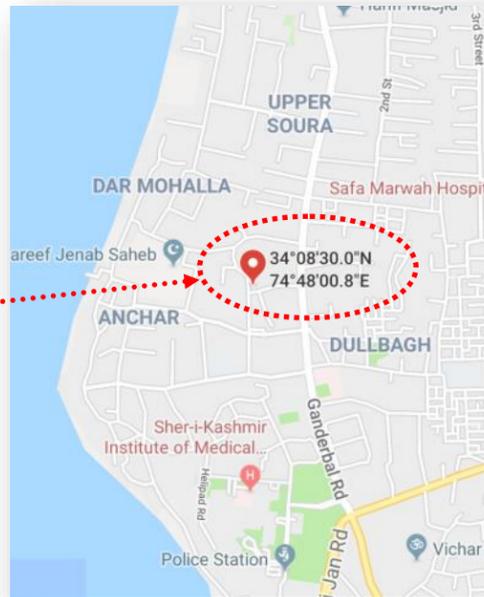


## INTACH restarts documentation of historic shrines in Kashmir



**INTACH collaborates with Sahapedia to organize heritage walk in Srinagar city**



Srinagar 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

To be a part of national event themed as **India Heritage Festival**, INTACH J&K Chapter collaborates with Sahapedia - an open online resource on the arts, cultures and heritage of India, to organize heritage walks in Srinagar city.

The heritage walks planned by INTACH will be conducted in the February 2018.

The walks will focus to introduce both tangible as well as intangible heritage of historic old city – Srinagar.

'India Heritage Walk Festival', will be a month-long, multi-city event introducing people to the tangible and intangible culture and heritage of their cities, and celebrating India's rich cultural diversity. The maiden edition of this nationwide festival will kick start in February 2018 and has been conceived by Sahapedia along with YES BANK, as an annual event.

Srinagar 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Soon after the unfortunate fire incident at, Shah Hamadan Shrine, *Khanqah-i-Mualla*, recently, INTACH, with support from the Department of Tourism, initiated action on a project to document, digitize and for condition assessment of traditionally built historic shrines in Kashmir.

The project covers the documentation of the proposed heritage sites, including Shrines, Mosques and some Imambaras within Kashmir.

On January 15, the team visited the shrine named after the famous saint of Kashmir – Malik Abdul Raheem Suharwardi Sahab. The shrine is located in Soura, approximately 9.3 KM away from Lal Chowk Srinagar.

In the initial phase of work, the technical examination of site was done, which includes measuring the dimensions needed to prepare the drawing, photo-documentation of architectural details, interviewing the locals residents seeking details of the past renovation, and accessing the historical records to obtain details about the site.



Aastan-i- Malik Abdul Raheem Suharwardi Sahab, Soura  
(Geo Coordinates: 34.141666, 74.80023)

# Nallah Maar: A requiem for Srinagar's buried stream

*The road paved the canal, some said,  
because it had become a garbage dump.  
Others saw it as a political move.*

**Shakoor Rather (Greater Kashmir)**  
Srinagar, Publish Date: Jan 15 2018



GK File Photo

A wooden boat glides through placid waters against a setting sun as fishermen row close to waterfront houses with gardens that burst with colors.

It's an idyllic picture of a Srinagar that once was, a visual recall of a waterway punctuated by arched bridges that was not just a navigational lifeline for the city but also a protection from heavy rains and floods.

The Nallah Maar (Maar is the Kashmiri word for snake), called so because it snaked through the city, is no more.

In its stead is a wide road that runs through Downtown, providing connectivity but choking other water bodies linked to it and blocking drainage avenues.

It is a story of heritage lost to urbanization, neglect and environmental apathy, said old-timers and scholars.

The road paved the canal, some said, because it had become a garbage dump. Others saw it as a political move.

Nallah Maar is believed to have existed from ancient times, but it was 14th century King.

Shams-ud-Din Shah Mir who demarcated it as a distinct canal, Kashmiri poet Zareef Ahmad Zareef said

"If the Jhelum was Srinagar city's heart, Nallah Maar was its soul," he said. When snow melted with the advent of spring, a huge volume of water would come down from the mountains, Zareef added.

