

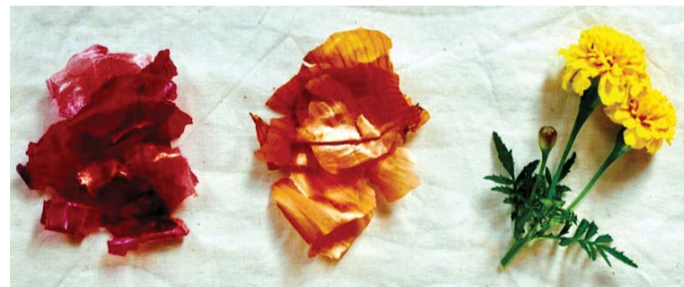
#POST CELEBRATIONS

What To Do With Used And Leftover Flowers?

Diwali flowers and garlands brighten up our homes, but they often dry out and are tossed out the next day. But do you know that the flowers can be repurposed to better uses, the next day?



Diwali is incomplete without flowers, especially the yellow and orange marigold flowers. These are used in decorations, rangolis while flowers, like rose petals, are used in prayer rituals. While flowers stay fresh on Diwali day, the petals start to wither the next day, which is when most people start discarding them. But did you know that you can repurpose them in many ways? With a bit of creativity, you can turn these seemingly dead flowers into beautiful and practical items for the home. You can make incense sticks, perfume, and even fertiliser from them,



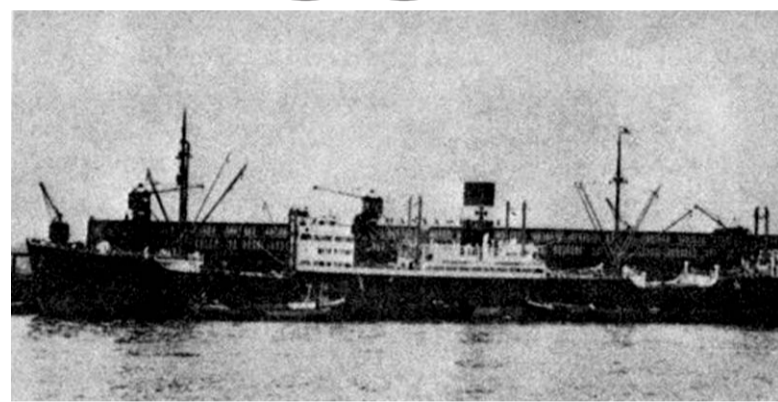
Best Ways to Recycle Used Flowers After Diwali

- Make Incense Sticks:** Dry and grind the used flowers, and then add sandalwood powder and camphor to the mix. Shape them into incense sticks that will fill your home with a refreshing and positive aroma.
- Perfumed:** For a delightful, homemade fragrance, use scented flowers like rose or jasmine. Boil the petals in water and extract their essence. Pour it into a bottle to use as a natural perfume that will bring fresh vibes into your space.
- Make Compost:** Dry and grind the flowers to create a natural fertiliser that promotes healthy plant growth. This easy-to-make compost is an excellent way to nourish your plants.
- Create Natural Colours:** Extract colours from the flowers for use on fabric or paper. Marigold provides a yellow shade, roses give pink colour, and hibiscus produces a red tint.
- Make Potpourri:** Combine dried flowers with cinnamon, cloves, and orange peels to create homemade potpourri. Place it in a corner of your home to enjoy a gentle fragrance that will linger throughout the space.

