

**COVER STORY** 

## The making of a rickshaw

Rickshaw, too, is a product of assembly. Numerous parts, components, materials and thrown-away items go into the making of a rickshaw. And the rickshaw combines art and mechanics to form a vehicle that is nothing short of heritage in motion.

The magic of a machine lies in its assembly. That machine can be the human body - a complex set of cells and tissues and organs, each component specialised in performing an essential function, which, put together perfectly, makes a human being. The machine can be a clock – a collection of intricate mechanisms that coordinate to tell us hours and minutes, down to the second.

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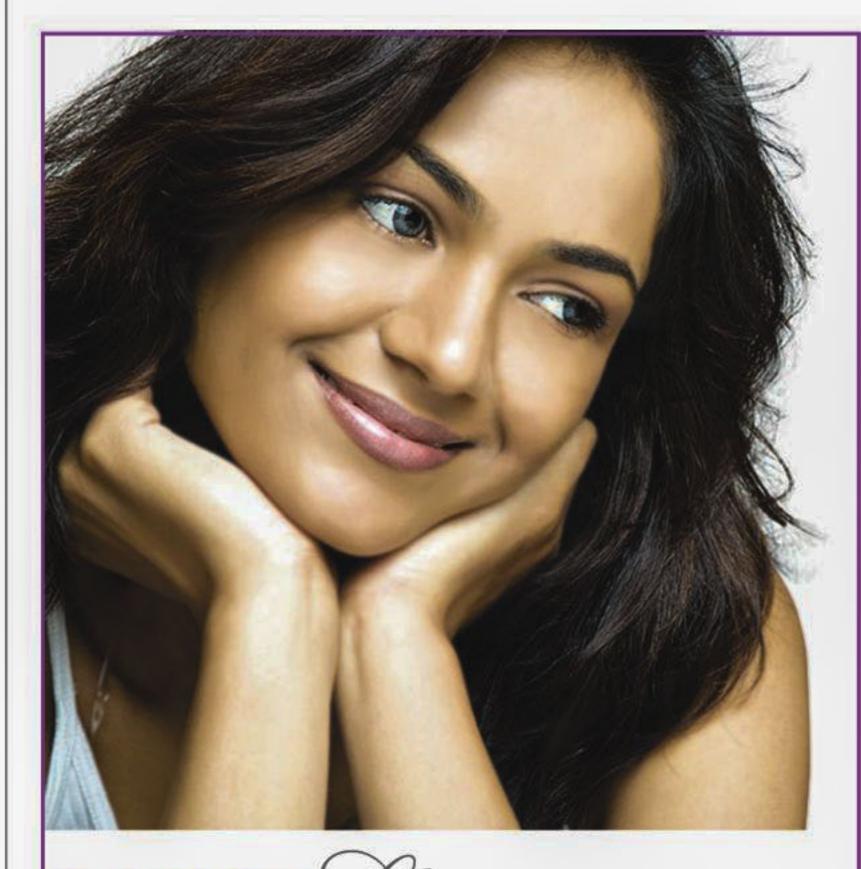
into the making of a rickshaw. And the rickshaw combines art and mechanics to form a vehicle that is nothing short of heritage in motion. A visit to a rickshaw workshop opens one to a fascinating world of art and assembly.

If you ever visit New Fazlu, a rickshaw workshop in West Nandipara, you will understand this for yourself. The plot of land is filled with examples of assembly and assembled things. Beams, ropes, wooden planks, tin and several other objects form an open living area on an elevated platform,

which you can reach by a ladder. Toolboxes and shelves are built and attached to the walls in an unintended shabby chic style.

A wide plethora of random objects, from coconut husks to small pieces of colourful cloths, lie here and there.

And there are rickshaws; in all stages of making. A set of the seat and the foothold of a rickshaw lie in one corner. A bare hood of a rickshaw, without the cloth covering its bamboos, rests on the side. Meanwhile, an unpainted rickshaw awaits decoration.



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