The canal protected Downtown even during a major flood in 1903 when the upper town, including Amira Kadal, got inundated, historian Muhammad Yousuf Taing said.

It was an important business centre and a mode of inland water transportation. Goods and vegetables grown in the Dal Lake would be transported through it to people's doorsteps.

Archival images of the canal show crystal clear waters bordered by Old Persian style houses with flowerbeds, he said.

"There were houses on both sides of the canal. It was flanked by ghats. Women folk would wash bathe and clean household items on these ghats. It was because of Nallah Maar that Srinagar got the title of 'Venice of the East'," he said.

Nallah Maar, with its network of branches, started from Brari Nambal lagoon in the old city. It had two diversions, one emptying into Anchar lake and the other into the Jhelum.

"It was more than a mode of transportation. It was a means of connecting both social and religious life in Srinagar," said sculptor and academician Rajender Tiku.

Over time, its once clear waters turned turbid because of lack of maintenance and people dumping garbage into it.

"During Ghulam Muhammed Sadiq's regime (in the 1960s), the canal was left to stink. In 1975, it was completely filled up during the reign of Sheikh Abdullah and turned into a road," said Taing.

Srinagar's identity has disappeared without the Nallah Maar and it is now a city like many others, rued Saleem Beg, chairman of the government's National Monument Authority and convener of Jammu and Kashmir's INTACH chapter.

"If it is still possible to navigate through canals and waterways in Venice, why can't we do it here," he asked.

In addition to its economic and aesthetic importance, Nallah Maar had religious significance, too. "Muslims used to go to Qamar Sahab in Ganderbal and Pandits to Kheer bawani in Tulmula by travelling in wooden boats through the canal," said Tiku.

According to Zareef, the filling of the Nallah Maar also had a "political angle". People who lived by the canal were seen as supporters of the then Mirwaiz, he said, and when the road came up, they were forced to relocate.

"...The canal was also partly filled to disperse the followers of the then Mirwaiz, who used to protest against the policies of Sheikh Abdullah," Zareef added. Beg stressed that the road did not serve any purpose.

"It was counterproductive to drainage of the city. The main protagonists in the crime are the residents who lived around the canal," he said. "You lost a waterway which provided an aesthetic look to the landscape, and water transport was an environment friendly transport which could save the city from pollution," he added.

Tiku labelled the move an aesthetic disaster and said it left the city prone to floods every time there was heavy rain.

He said he was caught in the 2014 floods that left large parts of Srinagar under water and killed more than 200 people.

"The way things are right now, if you take the example of other canals and the lakes including the Dal and the Wular, they are going the way Nallah Maar went. I believe we will only be able to tell stories of these wonders to the generations to come and that would be unfortunate," he said. But the experts said a revival was possible.

"We have the technology now. It has happened the world over, including in South Korea. But the impediments are many because we have now found comfort in a changed landscape," said Beg. PTI

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Young artists showcase talent at Youth fest

**GKNN**  
Srinagar, Publish Date: Jan 15 2018



GK Photo

Budding young artists from across Kashmir showcased their various talents at Idream youth festival held at Zero Bridge Fine Dine here today.

The organizers said the event aimed at providing a platform to young budding artists of various genres. 16 people mostly teenagers showcased their talents.

Art works by young emerging artists of Kashmir were exhibited at the terrace, much to the appreciation of the visitors. "The venue is surrounded by Chinars, and over here, the art works showcasing the various facets and faces of Kashmir are mesmerizing," said Muniza Shabir, a visitor.

Many teenagers had put on display their frames that included portraits, paintings and landscapes. "It is interesting to see how the youngsters are experimenting with colors and lenses," said Muhammad Afan Sheikh, another visitor.

