of the books in English on Indian business history will be a fruitful exercise.

The paper has been divided into eight sections. Section I deals with the general books on Indian business history. Section II makes a classified presentation of different groups of industries. Section III lists the histories of different companies
most of which are in-house publications and are to be found in their head offices. The theme of Section IV is the souvenirs of the various chambers of commerce and industry. Section V covers the histories of the business houses. Section VI deals with the business communities. Section VII is devoted to the biographies and Section VIII to the autobiographies of the businessmen respectively.

**General books**

There are numerous books which essentially provide a historical background to general business history. Their study helps one to understand the overall business environment. They are listed below:

1. Agarwal, P.N., *History of Indian business* (New Delhi, 1994).
12. Banerji, Arun, *Finances in the early raj: Investments and the external sector* (Citation not available).
16. Basu, D.K., (ed.), *The rise and growth of the colonial port cities in Asia* (Citation not available).
22. Bose, Sugata *Credit, markets, and the agrarian economy of colonial India* (New Delhi, 1994).
23. Bose, Sugata (ed.), *South Asia and world capitalism* (Delhi, 1990).
   (“Deindustrialization or peripheralization? The case of cotton textiles in India, 1750-1950” by Jim Matson and “A vulnerable economy: India in the great depression, 1929-1939” by Dietmar Rothermund).
28. Chandra, Satish, *The Indian Ocean: Explorations in history, commerce and politics* (Citation not available).
51. Farinelli, Franco (ed.), *Capitalist form of production in south Asia: Consequences of British policies* (New Delhi, 1991).
52. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, *Footprints of enterprise Indian business through ages* (Delhi, 1999).
58. Hardiman, David, *Feeding the baniya peasants and usurers in western India* (Delhi, 1996).
64. Janaki, V.A., *The commerce of Cambay from the earliest period to the nineteenth century* (Baroda, 1980).
75. Lakha, Salim *Capitalism and class in colonial India: The case of Ahmedabad* (New Delhi, 1988).
79. Lombard, Denys and Aubin, Jean (eds.), *Asian merchants and businessmen in the Indian Ocean and the China Sea* (New Delhi, 1999).
80. Macleod, Roy, and Kumar, Deepak (eds.), *Technology and the raj: Western technology and technical transfers to India, 1700-1947* (New Delhi, 1995).
81. Maheshwari, B.P., *Industrial and agricultural development of India since 1914 (a study of some aspects of economic history of India)* (New Delhi, 1971).
86. Markovits, Claude, at. el., *Society and circulation: Mobile people and itinerant cultures in south Asia 1750-1950* (Hyderabad, 2002).
93. Mcleod, Roy, *Technology and the raj: Western technology and technical transfers in India 1700-1947* (Citation not available).
96. Mukund, K. *The trading world of the Tamil merchant: Evolution of merchant capitalism in the Coromandel* (Hyderabad, 1999).
101. Pavlov, V.I., *Historical premises for India’s transition to capitalism (late 18th to mid-19th century)* (Moscow, 1978).
104. Prakash, Om, *The Dutch East India Company and the economy of Bengal, 1630-1720.* (Princeton, 1985).
120. Saikia, Rajen, *Social and economic history of Assam* (New Delhi, 2000).
123. Sen, N.K., *Corporate management in India* (Delhi, 1974).
135. Thomas, P.J., *India’s basic industries* (Madras, 1948).
142. Tripathi, Dwijendra (ed.), *State and business in India: A historical perspective* (New Delhi, 1987).
Industrial histories

There are some industries whose histories have been written. They have been classified into seventeen groups. Books on them have been mentioned below:

Banking, Finance and Insurance
4. Bose, Sugata, *Credit markets and the agrarian economy of colonial India*.

Chemical Industries
2. Tyabji, Nasir, *Colonialism, chemical technology and industry in southern India; 1880-1937: 1880-1937* (Delhi, 1995).

