



The 4:30 Fig

Connaught Place, Delhi
28° 37.922' N / 77° 13.236' E / 220m

Peepal / Bo Tree
Ficus religiosa
Moraceae



Located at Connaught Place Inner Ring at Barakhamba Rd, this tree predates the Metro station built underground directly beneath it. Delhi's large circular shopping district can be a maze, but if CP is a clock dial, this large and healthy *Ficus religiosa* is a perfect landmark at 4:30. It is definitely the largest tree within the CP circles, and is a popular hangout with the birds of the area.

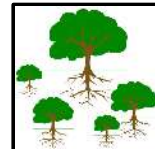


CP's southern half (from Google Earth)



Across Barakhamba Rd

CP was designed in 1932 and continues as British New Delhi's commercial hub. From high fashion to shoelaces, dosas to electronics, its all there. But the place is vast and landmarks are few; it's easy to get disoriented amongst the countless white pillars... Look for the 4:30 Fig! When its time to escape, hop underground into the Metro and travel into Old Delhi- the contrast is striking.



The Peepal Tree:
Ficus religiosa

Possibly the world's most sacred tree species, the Peepal (Hindi), or Bodhi tree, is the species under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Throughout India, these trees can be found as large, spreading, shady individuals, often with flowers and shrines beneath. If you look carefully, you can also see them growing in cracks of buildings and rocks. It's spade-shaped leaves are instantly recognizable. Small stone carvings from the Mohenjo-daro civilization of the Indus show that this tree was present in the subcontinent 4500 years ago.



Mohenjo-daro seal



The Mulberry Family:
Moraceae

The Mulberry family contains the Figs, Banyans, and Breadfruits. Figs are one of the most successful tropical plants on Earth today, present in Asian, Australia, and American jungles. Many Figs have specialized as stranglers on older forest trees, and also have developed complex interdependencies with pollinator wasps.



4:30 Fig & Jennie Miller



Instantly recognizable leaf