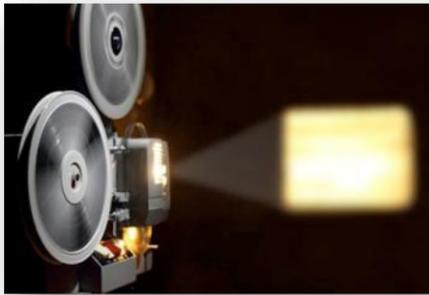
The festival also saw youth bands perform live to the enthralled audience. Performances by music bands- Four Dots, Lafz and others roused applause among audience, who cheered at popular Kashmiri and Sufi songs. Poetry, dance and theatre performances were also showcased.

Raheel Khan, founder of the Idream events and advertising, while speaking about the event said it was his long cherished dream to give a vent to the hidden talents that youth of Kashmir have. "Right from my college days, I had always wanted to give a chance to budding artists, so that they can come on stage, in front of people and show what they have got," he said. He added that more such events will be organized to "encourage, explore and channelize the raw talent of the youth of Kashmir".

Source: [www.greaterkashmr.com](http://www.greaterkashmr.com)

## 8 films from Kashmir make it to Mumbai Int'l film festival

**Saqib Malik (Greater Kashmir)**  
Srinagar, Publish Date: Jan 16 2018



Eight films directed and produced by Kashmiri filmmakers are lined up for screening at the annual Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) from January 28 to February 3.

The films in Urdu, Kashmiri, Pahari, English languages will be screened during the "Films on Jammu and Kashmir, Special Packages" segment at the festival.

It would be for the first time after 2010 that films from Kashmir will be screened at the MIFF, said film-maker Mushtaq Bala, whose film "Kashmir Sufiyana Music" will also be part of the festival.

Film-maker Ayash Arif's documentary, "The Boatmen of Kashmir" based on the life of local "Hanji community" will also travel to MIFF.

Investigative documentary "Kashmir into the murky waters", also scheduled to be screened at MIFF has been directed by film-makers Tarique Bhat and Wajahat Iqbal Kashtwari. Among other films to be screened at MIFF include: "Oh! She" directed by Bilal Jan.

"It is an experimental message-oriented short documentary, having no dialogue, based on trouble torn conflict region Kashmir," states synopsis of the film. Another film, "The Lake Town" directed by Sana Irshad Mattoo is a 12-minute documentary on the life inside Dal lake.

The film "Her Theme of Freedom" is directed by Mohiuddin Mirza who is also curating the films from Kashmir at MIFF. Film "Apour Ti Yapour" by Ajay Raina based on people living on Line of Control will also be viewed by audiences at MIFF. "Kashmir- Cradle of Secularism" directed by Saquib-ur-Rehman will also be screened at the festival which will witness participation of films from around the world.

Source: [www.greaterkashmr.com](http://www.greaterkashmr.com)

## Only one generation should get quota: Wangchuk



Sonam Wangchuk

Posted at: Jan 15, 2018

### New Delhi, January 14

Ladakh-based education reformist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk believes that the rights given under the reservation policy should be curtailed after its benefits are used by one generation of a family. Accordingly, families in which one generation has benefited from the reservation policy should relinquish their right and not pass it on to their offspring. According to the education reformist, best known for inspiring the movie character Phunsukh Wangdu, played by Aamir Khan in "3 Idiots", the policy should also be amended to provide reservation in jobs and seats in educational institutions — but not beyond one generation of a family. "People who deserve are not benefiting, and those who have benefited are forming a creamy layer on top," Wangchuk said. Talking about the need for reservation on the basis of the financial situation of a person, he said there is a need to reform the current policy.

Wangchuk himself plans to launch a university — Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) — to bring about a change in the education system and to focus more on the practical aspects of training. — IANS

Source: <http://www.tribuneindia.com>

## After four decades, India gets a Kashmiri film

Peerzada Ashiq (The Hindu)

JANUARY 04, 2018

But Kashmir Daily won't hit the big screen in the Valley as there are no functioning cinema halls there

This Friday, for the first time in 45 years, a Kashmiri feature film, shot and produced entirely in the Valley, will hit cinema halls outside Kashmir.

*Kashmir Daily* explores the themes of drug addiction and unemployment in Kashmir. It will be released at PVR Sangam in Delhi's R.K. Puram and Infiniti Malad PVR in Mumbai, besides in Jammu and other smaller cities.