Electricity
4. Rutnagur, S.M., *Electricity in India being a history of the Tata hydro-electric project with notes on the mill industry in Bombay and the progress of electric drive in Indian factories* (Bombay, 1912).

Film Industry

Food Industries

Glass Industries

Iron and Steel
21. Ranade, M.G., *Development of iron industry in India*.

Mining Industries

**Newspapers**

**Paper and Pulp**

**Plantation Industries (Tea, Coffee, Jute, Indigo etc.)**
36. Bhowmik, Sharit, *Class formation in a plantation system* (New Delhi, 1981). (Tea plantations in Jalpaiguri district.)
38. Guha Amalendu, *Planter raj to swaraj* (New Delhi, 1977). (Tea plantations in Assam.)

**Postal Services**
Salt Industries

Sugar Industries
50. Attwood, D.W., *Raising cane the political economy of sugar in western India* (Colorado, 1992). (Case study of Malegaon village.)

Textile Industries
66. Roy, Tirthankar (ed.), *Cloth and commerce textiles in colonial India* (New Delhi, 1996).
68. Thakkar, N.H., *The Indian cotton textile industry during the twentieth century (With special reference to war period)* (Bombay, 1949).
70. Vohra, J.N. *Evolution of modern textiles* (Delhi, 2000)
Transport Industries
71. Chattopadhyay, Bhaskar, *An introduction to maritime history of India with special reference to the Bay of Bengal* (Citation not available).
72. Kerr, I.J., *Building the railways of the raj 1850-1900* (Delhi, 1995).
74. Nawab, A.N., *Economic development of Indian air transport* (Delhi, 1967)
75. Parkin, David and Barnes, Ruth (eds.), *Ships and the development of maritime technology on the Indian Ocean* (Surrey, 2002).

Unorganised sector
90. Singh, Sheobahal, *Entrepreneurship and social change* (Citation not available). (Carpet industry in Bhadohi town, Varanasi district.)
91. Sinha, N.C. and Khera, P.N., *Official history of the Indian Armed Forces in the Second World War 1939-45 Indian war economy (supply, industry & finance) (Combined Inter-services historical section India & Pakistan, 1962)* (General editor Bisheshwar Prasad, Performance of the war-related industries.) (Citation not available).

Biographies
There are biographies of businessmen. Some of them are independent works and hence objective. Others were either written by friends and associates, or were commissioned works. Naturally then, they present appreciative accounts.

In the first category Gita Piramal’s three biographical writings catch the attention immediately. Her first book is co-authored with Margaret Herdeck and
entitled India’s industrialists (Washington, 1985). Only Volume I has seen the light of the day. It covers Ambani, Bajaj, Birla, Goenka, Kirloskar, Mafatlal, Mahindra, Modi, Oberoi, Tata, Thapar, TTK and Walchand.


Biographies of individual businessmen have also been written. The patriarch of the Bajaj Group was Jamnalal Bajaj. He has naturally attracted the attention of writers. T.V.Parvate’s Jamnalal Bajaj : A brief study of his life and character (Ahmedabad, 1962), Shriman Narayan’s Jamnalal Gandhi’s ’Fifth son’ (New Delhi, 1974), Kaka Kalekar’s (edited) To a Gandhian capitalist: Correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and Jamnalal Bajaj and members of his family (Bombay, 1979), B.R.Nanda’s In Gandhi’s footsteps – The life and times of Jamnalal Bajaj (Delhi, 1990), Bajaj Group’s Jamnalal Bajaj – Making words into deeds (citation not available), M.R.Anand’s Homage to Jamnalal Bajaj (Bombay, undated) and S.R.Bakshi’s Jamnalal Bajaj: The true Gandhian (Citation not available). M.V.Kamath’s Gandhihi’s coolie: Life and times of Ramkrishna Bajaj (New Delhi, 1988) in one sense updated the family history. Another book worth mentioning is V.Kulkarni’s A family of patriots: The Bajaj family (Bombay, 1951).

