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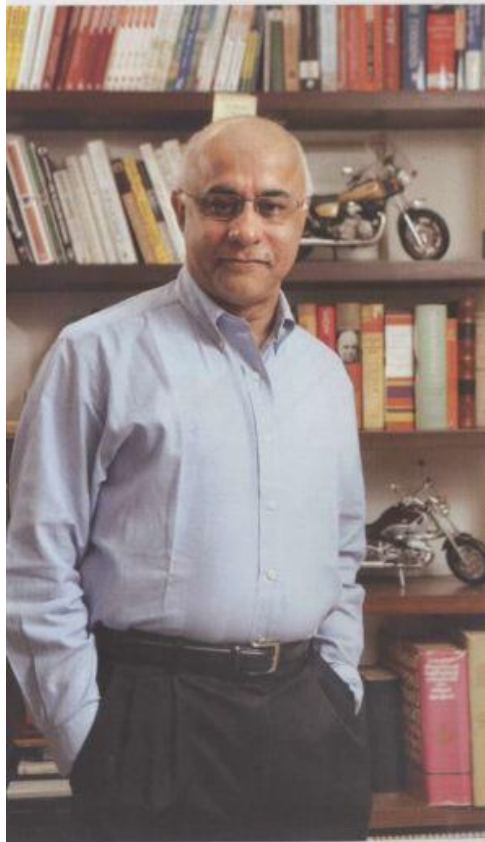
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# THE CORNER OFFICE BOOKCASE

*"Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself, or like the ambitious, for the purpose of instruction. No, read in order to live." - Gustave Flaubert*

It's the end of the year. A time for self reflection and of resolutions, usually to better some aspect of our lives. In this spirit, *People Matters* asked three thought leaders to recommend must-reads for anyone who manages people. **Subroto Bagchi, Dave Ulrich & Gurcharan Das** suggest books to put on your reading list for the holidays



## Subroto Bagchi

Subroto Bagchi is an Indian entrepreneur and Co-founder and Executive Chairman of MindTree Inc., an international IT consulting company. Since April 2008, he has been designated as the 'gardener' and his mandate is to "repot, fertilize and weed and clip the human resources". He is the author of the bestselling books, *Go Kiss the World: Life Lessons for the Young Professional*, *The High Performance Entrepreneur* and *The Professional*

I would suggest three books for different but interconnected reasons. I see a lot of mid-level to senior people struggle with the issues of managing people particularly high performance people because to begin with they don't know how their own mind works. You see, you and me, we are factory-fitted with the brain as a tool, but when we were shipped, we didn't come with a user manual. We've never seen our brain; we've never put our finger in it to see what it feels like. And you are using it every moment. Now, imagine you have a hammer in your hand and you have no idea how it works and yet you are using it all the time. There was a reason why it wasn't possible earlier, except in the spiritual world, for various reasons, but in the last 8 to

10 years, the following fields are sitting around the table and talking to each other for the first time: neurosurgeons, synectic researchers, people who build imaging capabilities and psychologists. As a result of the interplay between the four groups, we are beginning, but only just beginning to understand what the brain does, how it works, how it may work. And here we are in a situation where I don't even understand how my brain works, but I am managing other people who have their own brains. I would advise that people begin to take more interest in anything related to the human brain.

There is a lot of literature coming in and a good starting point is a very easy to read book called *Whole New Mind* by Daniel Pink. This book is an initiation into the brain conversation and