Ironically, the film will not see a theatrical release in Kashmir as there are no functioning cinema halls in the Valley.

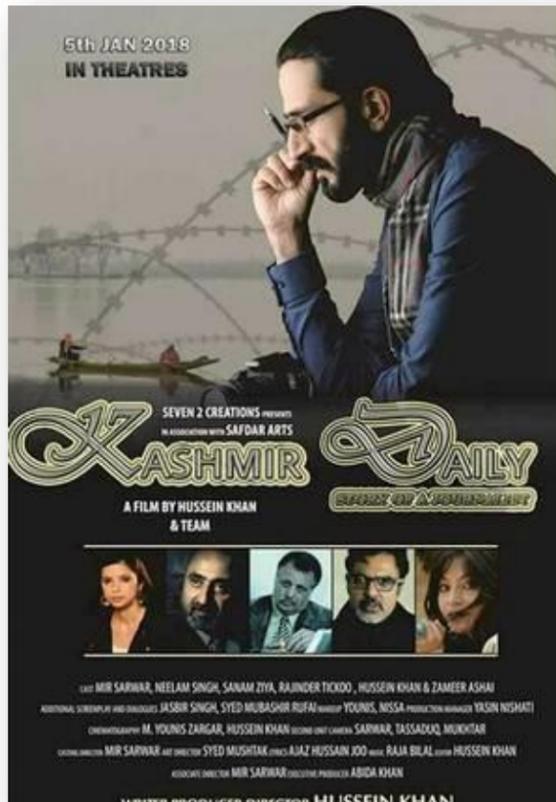
"Our aim in releasing the film outside Jammu and Kashmir is to make a point: we can tell our own stories. We cannot use the excuse of lack of cinema halls in the Kashmir Valley not to create our own cinema," actor Mir Sarwar told *The Hindu*.

### No film industry

The fact that the film was produced in a place with no cinema halls and no film industry makes it special in many ways. Mr. Sarwar, like other actors of the film, grew up in the violence-torn Valley. He recalls that he last went to Srinagar's cinema hall, Broadway, in 1987 to watch Anil Kapoor-starrer *Inteqam*. "I was a kid when I went to a cinema hall in Kashmir. Later, I used to travel 300 km to Jammu to watch movies. I would watch four shows a day to catch up with the releases," he said.

Following the rise of militancy, all eleven cinema halls in the Valley were closed down in 1998. They never reopened, and many turned into flour mills or even hospitals.

Shot and edited entirely in the Valley, *Kashmir Daily*, according to producer and director Hussein Khan, is a step towards "nourishing" an otherwise dead film industry.



"It was a dream to make a film in Kashmir. I have spent hundreds of sleepless nights in post-production," Mr. Khan said.

### In Hindustani, Kashmiri

"We made the film in two languages, Hindustani and Kashmiri. Every shot was done twice, in each of these languages. We felt that if the film was not in Kashmiri, then it was not Kashmir cinema. It was hectic but we did it," said Mr. Sarwar, who plays the role of a journalist investigating the drug mafia.

The film has been screened at two convention centres in Kashmir to a limited audience. "It's a big day to watch the film on a real cinema screen," Mr. Sarwar, who has acted in Bollywood movies like *Bajrangi Bhaijaan*, said.

"I expect more independent film-makers to come forward and make films. We have paved the way. It's less difficult for others to follow," Mr. Sarwar added. Raja Bilal, the film's music director, said all talent was hired from J&K to lend "a very local flavour".

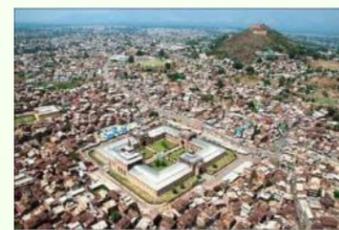
It was in 1972 that the last Kashmiri film *Shayar-e-Kashmir Mehjoor* hit cinema halls. Two locally made films, *Partav* and *Akh Daleel Looluch*, produced in the past two decades, failed to get released in cinemas.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>

## Draft Srinagar Master Plan DC discusses objections

GKNN

Srinagar, Publish Date: Jan 17 2018



Srinagar, Jan 16: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Tuesday convened a meeting holding threadbare discussions on the objections and suggestions received in regard to the Draft Srinagar Master Plan 2015-35.