The Birla family has produced some distinguished businessmen. Their contributions are well-documented. Ganshyamdas Birla founded the House and was closely associated with Gandhi. The books dealing with his life and work are Modern India- heritage and achievement: Shri G.D.Birla’s 80th birth commemoration (New Delhi, 1977), G.D.Birla- his deeds and dreams (New Delhi, 1983) by Kishore Parekh, G.D.Birla : A biography by R.N.Jaju (New Delhi,1985), The emissary, G.D.Birla, Gandhi and independence (London, 1986) by Alan Ross, Nehru family and Ghanshyam Das Birla by G.D.Birla Memorial Foundation (New Delhi, 1986), Role of G.D.Birla in Indian national movement by B.N.Singh (Delhi, 1991) and The Mahatma and the millionaire (Modern publishers,1993) by M.M.Juneja.

P.Chentsal Rao’s B.M.Birla : His deeds and dreams was brought out again from New Delhi first in 1941 and then in 1983. With it may be read B.M.Birla: A great visionary (New Delhi, 1996) by D.K.Taknet. To man, to country and to God : Biography of M.P.Birla (New Delhi, 1993) by Gauri Shankar makes an interesting reading. To these may be added Mr. And Mrs. B.M.Birla- a profile in pictures (Calcutta, undated) by M.R.Anand. Aditya Vikram Birla : A biography ((New Delhi, 1997) by Minaz Merchant includes an account of the early years of the Birla family. For the sake of completeness, a reference may also be made to Raja Baldevdas Birla (Calcutta, undated) by R.J.K.Barua.

Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata was the founder of the Tata House. Dinshaw Edulji Wacha wrote The life and life work of J.N.Tata (Madras, 1914). Wacha was his friend and companion. Hence, it is a first hand account. The other book entitled Jamsetji
Nusserwanji Tata: A chronicle of his life by F.H. Harris (London, 1958) is based on his papers. Unfortunately the papers were destroyed after the completion of the book. This has made the book very valuable. B.Sh.Saklatvala and B.Khosla have contributed Jamsetji Tata (New Delhi,1970) to the Builders of Modern India series. In view of Tata’s first death centenary, R.M.Lala has recently published For the love of India: The life and times of Jamsetji Tata (New Delhi, 2004).

Lala has also written Beyond the last blue mountain : A life of J.R.D.Tata (New Delhi, 1993). It is based on his personal papers. It is useful for a study of his aviation career. Since it is like an in-house publication, the account is sympathetic. The same author’s The joy of achievement (New Delhi, 1995) records the thoughts of Tata on a variety of subjects. He also wrote The heartbeat of a trust: Fifty years of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (New Delhi, 1984) which is one of the few documented histories of an Indian foundation. Sailesh Kottary’s Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata 1904-1993 (Bombay, 1993) is addressed to a lay man. A. Sen’s Five golden decades of Indian aviation: Tata’s memorable years (Bombay, 1978) is confined to J.R.D.Tata’s contribution to aviation. Recently Arvind Mambro, S. A. Sabavala and R. M. Lala have brought out an edited volume of J. R. D. Tata lectures and keynotes (Delhi, 1994). The latest additions to biographies of any member of Tata house is Souvenir brought out on the occasion of Symposium on Thoughts of Naval H. Tata publishes from Mumbai in 2004.

We have biographies of many other businessmen also. They have been author-wise listed below:

2. Anonymous, Life sketch of Rai Bahadur Sir Baridas Goenka (Citation not available).
3. Anonymous, Russi Mody: Glimpses of a legend (Citation not available).
8. Central Bank of India, Sir Pochkhanawala – A pen portrait (Bombay,1935). (Founder of this Bank )
9. Chalapathi, I.V., The life of K. V. K. Raju (Citation not available).
11. Chodankar, Anant A., Honourable Jagannath Shankarshett (Bombay, 1988). (His business interests were in railways, banking, textiles, etc.).
13. Dasgupta, Arunabha, Colonel Crompton’s India : A story of progress through invention and discovery (Bombay, 1990). (He was associated with the development of electricity in India).
15. Dumania, Zenobia, Jeejebhoy Dadabhoy and the industrialisation of Bombay (Typed copy, Bombay, 1997).
17. Edwardes, S.M., Kharsedji Rustomji Cama 1831-1909, a memoir (London, 1923). (He founded the first Indian business house in London under the name of Cama & Co. with a branch in Liverpool).
32. Joshi, A.N., Life and times of Chevalier Framroze Dinshaw Adenwalla (Bombay, 1950). (His business activities in Aden.)
33. Joshi, A.N., Life and times of Sir Hormusjee C. Dinshaw (Bombay, 1939). (His business activities in Aden.)
34. Joshi, Arun, Lala Shri Ram: A study in entrepreneurship and industrial management (New Delhi, 1975).
36. Kaji, H.L., Life and speeches of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey (Bombay, 1934).
38. Kamath, M.V., The making of a millionaire: A tribute to a living legend Raosaheb B.M.Gogte (industrialist, philanthropist & educationist) (Bombay, 1991). (His interests were in salt works, mining and textiles.)
41. Karanjia, B.K., Give me a Bombay merchant any time – The life of Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, Bt. 1783-1859 (Bombay, 1998).
42. Karanjia, B.K., *Rustom Masani: Portrait of a citizen* (Bombay, 1970). (His contribution the banking industry.)
43. Karkaria, B.K., *Dare to dream: A life of Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi* (New Delhi, 1992). (He started the Oberoi chain of hotels.)
44. Karnani, Roop, *Every post, a winning post* - Shri H.K.Firodia (HK Firodia Memorial Foundation, undated).
51. Manekar, D.R., *Homi Mody: A many splendoured life – A political biography* (Bombay, 1968). (His years with Tatas and contribution to textile industry.)
55. Mody, H.P., *Sir Pherozeshah Mehta: A political biography* (Bombay, 1921). (His contribution to establishment of Central Bank of India.)
64. Nazir, C.S., *The first Parsi Baroone, being passages from the life and fortunes of the late Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Baronet* (Bombay, 1866).
66. Paymaster, R.B., *Special life of Seth Jamsetjee Framjee Madon* (Bombay, 1923). (Film industry.)
72. Singhal, Rahul (ed.), *The legacy continues: Ambani brothers: Life and times of Mukesh Dhirajlal Ambani and Anil Dhirajlal Ambani* (New Delhi, 2002).
75. Steven, Margaret, *Merchant Campbell 1769-1846: A study of colonial trade* (Melbourne, 1965). (Called “the Father of Australian commerce”, he looked into the commercial possibilities of Calcutta.)

**Autobiographies**

Some persons have left behind their autobiographical accounts which are relevant for business history. They are listed below:

11. Haksar, Ajit N., *Bite the bullet: Thirty-four years with ITC* (New Delhi, 1993). (In 1969 he became the first Indian to be the chairman of Indian Tobacco Company. He discusses the pitfalls and problems faced in diversifying the company.)
15. Masani, Minoo, *Bliss was it in that dawn… a political memoir upto independence* (New Delhi, 1977).
23. Pearse, Arno S., *The cotton industry of India, being the report of the journey to India* (Manchester, 1930).
25. Rao, B. Sheshagiri (comp.), *Some reminiscences and reflections of D.M. Dahanukar* (Bombay, undated). (He was associated with Maharashtra Sugar Mills established in 1933).