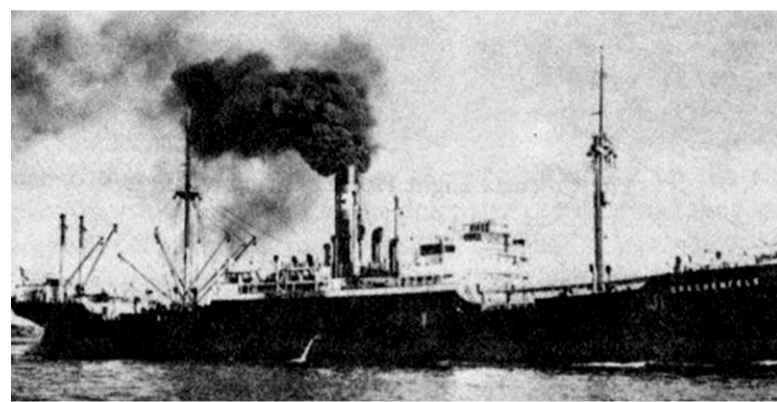


The prime German surveillance target of the British was a man named Robert Koch, who, along with his wife, was suspected of being the main Nazi spy in Goa. "They are being watched, but our agents are unable to discover that they are engaged in wireless transmitting activities," the Bombay intelligence officer wrote. "Being Germans, they must have been naturally jubilant over the fall of Greece but I have no information that they illuminated their house." The captains of the Ehrenfels, Braunfels and Drachenfels were regular visitors to the Kochs' Panjim home. Over the next few months, British intelligence officers stepped up their watch on Koch, who they suspected was using a radio set to transmit news to the Germans. "Certain expensive radios of German and Japanese make can be used for transmission," an anonymous express note, sent to the Intelligence Bureau in 1941, said. "This particular radio set is seen to leave Koch's sanctum pretty frequently. It is said for repairs. This set, which is in constant use, cannot be needing repairs so often." The note added that a man with a 'lavish lifestyle' like Koch could easily buy a new set, instead of annoying himself with constant repairs. "The only conclusion is that Koch is probably acting under advice from Berlin and having transformers or the coils changed each time, to transmit on a different wavelength," the note said. "He is no doubt transmitting on a short wavelength, probably very much below 7 M or so."

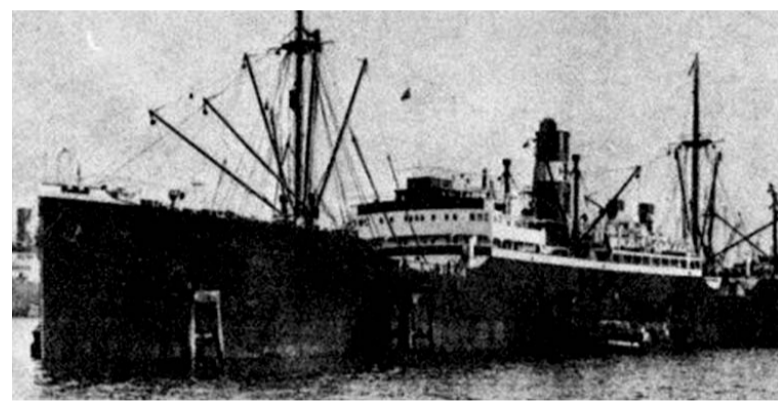
How a British Spy Operation dragged Goa into Second World War



Ehrenfels.



Drachenfels.



Braunfels.

• Ajay Kamalakaran

In the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, three German ships found themselves in the Indian Ocean, far from Allied-controlled waters and uncomfortably close to the enemy's stomping ground. The crews must have been nervous. This was a time when both sides in the war, the Allies and the Axis, were attacking merchant vessels since they were soft targets. The German ships had to find a safe place and the one, they settled on, was Goa.

Goa was then a colony of neutral Portugal and its residents greeted the German freighters, the Ehrenfels, Braunfels and Drachenfels, and their crews with a mixture of curiosity and congeniality. To the British, though, they were a major security threat, a possible means for the Nazi regime to spread German propaganda in Goa.

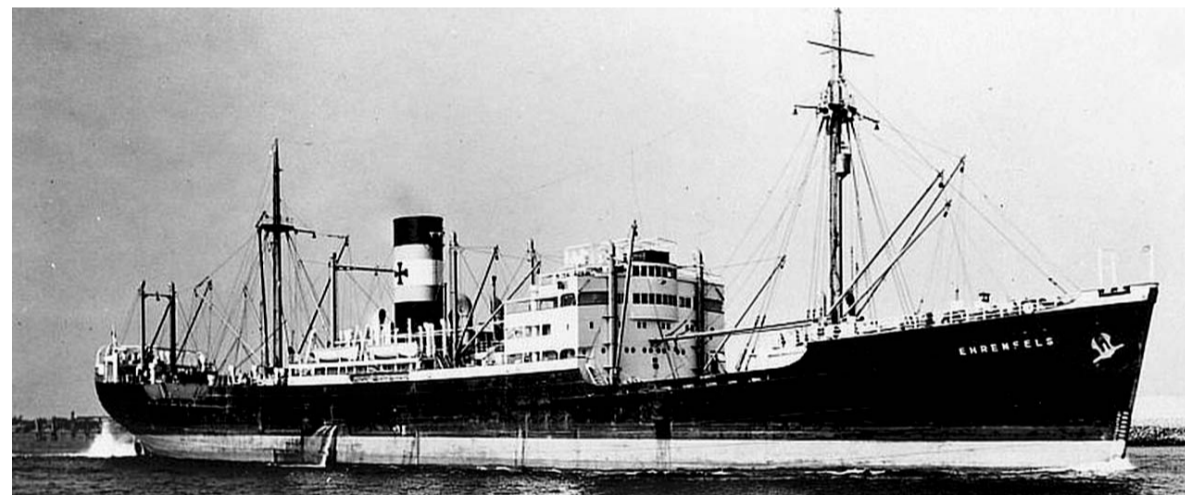
"I am informed by a Goan (British subject), who lately spent a month in Goa, that there are about 300 members of the crew of the three German steamers lying in Marmagao," said a source report, supplied to the Special Branch of the Bombay Police, dated June 19, 1940. "These crews are under no restriction of movement and can go around the whole country, partly using motorboats,

