

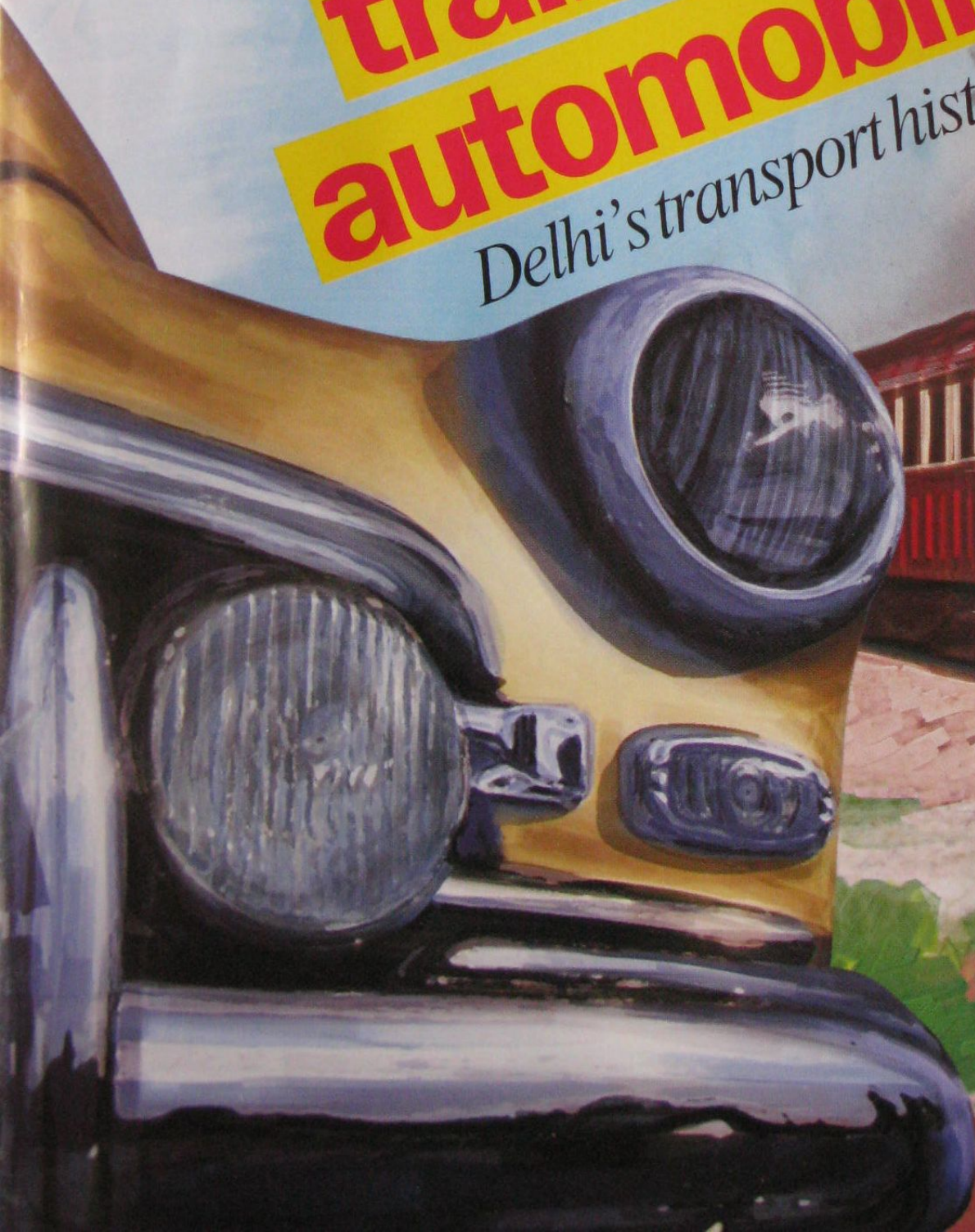
Time Out

Delhi

GET MORE OUT OF DELHI
FEBRUARY 20-MARCH 5 2009
VOL.2 ISSUE 24 Rs 30

**Planes
trains and
automobiles**

Delhi's transport history



FESTIVE SEASON

International Festival of
Sacred Arts, South Asian
Bands, Shriram Shankar
Lal and more

PLUS

Ravi Shankar and *Delhi-6*

Around Town

Live previews

Landmark trees in Delhi



This fortnight, the Nature Club of the India International Centre is organising a talk by forest ecologist Yoav Daniel Bar-Ness on some standout trees in our city. Bar-Ness has been here for over a year on a Fulbright Scholarship and is spending time in Delhi and the rest of the country as a "vriksh ka yatri". That means he is looking around for interesting trees, either because they're historically important, of

religious significance, just plain nice to look at or, as he put it, "as long as there is a story to tell".

He spends his time taking photographs, talking to people about the trees in their area and conducting research with the intention of eventually producing a pictorial travel guide. For this talk, Bar-Ness will be using lots of photos and the stories he's heard to give the audience an introduction to some of

Delhi's (and India's, he promised) most interesting, famous trees.

His favourite tree in Delhi is what he calls the 4.30 fig: a pipal tree located at the point where Barakhamba Road meets the Connaught Place Inner Circle (if you orient yourself on Janpath looking north, and think of CP as a giant watch dial, it's at 4.30).