A study of the speeches of the businessmen can also be a useful source material. The volumes of their speeches are listed below:

5. Mambro, Arvind et. al. (eds.), *J.R.D. Tata: Lectures and keynotes* (Delhi, 2004).

**Business Communities**

There are a handful of studies of business communities as a whole. A pioneering study was *Notes on the rise of the business communities in India* by Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune (New York). D.R. Gadgil’s *Origins*
of the Modern Indian business class: An interim report (New York, 1959) is a useful supplement to it. Industrial entrepreneurship among the trading communities of India: How the pattern differs (Cambridge, 1969) by Thomas Timberg discusses the issues relating to the transformation of the communities from one group to another. Dwijendra Tripathi has edited Business communities of India: A historical perspective (New Delhi, 1985). The papers included in it were presented for discussion in a seminar hosted by the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad on March 4-7, 1982. They are on the Marwaris, Parsis, Mahajans, Gujaratis, etc., as well as on the business communities of Maharashtra and the South. V.D.Pavlov’s The Indian capitalist class: A historical study (New, Delhi) presents a leftist interpretation.

Some individual business communities have also been covered. In the case of the Parsis there are some general books on their history which include their business activities. D.F.Karaka wrote History of the Parsis in two volumes way back in the late nineteenth century (London, 1884). To them may be added the anonymously written Famous Parsis: Biographical & critical sketches of patriots, philanthropists, politicians, reformers, scholars and captains of industry (Madas, 1930), B.M.Pithawala’s The Parsi heritage (Karachi, 1932), Eckehard Kulke’s The Parsees in India: A minority as agent of social change (Delhi, 1974), Nawaz B. Mody (ed.)’s The Parsis in western India: 1818 to 1920 (Bombay, 1998), Delphine Menant’s The Parsees, Vol. III (Bombay, 1996), J.B. and S.P. Sharma’s Parsis in India (Jaipur, 1999), David L. White’s Competition and collaboration: Parsi merchants and the English East India Company in 18th century India, Jal Naval Kanga’s Calcutta Parsis, 200 years- history of Parsi families in Calcutta in the 18th and 19th century (citation not available) and Mani Kamker and Soonu Dhunjisha’s From the Iranian plateau to the shores of Gujarat: The story of Parsi settlements and absorption in India (Mumbai, 2002).

There are two books on the business communities of Rajasthan. Thomas A. Timberg has studied The Marwaris: From traders to industrialists (Bombay, 1978) and D.K.Taknet’s study is entitled Industrial entrepreneurship of Shekhwati Marwaris (Jaipur, 1986).

Reference may also be made to M.J.Seth’s Armenians in India (New Delhi, 1983) (which includes an account of their business activities) and D.W.Rudner’s Caste and capitalism in colonial India: The Nattukottai Chettiars (Citation not available).

Business Houses

Some of the business houses of India have a history behind them. Perhaps the first book on the subject was edited and compiled by Thos. Peter entitled Famous business houses and who’s who in India & Pakistan (Bombay, 1949). Dwijendra Tripathi and M. J. Mehta have brought out Business Houses in Western India – Study in entrepreneurial response 1850-1956 (New Delhi, 1990). V. S. Patvardhan wrote Growth of indigenous entrepreneurship in Maharashtra (Bombay, 1995). It covers the enterprises of Dahanukars, Aptes, Dandekars, Sathes and Parkhes. Their enterprises were based primarily in Mumbai and Pune. They were started before the World War II and expanded in the 1950s. To these may be added Helen B. Lamb’s
Development of modern Business communities in India (Citation not available) and Stephanie Jones’ Merchants of the raj (Delhi, undated).

There are also some studies which deal with individual business houses. Since the Tata House is one of the oldest and largest, not surprisingly it is also the most covered. Sixty Years: The study of Tatas (Oxford, 1948) by Aubrey Menon and The House of Tata: Sixty years of industrial development in India by Frederick James are two short but informative studies. The latter is a 10-page paper read before the Royal Society of Arts and East India Association in London on May 6, 1948.

