

## Mussoorie Moments Four

Here is a set of moments captured by me - in and around Mussoorie. From temple bells to monkeys to history - and more. There is a lot to observe. And enjoy. This is the fourth such set that I have shared. Hope you like it.



## Iconic Relic



This was the original post office of Mussoorie. Set up in 1837. Originally set up for the soldiers who were sent to Landour for recovering from illness. It served as the main post office for over 50 years till the one on the Mall came up. And apparently the father of Jim Corbett, Christopher Corbett worked here as postmaster for over 15 years. It does not make a pretty picture today. But it does hide so many stories, tales, nuggets of history and more. That wrinkled face was once young. There are so many such "locations" in Mussoorie. This click is from 2012.

## Monk Monkey



There are hordes of them in Mussoorie. And watching their antics from a safe distance is rather pleasurable. As humans invade their habitat they invade ours. For food and comfort. This one was different. He sat for a few minutes gazing at the setting sun. Almost like in a meditative state. Never have I seen a monkey like that before or after this one. Normally to get monkey shots I use a quick shutter release. Not needed for this one. Guess the sunset impacts all. This was in July 2012.

## Cloud Window



This one is really old. February 2007. Just after lunch the sun started disappearing and the clouds started rolling. And nature decided to create a 70 mm window for me. Of the Doon Valley in the distance. It lasted just long enough for a couple of clicks. And then the cloud from right edge moved in completely. As if a curtain had been drawn by unseen hands. Each picture of nature is a celestial event. Of a moment that is truly unique. One which has never happened earlier - and will not happen again.



## Still There



Believe it or not. This library is still functional. More than 150 years after it was started. Located at Gandhi Chowk with a side entrance it is not a place that catches the eye on it's own. Just another board. But the year mentioned on it makes one pause in mid stride. And look again - am I reading it right? Mussoorie has many such landmarks. This is probably one of the oldest. Considering that township was established in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

# Soldier



The first thing that came to mind as I composed this shot was a soldier. With a hat and a bayonet. The fact the tree was perched on a hill with the plains in the distance added to that feeling. Much like the soldier guarding the borders. It is always amazing to see the vast open spaces that hilltops give visibility. Kms of nothingness in all directions that you can see. And yet there is always something significant in that nothingness. This one is from November 2009.

## Temple Bells



About 34 plus 3 kms away from Mussoorie is Surkhanda Devi Temple. And it has these bells. Nothing extraordinary about the bells. Except that to be able to ring them one has to climb up about 3 kms and 2000 feet from the road. To a total altitude of almost 9000 feet. Did not count the number of steps. Actually -- could not count them!! Once you get there and have gulped in the fresh air there is peace. Just peace. Hearing the deep clang of the large bell was as pleasant as the tinkle of the smaller ones. And the views are mesmerising. I could see clouds below me and a village in the deep valley below them. I may have been flying. But I was not. July 2012.



## The Turn of the Tide



For some reason this shop was not getting the devotees. The one next to it was crowded. It often happens. A couple of people go to one and the others just follow there. Maybe there is safety in numbers. Maybe we all love the queue. This young boy was looking rather wistfully at the other shop as I looked down from a height. I made a silent vow that I will buy something from him as soon as I reached the bottom. By the time I reached the tide had turned. He was scrambling around to serve the crowd from a minibus which had just stopped next to his shop. July 2012.

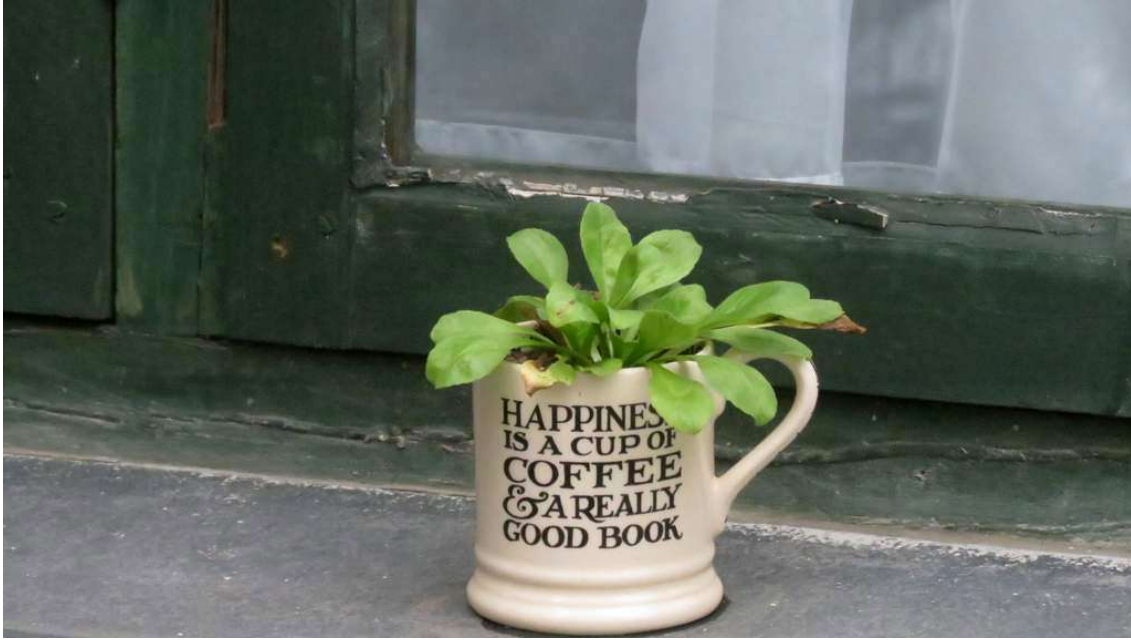


## On The Edge



The front seat of the car gets a vantage position for on the go snaps as you drive up. These are not planned or composed. Just clicked. The colors on these poles attracted me and I clicked. What I got was this. It probably looks more dangerous than it was. But there is no denying the fact that the roads in the hills get your heart pumping at regular intervals. Especially if you are looking out and below.

## The Essence



I think I spotted this outside the Rokeby Manor as we came out after a sumptuous lunch. (I maybe wrong here but the memory is a bit flaky). I could really resonate with it. There are these pearls of wisdom strewn around the walls, poles and coffee mugs in the hills. The fact that they don't come on WhatsApp does not make them less meaningful. This one is especially useful. You can substitute coffee with any beverage that you prefer. I am sure the creator of the mug will not mind.

July 2013.

## Nature's Spotlight



The sky was overcast. And brooding. The hills were a dark green bordering on the black. There was also a gentle breeze with some smell of rain. It was raining somewhere around. As I fiddled with the camera there were no real light tones to capture. Just one uninterrupted color. And then as it often does – nature decided to reward patience. The clouds parted and the one spot in the valley with some houses and fields lit up. Only that spot, nothing else. Just for a minute or two.

July 2015.