with which they go around the backwaters. They make friends with the younger generation. Every Sunday, they arrange football matches at various places and they make best use of all these occasions to spread Nazi propaganda."

The report added that the sailors had radio reception apparatus and arranged for broadcast of German news in Goa. "Goanese and Portuguese officers and officials are rather worried about government impasse," the Germans is said to be so strong that it has led to dissension and trouble in Goanese families. The elder generation knows only too well that the peace of Portugal and its colonial possessions is a Pax Britannica, the younger generation, on the other hand, sees the salvation in Nazism." Adding to British fears was the fact that the frontier between British and Portuguese territories was virtually unguarded. They pondered over the prospect of the German sailors crossing over to British India and blowing up railway tracks. "The fact that most of these Germans are young, trained men, living under a stress of boredom, should be borne in mind as a strong possible incentive for such exploits," the source report said.

The Special Branch shared this report with Intelligence Bureau officers, who felt that the allegations were greatly exaggerated. They, however, decided to send

#HISTORY REMEMBERED



Das Frachtmotorschiff Ehrenfels, 1936 | Staatsarchiv Bremen/ Wikimedia Commons.

experienced intelligence officers to Goa to see what the German sailors were actually up to.

Watchful Eye

An officer from Bombay travelled to Goa in June 1940, just days after the source report was submitted to the Intelligence Bureau in 1941. "Parties of five or more German sailors off the three ships, refuelling in Marmagao harbour, frequently visit Margao and Vasco da Gama, where they move in the streets and frequent cheap drinking saloons," the officer from Bombay wrote, adding that the Germans play football with the locals and watch matches with them. Stripped of a means of living, some of the sailors desperately looked for ways to sustain themselves. "Other errands on which members of the crew and the petty officers of the Braunfels, with the help of their captain and the convenience of the Portuguese Customs, seem to be engaged, are

smuggling into Goa handbags and small parcels of Bayer's preparations," the officer wrote. "Customs authorities, and on one occasion, the Commandant of the Margao Police, have been seen in the company of the personnel from the Braunfels, suspected to be in the possession of Bayer's drugs." The officer noticed divisions in the Goan society over the Second World War. Most members of the older generation supported the British, but among the young, many were pro-Germany. "Like the youths, sections of the Goan intelligentsia, including certain European Portuguese officers, have Nazi sympathies," the officer said.

There was a potential risk that these divisions between Axis and Allies supporters may snowball into larger social problems. "Such partisanship, I am told, results, on occasions, in open quarrels," the officer cautioned.

Media Matters

British officials were in regular touch with the Portuguese authorities in Goa to ensure that they remained neutral during the war. "The Governor-General told

me, at the outbreak of the war, that if the Germans in his territory became truculent, he would intern the crews and impound the ships," the officer wrote. "I have no information that he has resiled from this attitude." The fact that the intelligence officer could meet the governor-general shows that he was possibly a very high ranking official in the government.

Another British agent visited Goa, after the officer from Bombay, to write a secret report. This agent reported that the press in Goa was tightly censored and generally favoured Britain.

"In Panjim, I spoke to the sub-editor of the *O Herald*, who showed me that all the news that they have is derived from British broadcasts and German broadcasts in English, from the Times of India, *The Bombay Chronicle*," the agent wrote. "Longer articles are sometimes taken from 2 months old Portuguese (Lisboa) papers. The only information received by the *O Herald* from the British side are yellow sheets from the Chief Officer of Information, which have very little to do with the war, and mostly

Color the World Orange Day

Color the World Orange Day is a vibrant and meaningful event. This day aims to raise awareness about Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), a chronic pain condition that is often misunderstood. By wearing orange and engaging in related activities, participants help shine a light on the struggles faced by those living with CRPS. The color 'orange' symbolizes hope and resilience, making it a fitting choice for this important cause.