John Matthai and Y. S. Pandit brought out The House of Tata: A study in industrial pioneering and organisation (Bombay, 1952-53). It is a scholarly but cyclostyled study. Since both the authors were in the employment of Tata Group, they had access to in-house source material which they have used with success. The House of Tata 1839-1939 (Calcutta, 1975) by S.K.Sen is yet another study. Tata History Project The House of Tata written by Tata Economic Consultancy Services (Bombay, 1979) is also based on in-house documents and so is R. M. Lala’s The creation of wealth: The Tata Story (Bombay, 1992). Written in a journalistic manner, it is an appreciative account of the House. Contribution of Tatas to socio-economic development (New Delhi, 2000) by I.T.I. Bose is again an appreciative account. Chronology of the House of Tata (Pune, 2002) by N. Benjamin is a typed study with the Tata Central Archives, Pune. It is in two parts. Part I covers the Tata family members and Part II the Tata enterprises.

S.K.Goyal’s Monopoly capital and public policy (New Delhi, 1979) covers the trends in business concentration from 1937 to 1976 as well as the growth of the business houses of Tatas and Birlas. On the latter, there are three other books. Its in-house publication entitled The glorious 90 years (Bombay, 1984) is expectedly a eulogistic account. But Debajoti Burman’s two books, viz., The Mystery of Birla House (Calcutta, 1950) and T.T.K. and Birla House (Calcutta 1957) provide a devastating criticism.

The Ambanis are latecomers. But their progress has been phenomenal. One can read about them in The way ahead (London, 1995) by B.Gates. Also, we have Reliance: An industrial legend by S. R. Mohnot (New Delhi, 1987).

Before the Sassoons migrated to England, theirs was a leading business house. David Sassoon did come to India as a refugee of sorts and spoke only Arabic. But his business empire spread before long and his successors extended it further. The Sassoon Dynasty (London, 1941) by Cecil Roth is the story of this family. It is especially useful for the Edwardian Period. The Sassoons (London, 1968) by Stanley Jackson constitutes a useful supplement. They have a family archives.

V. Kulkarni’s study entitled A family of patriots: The Bajaj family (Bombay, 1951) as well as The House of Bajaj – A profile (Bombay, 1982) by Bajaj Auto are appreciative accounts. To these may be added Industrial development of India: Policy and problems Kamalnayan Bajaj commemoration volume (New Delhi, 1973) edited by C.N.Vakil.
The Godrej House commissioned B.K.Karanjia to write *Godrej: A hundred years 1897-1997, Vols. I and II* (New Delhi, 1997). Written by a film journalist, the volumes lack the professional touch of a historian. They abound in repetitions while some important details have been left out. Selden Menefee’s account of *The Pais of Manipal* (Bombay, 1969) and S. Muthiah’s *Getting Indian on the move: The 150 years- Saga of Simpsons of Madras* (Madras 1990) constitute profitable reading materials. Mention may also be made of the Tagores. The first book on them was entitled *The Tagore Family: A memoir* (Calcutta, 1892) by J. W. Furrell. Then after about 75 years came *The House of the Tagores* (Calcutta, 1965) by H. Benerjee.


**Corporate Organisations**

Based on their in-house records, several companies have had their histories recorded. Meant to generate goodwill among the business associates, clients, workers and public in general, these histories have been written as public relations exercises and carefully omit anything which is uncomplimentary. Their principal usefulness lies in the fact that they are based on papers which otherwise are generally not available to individual scholars. They are listed below.

There are histories of the textile mill companies in India. We have *A short history of the “Empress Mills,” Nagpur started work 1st January 1877. Golden jubilee 1st January 1927. The Central India spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.* (Bombay, 1927). Tata Economic Consultancy Services, Mumbai has written histories of the Tata Group’s four mill companies, viz., Ahmedabad Advance Mills, Swadeshi Mills Company Ltd., Central India Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Company Ltd., and Tata Mills Ltd. These studies were completed in 1981. They were originally proposed to be a part of a larger study of the History of the Tata Group which never saw the light of the day. Hence, these studies have remained only in a cyclostyled form. But the slim volume entitled *A short history of the Ahmedabad Advance Mills Ltd., 1903-1953* (Bombay, 1953) brought out by the company is in a printed form. Three other books which can be mentioned in this context are *The house of Binny* (Madras, 1969) by Binny Ltd., *Diamond Jubilee of the Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Co., Ltd. 1879-1939* (Bombay, 1940) by the company and *Bombay Dyeing: The first hundred years* (Bombay, 1980) by J.B. Koffend.

