

The Hindu

India in black and white

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EVENT *Tasveer Gallery presents an exhibition of rare photographic prints of 19th Century India*

Have you ever wondered what India's great cities and heritage sites looked like in the 19th Century?

Then head to the exhibition "One Hundred Vintage Views of India", which is on display at Tasveer Gallery. Impressive photographs of 19th Century Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata, and Mughal and Hindu heritage sites in rich dark-brown tones are on view.

"The exhibition is Tasveer's collection of original prints of the 1800s", says Abhishek Poddar, founder of Tasveer. Ganjam supported Tasveer in this endeavour. "Tasveer has been showcasing works of contemporary photographers. It's for the first time that we have organised an exhibition of vintage photographs," says Poddar.

Rare compositions of the late 1840s and early 1870s photogra-



VINTAGE VIEWS What did India look like in the 1800s? PHOTO: MURALI KUMAR K.

phers such as Andrew Charles Brisbane Neill, Richard Banner Oakeley, Linneaus Tripe, Col. Eugene Clutterbuck, Sameul Borne, Burke and Baker are on view. Bombay's Elephanta Caves, latticed

screens of the Taj Mahal, Delhi's Marble Palace and Red Fort, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace in Seringapatnam, Amritsar's Golden Temple, Kashmir's Lidder River, Sarnath's Dhamek Stupa, the burn-

ing ghats of Benaras, portraits, landscapes etc. are some of the striking images on show. Interestingly, the photographs are albumen prints, a process used in the early part of the 19th Century.

The exhibition seeks to promote photography as an art form. "The Bombay Photographic Society, Bengal Photographic Society, Madras Photographic Society and Asiatic Photographic Society were just some of the groups of like-minded enthusiasts who appreciated photography as an art form in the 19th Century," reads a write-up at the Gallery.

Besides capturing India's heritage sites and major cities in all its glory, the photographs are detailed and nuanced. The composition and creative angles make for an interesting study.

The exhibition will interest collectors as well as the novice to the field.

"Tasveer and Bernard J. Shapiro Rare Books have carefully edited and put together this collection to ensure collectors get only the best in terms of quality, subject and images," says Poddar.

The exhibition will travel to Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. It is on display at Tasveer Gallery, Sua House, 26/1, Kasturba Cross Road on all days till August 28, (except Sundays), from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Call: 9341063902.

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