"The tree is a survivor," he said. "If you look at an aerial photograph of the area, it is obvious that the Metro designers very carefully left this tree standing. For me, this is the first tree I used as a landmark in India. When I was lost in Connaught Place, I would get to the tree and find my way. It's the one tree in Delhi that I'd like people to pay attention to, because it's a good reminder for where you are, for navigation and for a bit of nature. There are lots of birds in that tree."

Radhika Arora

See Fri Feb 27 in Events.

Celebrating spring

As if you needed another invitation to celebrate the beautiful weather: craft NGO Dastkar, in association with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, is introducing a new festival to Delhi – the Basant Bazaar. We asked Laila Tyabji, chairperson of Dastkar, how the festival was going to be different from other similar festivals, like the Surajkund Mela. She told us that the Surajkund Mela is becoming increasingly tourist-driven, with an emphasis on kitschy products. The Dastkar bazaars, on the other hand, focus on quality crafts with an increasingly contemporary aesthetic.

The festival will run for ten days. It aims to bring traditional artisans together with designers (mostly Delhi-based)

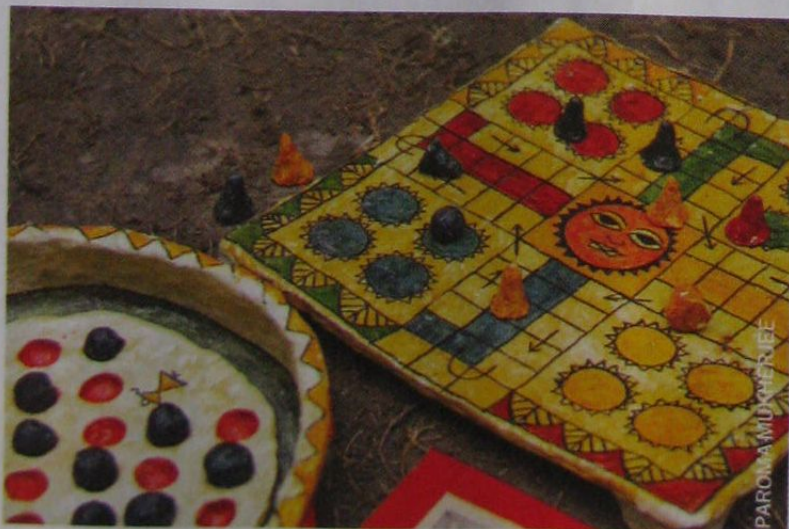
and present unique creations.

Along with these designers, over a 100 craftspeople from 19 states will be participating in the festival, presenting works in silk, wood and other media. Expect wearable accessories, folk art, toys and much more on display and on sale. Being a Dastkar event, the festival is not just about selling crafts, but also about learning more about these craft techniques. Interactive work-

shops for both children and adults on block-printing, pottery, toy-making, etc, are on the cards. If you didn't find your regular organic produce at the last edition of the Nature Bazaar, chances are you might spot it here. The Basant Bazaar is giving space to those organic growers and manufacturers who didn't get an opportunity to participate then.

There will be a food court serving Indian cuisine, as well as salads and pastas. There will be a game corner, where craftspeople will be making traditional Indian board games. They will also explain to bystanders how these games are played. Apparently, there will also be storytelling. Sounds good to us. *RA*

See Festivals in Events.



Events

How to use this section

Listings are organised by type of event and then by date.

These listings were accurate at the time of going to print but please call the organiser or venue to confirm the details in case of changes.

* denotes critic's choice.

⊖ denotes the nearest Metro station.

Admission is **FREE** unless otherwise specified.

If you want to be listed

Submit information by mail (*Time Out*, 21 Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar-III, New Delhi 110 024), e-mail (listings@timeoutdelhi.net) or fax (4656-5733) to Radhika Arora. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue, nearest Metro station, telephone number and any entry fee. *Time Out* is a fortnightly publication, appearing on the stands every other Thursday.

Deadline for information is a fortnight before publication.

Listings are free, but inclusion cannot be guaranteed due to limited space.

Ongoing

* **Mughal Gardens** The Gardens at the Rashtrapati Bhavan are open for public viewing once again. Explore over 13 acres of the immaculately maintained gardens, which have a range of flowers, trees and plants. Visit the speciality sections, like the herbal and rose gardens.

Entrance from Gate No 35, North Avenue, Rashtrapati Bhavan (2301-5321). ⊖ Central Secretariat. Tue-Sun 10am-2.30pm. Until Tue Mar 10 (closed on calendar holidays).

Old Vistas of Buda and Pest

Budapest as we know it now became a single, unified city occupying both banks of the river Danube on November 17, 1873. This photo exhibition takes you through the banks of Buda, Óbuda (Old Buda) and Pest over the ages.

Hungarian Cultural Centre, 1A Janpath (2301-1152). Mon-Sat 10am-4pm. Until Fri Feb 20.

* Journeys Toward Freedom

A multimedia exhibition retracing Martin Luther King Jr's travels in India. The event marks the 50th anniversary of his visit to India. His son, Martin Luther King III, inaugurated the exhibition. The event is co-curated by the Centre for Media and Alternative Communication.

American Centre, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg (2347-2289). ⊖ Rajiv Chowk. 10am-6pm. Until Fri Mar 13.

* **Uttar Poorva Utsav** The festival – organised by the Crafts Council of India, the Ministry of Development of the Northeastern Region and the