A number of individual banks have sponsored the writing of their histories. One of the earliest studies in this category is *The history of the Bank of Bengal* by G.P. Synes Scutt (Calcutta, 1904). S.L.N. Simha’s *History of the Reserve Bank of India 1935-1951* (Bombay, 1970) is a readable account of the bank. To it may be added N. K. I. Almula’s *Operations of the Reserve Bank of India, 1935-54* (Bombay, 1961). These volumes were updated by E.P.W. da Costa in a book entitled *Reserve Bank of India : Fifty years (1935-1985)* (Bombay, 1985). Yet another bank whose exhaustive history is under compilation at present is the State Bank of India. A.K. Bagchi has written *The evolution of the State Bank of India* (Bombay, 1987, 1997 and

Compared with the banking sector, the insurance sector has remained rather neglected. The best-known book on the subject is *Tryst with destiny- the LIC story* (Bombay, 1991) written at the instance of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. It can usefully be supplemented by S. R. Bhave’s *Saga of security: Story of Indian life insurance 1870-1970* (Bombay, 1970).

There are some books on the transport history. The Ministry of Railways has brought out *The history of the Indian railways*. First published in 1955, the updated volumes were brought out in 1974 and 1979. A good accompaniment to this book is M.B.K. Malik’s *Hundred years of Pakistan railways: Pakistan Western Railway 1861-1961, Pakistan Eastern Railway 1862-1962* (Karachi, 1962). At the individual level some attempts have been made, viz., P.S.A. Berridge’s *Couplings to the Khyber: The story of the North Western Railway* (Devon, 1969), W.A. Lawthropp’s *The story of the Assam Railway and Trading Co. Ltd., 1881-1891* (Citation not available), Hena Mukherjee’s *The East Indian Railway 1845-1879* (Calcutta, 1994) and I.J. Kerr’s *Building the railways of the raj* (Delhi, 1995). For the sake of completeness, an allusion may also be made to *The history of the railway thieves in India* by M.P. Naidu (Citation not available).

and Madras Port Trust – A 15 year summary 1904-1919, both by Francis J. E. Spring (Citation not available)

For air transport, we have a first person’s account by the Maharaja (Air India) under the title of The story of an airline 1932-1953: Tata Airlines, Air India, Air India International (Bombay, 1953) and Five golden decades of Indian aviation: Tata’s Memorable years by A. Sen (Bombay, 1978); and Tata History Project Tata Airlines (Bombay, 1981) by Tata Economic Consultancy Services. It is a cyclostyled study.

When it comes to one single company, the attention of writers which the Tata Iron and Steel Company has received is much more than any other company. The available works on this company are Verrier Elwin’s The story of Tata Steel (Bombay, 1958), S. N. Pandey’s Human side of Tata Steel (Delhi, 1989) and Social side of Tata Steel (New Delhi, 1991) and S.B.Datta’s Capital accumulation and workers’ struggle – the case of Tata Iron and Steel Company 1910-1970 (Calcutta, 1990).