During the meeting, while reiterating the importance of objective scrutinizing of objections and suggestions received before finalizing the draft, Dr. Shah said there is a need for expediting the process of scrutinizing for earliest possible submission of recommendations to the Government.

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## JK govt for construction of tunnel along Mughal road

GKNN

Jammu, Publish Date: Jan 21 2018

The Jammu and Kashmir government today said it was keenly pursuing with Centre the construction of a tunnel along the Mughal road.

"The government is pursuing the matter with the Union Ministry for the construction of a tunnel from Chattapani to Zaznar," PWD Minister Naeem Akhtar said.

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Kashmiri folk singer Gulzar Ganie among 43 artists to receive Sangeet Natak Akademi award

He has also released several CDs and cassettes on Kashmiri folk music and has also composed for Doordarshan, Kashmir.

**GKNN/ IANS**  
New Delhi, Publish Date: Jan 18 2018



The Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2016 will be given to 43 eminent musicians, dancers, and theatre artists at Rashtrapati Bhavan by President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday. Gulzar Ahmad Ganie from Jammu and Kashmir is among the selected artists who will receive the award for Chakri (folk music).

Ganie is a noted folk singer of Kashmir and grade-A artist of All India Radio. He has enthralled audiences all over the country with his magnificent voice.

He has also released several CDs and cassettes on Kashmiri folk music and has also composed for Doordarshan, Kashmir.

Artists who will receive the Akademi's Awards this year in the field of music are Padma Talwalkar and Prabhakar Karekar for Hindustani vocal music, Kala Ramnath for violin, Arvind Mulgaonkar for tabla, and Neela Ramgopal and K. Omanakutty for Carnatic vocal music.

Other recipients include J Vaidhyanathan and Mysore M Manjunath for Carnatic instrumental music - in mridangam and violin respectively, Ningthoujam Shyamchand Singh for nata sankirtana - a traditional music of Manipur, Ratnamala Prakash

and Ahmed Hussain and M. Hussain for sugam sangeet.

In the field of dance, nine eminent artists will be honoured - Geeta Chandran for Bharatanatyam, Jitendra Maharaj for Kathak, Kalamandalam Ramachandran Unnithan for Kathakali, Maisnam Kaminikumar Singh for Manipuri, A.B Bala Kondala Rao for Kuchipudi, Ratikant Mohapatra for Odissi, Haricharan Bhuyan Borbayan for Sattriya, Gopal Prasad Dubey for Chhau and Anita R Ratnam for contemporary dance.

For theatre, nine eminent artists who will be conferred the award are Kusum Kumar for playwriting, Bipin Kumar, Satyabrata Rout and Rajkamal Nayak for direction, Gireesan V. Oinam Biramangol Singh and Mohan Joshi for acting, Anjana Puri for composing music for theatre, K Govind Bhat for yakshgana and Govind Bhat for major traditions of theatre.

Artists who will receive the award in the field of traditional folk, tribal music, dance, theatre and puppetry are Annabattula Lakshmi Mangatayaru and Leela Sai (Joint Award) for Kalavantulu (traditional theatre of Andhra Pradesh),

Yogesh Gadhavi and Vidyanand Saraik for folk music of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh respectively.

Somnath D Chari for traditional music of Goa, Laxmidhar Raut from Odisha for Pala, Chiranji Lal Tanwar of Rajasthan for Mand, Braj Kishor Dubey for Bihari folk music and Prabhitangsu Das and Shri Dattatreya Aralikatte for puppetry will also be conferred the award.

Pappu Venugopal Rao and Avinash Pasricha received the Akademi's Award for their overall contribution in the performing arts.

This year, four eminent artists and scholars in the performing arts who will be conferred Fellowships of the Akademi.

