



Home > About > Talk the Talk > Local Experts

Daily Delhi

## Y.D. BAR-NESS

- ▶ Local News
- ▶ Political News
- ▶ Sports News
- ▶ Business News
- ▶ Entertainment

Past & Present

Law & Order

Weather & Forecast

People & Lifestyle

Trade & Commerce

Talk the Talk

Unfolding Delhi



[Add to Favorites](#)



## PEOPLE ALSO SAW

- 1. The Great Delhi Food Experience** ★★★★★  
(Food Walks)
- 2. Must Visit Shopping Malls in Delhi** ★★★★★  
(Shop til you drop)
- 3. Best Butter Chicken in Delhi** ★★★★★  
(Best Eats of Delhi)

**Please introduce yourself in a few lines:** I've been contributing to popular science as an outreach ecologist/journalist for the last five years, with words and images published by GEO, Australian Geographic, Times of India, Frontline, Time Out Explorer, Outlook Traveller, Wild, and others.

I travelled to India for the Landmark Trees of India project as a Fulbright-Nehru Scholar, with thanks to the USA and Indian Governments. Landmark Trees is an outreach ecology and geography project documenting famous, notable, remarkable, interesting, and heritage trees of India. My experience as a forest canopy scientist goes back about ten years, and I've been fortunate to work in the tops of some of the world's tallest trees in India, the USA, & Australia. I'm currently a Research Associate at Curtin Institute for Biodiversity & Climate, Western Australia, and the founding editor of Tasmanian Geographic. You can learn more about this work at [www.outreachecology.com](http://www.outreachecology.com) and, if you are exploring Delhi and India, please do visit Landmark Trees of India at:

<http://www.outreachecology.com/landmark>

### 1) What characteristic according to you is unique to Delhi (What makes Delhi, 'So Delhi'!)

The forests of the invasive mesquite tree *Vilaiti Kikar* and the ancient ruins within. Most of Delhi's wilder green space is dominated by an aggressive imported tree. It has absolutely changed the landscape, yet wildlif seems to flourish there. This was an important lesson for me to learn after working in ancient forest.

### 2) Who or what inspired you to work in your field?

I started as a treeclimbing scientist in the coniferous forests near Seattle, USA, and growing in the city are countless Indian Deodar Cedars. I had always wanted to see them in their home habitat... Landmark Trees of India is an ecological geography project, in which individual trees are visited, mapped, photographed, and used as ambassadors for environmental education. Through writing, media access, photography and art exhibitions, these trees can teach us about the environmental settings, problems, and solutions present in India today. Not just historical or sacred trees, but also weird, interestingly placed, curiously utilized, or whimsically interesting trees.

Why? Everyone likes trees! Forests and trees are the perhaps the most prominent living things on Earth. If you like nature, you'll like trees, and you'll like insects, and mushrooms, and birds.

### 3) Old Delhi or New Delhi – pick your preference and why?

Old, undoubtedly. Modern construction in the city seems far too exclusive. In **Old Delhi**

you can find fewer gated colonies and more playing children.

**4) Top 5 tips on leading the Delhi life?**

Stay in touch with Nature. Smile more. Enjoy people. Study architecture. Travel by foot.

**5) Your favourite hang-out in Delhi?**

My favourite neighbourhood is Katwaria Sarai, a student region between IIT and JNU. Lots of motivated, educated, and brilliant people living here.

**6) Your favourite restaurant in Delhi?**

I'm quite partial to Udupi on the Ring Road at Munirka Vihar....sometimes a pure veg South Indian Thali is necessary.

**7) One misconception about Delhi?**

Is that it's "new".

**8) A Hidden gem of the city everyone must know about?**

If I mentioned it here, it would no longer be hidden, would it? But do look out for the massive people tree at CP where Barakhamba Road meets the Inner Circle. It's a great landmark. ([http://www.outreachecology.com/landmark/lti\\_a001](http://www.outreachecology.com/landmark/lti_a001))

**9) Delhi Metro or Auto – pick one and why?**

Auto. The Metro can't take you anywhere unexpected.

**10) One thing you would want to change about Delhi?**

The air pollution, which is literally deadly.

**11) An unforgettable experience in the capital?**

One morning I made it to the rooftop to catch a full solar eclipse. Looking around, I could see other residents on other rooftops doing morning stretches, brushing teeth, folding laundry...totally unaware of the astronomical event happening above.

**12) Your Favourite book on Delhi?**

Pradip Krishen's Trees of Delhi—an essential book for urban ecologists throughout India.

**13) Best place to shop In Delhi?**

I try not to accumulate more stuff.

**14) Why is Delhi much more than a transit city?**

It is the capital! Who calls it a transit city? Skittish firang?

### 15) A piece of first hand advice on the Capital City?

Go walkabout! Don't be afraid—be friendly!

## USER COMMENTS

---

There are no user comments for this listing.

To write a review please [register](#) or log in.

### Site Essentials

[About Us](#) - [Contact Us](#) - [Join Us](#) - [Contribute](#) -  
[Advertise](#) - [Press](#) - [Site Credits](#) - [FAQ's](#) - [Terms &  
Conditions](#) - [Privacy Policy](#) - [Refunds Policy](#)

Copyright © Acropole Travels Pvt. Ltd. 2012. All Rights Reserved.  
No part of this web site may be reproduced or published for  
public or private use or transmitted in any form by any  
mechanical, photographic or electronic process without written  
permission of the owner.

### Follow Us



### Newsletter

Don't worry, we won't spam you!