Studies of the remaining companies are alphabetically listed below author-wise:
17. Hindustan Lever, A short history of the organisation of Hindustan Lever (Citation not available).
22. Lindsay, H.R.S., *The role of foreign enterprise in a developing economy - The Metal Box Co. of India Ltd.* (Calcutta, 1965)
27. *The Martin Burn story: Martin Burn Ltd. – a historical note* (Citation not available).
32. Premchund Raychund and Sons, 1856-1956 (Bombay, undated).
33. *Romance of the road- Ceat tyres of India* (Citation not available).
37. *The story of electricity in the city of Calcutta – Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation* (Citation not available).
42. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, *Tata History Project: Tata Engineering & Locomotive Company Limited* (Bombay, 1981). It is a cyclostyled study.
43. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, *Tata History Project: Tata Exports Ltd.* (Bombay, 1981). It is a cyclostyled study.
44. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, *Tata History Project: The Indian Hotels Co. Ltd.* (Bombay, 1981). It is a cyclostyled study.
46. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, Tata History Project: National Radio & Electronics Co. Ltd. (Bombay 1981). It is a cyclostyled study.
47. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, Tata History Project: The Tata Oil Mills Company Limited (TOMCO) (Bombay, 1980). It is a cyclostyled study.
49. Tata Economic Consultancy Services, Tata History Project: VOLTAS Ltd. (Bombay, 1982). It is cyclostyled study.
51. Thackersey Group of Mills, Hindustan Mills –100 years (Bombay undated).
53. Tripathi, Dwijendra, Dating the destiny: Thirty-five years of the Larsen and Toubro (Ahmedabad, IIM mimeograph, 1975).

**Industrial and Commercial Associations**

India has a number of such associations and they have brought out their histories from time to time. In an alphabetical order, first comes the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry- Golden jubilee commemoration volume (Delhi, 1969).

Then come the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry 1853-1953: A centenary survey by W.G.Tyson (Calcutta, 1953), Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry- The Bengal Chamber, 125 years of service (Calcutta, 1978) and Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry- Souvenir volume 1887-1962 (Calcutta, undated). Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry has brought out its own histories. They are One hundred years of Bombay History of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, 1936-1936 (by Raymond J.F.Sulivan) (Bombay, undated) and The Bombay Chamber story 150 years 1836-1986 (by Rusi J. Daruwala) (Bombay, 1986). There is also the Bombay Cotton Merchants’ and Muccadums’ Association which has published its Golden Jubilee Volume (Bombay, 1968).


The Indian Merchants’ Chamber, Mumbai was the first Indian commercial body established by Indians to serve Indian interests in Mumbai in the year 1907. It has as many as four of its histories in succession, viz., Indian Merchants’ Chamber Souvenir 1939 (Silver Jubilee) (Bombay, 1939), Fifty years 1907–1957 Indian Merchants’ Chamber (IMC, 1958), Diamond Jubilee 1907 – 1967 Indian Merchants’

Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also brought out its histories. They are Madras Chamber of Commerce Centenary Handbook 1836-1936 (Madras, 1936) and The voice of enterprise: 150 years of the Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry by R.Rirumalai (Madras, 1986). To these may be added Southern India Chamber of Commerce – Golden Jubilee 1910-1960: Enterprise with caution (Madras, 1961) and Southern India Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Diamond Jubilee Number (1910 – 1970) (Madras, 1971).

The Millowners’ Association of Mumbai was established way back in 1875. S.D.Sakalatvala has written History of the Mill-owners’ Association, Bombay, 1875-1930 (Bombay, 1931) followed by Mill Owners’ Association Bombay: Hundred years of dedicated service 1875-1975, centenary souvenir (Bombay, 1967).

References may also be made to 25th year anniversary souvenir Nag-Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce (1944-1960) and Golden Jubilee Year Souvenir 50 years Nag Vidarbha Chamber of Commerce Nagpur, years 1993-1994 (Nagpur, 1994) by the said Chamber (Nagpur, 1961). Lastly, we have Chamber in service of business community 75 years : Set up and activities Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce (citation not available) by S.Playne, The UPASI : 1893-1953 by Speer (Coonoor, 1953) and Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce- Golden Jubilee Souvenir (Citation not available).

Conclusion

We have made a modest attempt to provide a comprehensive bibliographical scenario of business history in India without making any critical assessment. We collected these titles from the libraries, publishers, commercial bodies, corporate organisations and private collections. It was attempted to make the list as complete as possible. Suggestions for additional entries are naturally welcome. Besides, when the books under preparation at present like those on Tata Motors and Taj Mahal Hotel are out, they will also be included in this bibliographic survey.