The Akademi Ratna (Fellowships) this year will be conferred on Arvind Parikh, R. Vedavalli, Ram Gopal Bajaj and Sunil Kothari. GKNN/IANS

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Kashmir opens to Bollywood for shooting, film tourism: Rafi Mir

Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons also attended the OTM, which is considered as the largest travel show of Asia Pacific.

**GKNN**

Srinagar, Publish Date: Jan 19 2018



GK Photo

Vice chairman J&K Tourism Development Corporation Rafi Ahmad Mir, who was attending a three-day travel show OTM in Mumbai, today said Kashmir is open to Bollywood for shooting and film tourism and state will provide all the possible support to the industry that is ready to shoot in the state.

Union Minister of State for Tourism KJ Alphons also attended the OTM, which is considered as the largest travel show of Asia Pacific.

J&K Government participated as a partner state in the mart and held an interactive session with some members of the film fraternity on 'Bollywood tourism and the role of state government in incentivising the industry'.

The film fraternity representatives during the session with Mir stressed on the need of incentivising and having an ease of shooting in Jammu and Kashmir with a favourable state film policy, reads the statement.

"Production houses like Yashraj sought Destination Marketing for Bollywood and FTR - Film Tax Relief Program of exemption which is available to them abroad. Responding to that Mir said that the valley was open to Bollywood for shooting and the government was keen to provide a single window clearance system and other benefits to film makers and the process of streamlining has already been initiated," reads the statement.

He said that both the chief minister and the tourism minister of the state were making efforts for promotion of tourism and that JKTDC is mulling to have a separate unit for facilitating film permissions on lines of Maharashtra TDC while meeting the Maharashtra Tourism Minister JayPrakash Rawal.

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Photo exhibition on diverse hues of Kashmir, Ladakh begins in New Delhi

**PTI**

New Delhi, Publish Date: Jan 20 2018

A photo exhibition here showcases the diverse hues of Kashmir and Ladakh with a special section dedicated to the 'Kumbh of the Himalayas' or the Naropa festival that is celebrated once in 12 years.

"Glimpses of Ladakh, Kashmir and Naropa Festival - Kumbh of Himalayas" has photographs by Irfan Nabi and has been curated by author-documentary maker Nilosree Biswas.

The images have been gathered over a period of five years and range from rarely seen Nubra Valley, to not so known Gurez. Even the familiar Dal Lake or Gulmarg are filmed in a most salient way, bringing out a fresh perspective.

The photographs chosen are intended to showcase the diverse hues of the two regions leaving a lingering flavour that also can be used as a catalyst for further exploration, she says.

According to Nabi, travelling to different locations is a liberating experience for him and through his artwork he wants to share with the viewers a sense of wonder and joy felt during the shoot.

"These photographic moments should make the viewer feel to slow down and help reconnect with nature," he says.

The Naropa festival was an experience of a lifetime, he says.

"This photography exhibition has been made possible due to the support and encouragement of the Director of Tourism, Kashmir, media partnership with National Geographic Traveller India and India International Centre, which is hosting the event," says Nabi.

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Integrated development of Tourist Circuit Karnah taken up: Priya Sethi

The Minister said that Government intends to promote some areas along LoC in particular as Tourist spots in the State which inter-alia involves uplift of Teetwal and Keran.

**GKNN**

Jammu, Publish Date: Jan 19 2018

Minister of State for Tourism, Priya Sethi informed the Legislative Assembly that the Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned Rs 1.51 crore project for Development of Tourism facilities at Karnah Border.

Replying to a question by Raja Manzoor Ahmad, he said the Border Tourism development project forms part of the 'Integrated Development of Tourist facilities along Gulmarg-Baramulla-Kupwara-Leh Circuit' taken up under PMDP and entrusted to National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) by the Ministry.

The Minister said that Government intends to promote some areas along LoC in particular as Tourist spots in the State which inter-alia involves uplift of Teetwal and Keran.

"The main components of the project are development of tourist facilitation centre, landscaping and beautification, development of pathways, installation of Gen set (10KVA), solid waste management etc" he informed.

