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Reclaiming Glory of Shehr-i-Khas, Srinagar—Revitalization of Ali Kadal-Maharaj Ganj Area

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Abstract

The core areas of Indian cities present a unique case of survival and degradation co-existing. Once the pulse of Srinagar city, Ali Kadal-Maharaj Ganj area struggles for its existence today. Although the historic urban structure of the city prevails, almost in its authentic form; it lacks the pulse it must have had in medieval period, while it demonstrates potential for tourism with its heritage reserve.

This research derives traces from urban analytical studies of the area to re-invent them for effective modern use. The design effort is to intervene least while upgrading the area to its past glory. The finding of the whole process concludes to an understanding that it may not be restored to its original format; the urban life can revolve around tourism, promotion of local arts and crafts and heritage and suggests relevant design interventions. However, these need to be investigated for public and stakeholder's opinions.

Keywords

Revitalization, inner city, historic urban structure, urban heritage

Introduction

Geographical Location: Hydrology, Its Strategic Importance and Cultural Impact

Srinagar, Kashmir, is located in one of the largest valleys of the Himalayan Mountains, surrounded by peaks up to 6000 m high. The valley is drained by Jhelum River, from surrounding glaciers

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