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Missing Persons

Over the next two years, the British managed to accumulate enough evidence to show that the crews of the three German ships as well as an Italian ship were indulging in espionage and providing information to the Axis powers through radio sets. The Portuguese were presented with this evidence, but they refused to act on account of their neutrality. In the end, the British decided to undertake covert operations.

In November 1942, British agents kidnapped Koch and his wife and took them to what is now Karnataka through Castle Rock. There is no further information about the couple in the public domain.

Four months later, a nighttime operation was conducted to sink all four ships off the coast of Mormugao, bringing Goa briefly into the theatre of the Second World War. Five sailors from the ship were killed and another five went missing. The rest of the crew, estimated to number 130, were interned.

The attack on the German and Italian ships, codenamed Operation Creek, was the subject of a 1980 film titled, *The Sea Wolves*. The film, starring Gregory Peck, Roger Moore and David Niven, was shot on location in Goa. Although it did take liberty to fictionalise the operation, it gives the viewer a glimpse of Goa before it became a global tourist hotspot.

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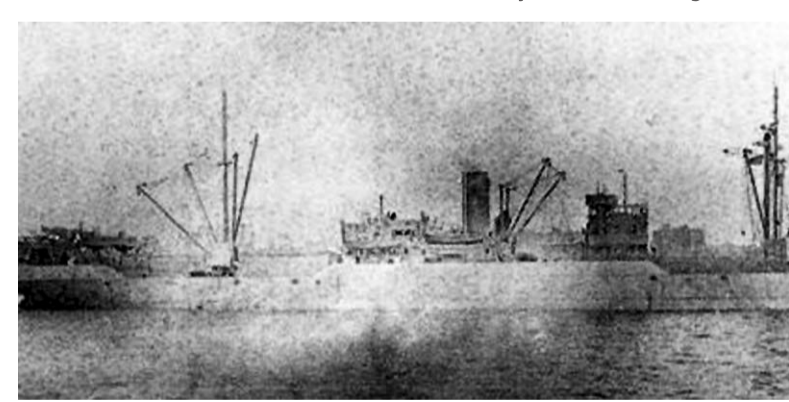


Photo courtesy: SSHSA Collection, University of Baltimore's Library.

#CULTURAL HERITAGE

Creating A Digital Twin Of Shahjahanabad

Digital twins can play a vital role in highlighting the elements of cultural heritage that have been lost to time.

Cultural heritage is an intrinsic part of the urban landscape of historical cities. Its tremendous socioeconomic and anthropological value is witnessed by the United Nations, having included it as part of Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

Despite the global recognition of cultural heritage's importance and role in enriching our lives, it is under constant menace. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has identified eight different threats, of which 'urbanisation', manifested through rapid demographic changes and pressures, homogenisation, loss of identity and in the worst case, demolition, is seen perhaps as the most significant.

Because these threats are complex and multi-layered, preservation and efficient management of cultural heritage demand robust information. One such information-gathering tool is geo-information technology (GIT), which, through its different forms like remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS), photogrammetry, and laser scanning, has long been used to document, model and monitor cultural heritage as well as disseminate information about it.

Recent examples include the virtual reconstruction of the Qatari city of Al-Zubarah and the creation of a virtual-reality application for the German town of Duisburg of 1566 CE. The rationale behind many of these efforts is to help visualise the sites and so understand their previous form, function, and context, as well as establish their lost identity.



The Case Of Shahjahanabad

Established in 1648 CE as the capital of the Mughal empire, Shahjahanabad, now known as Old Delhi, was the subject of glowing accounts in the writings of European travellers such as François Bernier.

Today, however, Shahjahanabad is in a state of decay in every sense, physically, socially, and economically. The pressures of development have contributed to the loss of valuable resources, architectural typologies and civic amenities that were once contributing factors to its historic value.