Source: [www.greaterkashmir.com](http://www.greaterkashmir.com)

## Self-healing fungi concrete could help repair buildings

PTI JANUARY 18, 2018



A fungus called *Trichoderma reesei* was mixed with concrete and used. | Photo Credit: [HQ](#)

**The fungal spores mixed with the concrete matrix will help heal the cracks.**

Scientists have used fungi to create a self-healing concrete that could repair cracks in ageing buildings and save crumbling infrastructure.

Researchers from the Rutgers **University** and Binghamton University in the US found that the problem in ageing concrete stems from the smallest of cracks. "Without proper treatment, cracks tend to progress further and eventually require costly repair," said Congrui Jin, assistant professor at Binghamton. "If micro-cracks expand and reach the steel reinforcement, not only the concrete will be attacked, but also the reinforcement will be corroded, as it is exposed to water, oxygen, possibly CO<sub>2</sub> and chlorides, leading to structural failure," she added.

These cracks can cause huge and sometimes unseen problems for infrastructure. One potentially critical example is the case of **nuclear power** plants that may use concrete for radiation shielding.

While remaking a structure would replace the aging concrete, this would only be a short-term fix until more cracks again spring up.

Jin wanted to see if there was a way to fix the concrete permanently.

"This idea was originally inspired by the miraculous ability of the human body to heal itself of cuts, bruises and broken bones. For the damaged skins and tissues, the host will take in nutrients that can produce new substitutes to heal the damaged parts," said Jin.

Researchers identified a fungus called *Trichoderma reesei* which lies dormant when mixed with concrete - until the first crack appears.

"The fungal spores, together with nutrients, will be placed into the concrete matrix during the mixing process. When cracking occurs, water and oxygen will find their way in. With enough water and oxygen, the dormant fungal spores will germinate, grow and precipitate calcium carbonate to heal the cracks," Jin said.

"When the cracks are completely filled and ultimately no more water or oxygen can enter inside, the fungi will again form spores. As the environmental conditions become favorable in later stages, the spores could be wakened again," she added.

The **research** is still in the fairly early stages, with the biggest issue being the survivability of the fungus within the harsh environment of concrete.

However, Jin is hopeful that with further adjustments the *Trichoderma reesei* will be able to effectively fill the cracks. The study was published recently in the journal *Construction and Building Materials*.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>

## Historic Iron Church in Istanbul reopens after restoration

ISTANBUL: JANUARY 07, 2018



Historical Bulgarian Sveti Stefan Church, or "Iron Church," stands in Istanbul, Saturday. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Bulgaria's Prime Minister Boyko Borisov attended on Sunday the reopening ceremony of the church after seven years of restoration. | Photo Credit: [AP](#)

Turkey's President and the Bulgarian Prime Minister have unveiled the historic Iron Church in Istanbul after a seven-year restoration project.

In Sunday's opening ceremony, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the 120-year-old Sveti Stefan Church remains the "single example" of a church built on an iron skeleton.

The cross-shaped Bulgarian church was built on the banks of Istanbul's Golden Horn in 1898 with 500 tons of prefabricated iron components shipped from Austria. Its restoration since 2011 cost an estimated \$3.5 million.

Mr. Erdogan said the church contributes to the "beauty and wealth of Istanbul" and is the latest example of Turkey's efforts to restore synagogues, chapels and churches.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said his country would work to "normalize and improve" Turkey-European Union relations as his country assume the EU's presidency.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com>

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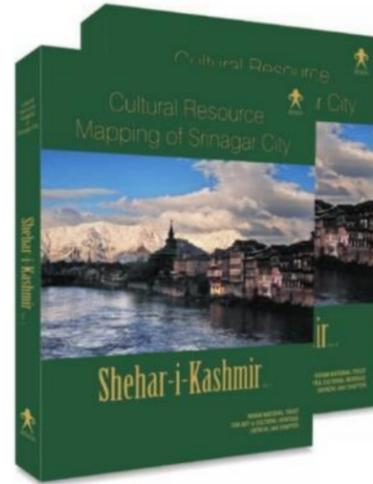
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