Unlike other cities of Delhi, whose historical forms are either untraceable or exist merely as desolate monuments scattered here and there, Shahjahanabad still is a living city. Many of the architectural imprints of the Mughals, including the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid (the main

mosque), have survived the various 'planned' and unplanned onslaughts, that have befallen the city since its establishment and peak. Given its density, the city is under constant change, with built heritage continuously being replaced by newer forms. Not only is information on Shahjahanabad's past obscured and lost, but also the average visitor identify the city only with congestion, pollution, and decay, and is completely unaware of the wealthy and glorious city, about which travellers such as Bernier wrote. The goal of our ongoing research is to create a digital twin of Shahjahanabad across a spatio-temporal scale. This virtual model would support future conservation efforts, restore the city's unique identity by creating cultural awareness, and serve as a model for future planning and development.

When Photogrammetry Meets Archival Research

Created using geo-information tools such as photogrammetry in combination with archival research, historic maps and survey plans, the digital twin would be a model of Shahjahanabad as it once was. The gaps found in cartographic sources would be filled by extracting spatial information contained in written records, sketches, photographs, and other images. Some of these sources will also be used to construct the virtual 3D model of the city. Although photogrammetry and laser scanning have been used for creating historic urban environments, modelling dense and 'living' heritage areas like Shahjahanabad, using these methods, takes on a different meaning. The methodology proposed by our research, combining GIT methods with archival



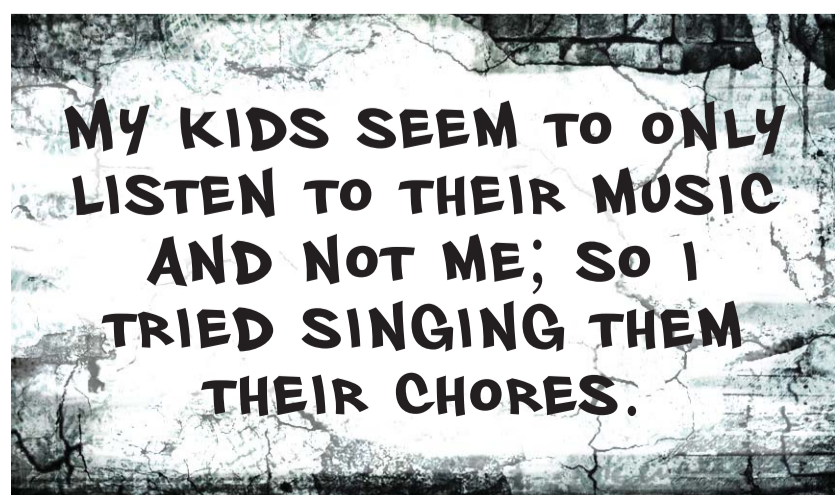
research, could be useful for other urban areas that do not have sufficient historic spatial information for modelling the past.

Historic Cities At The Crossroads

For historic cities in the developing world, there is an urgent need to upgrade infrastructure and housing to improve the quality of inhabitants' lives. Still, policymakers and planners need to be careful that such vital work does come at the cost of cultural heritage of which cities, such as Shahjahanabad, are a rich repository. Digital twins can play a vital

role in highlighting the elements of cultural heritage that have been lost to time as well as those that have survived and need to be preserved for future generations. From spatial-planning perspective, they can present different scenarios to planners and designers for fulfilling contemporary needs while at the same time preserving cultural heritage.

THE WALL

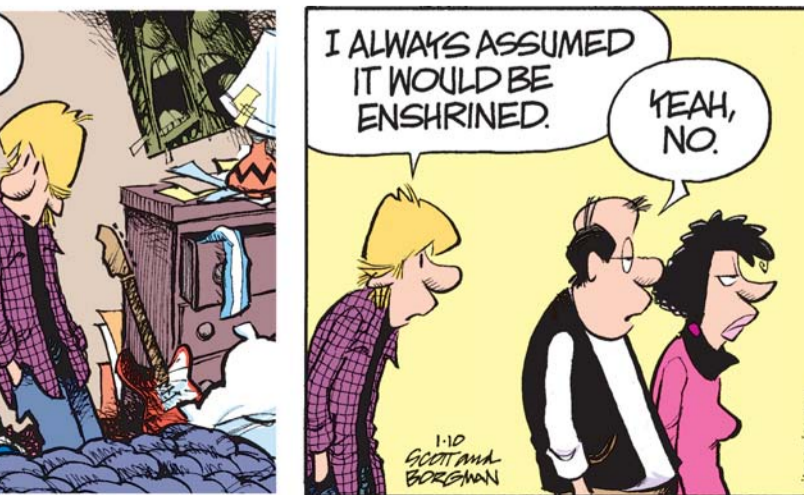
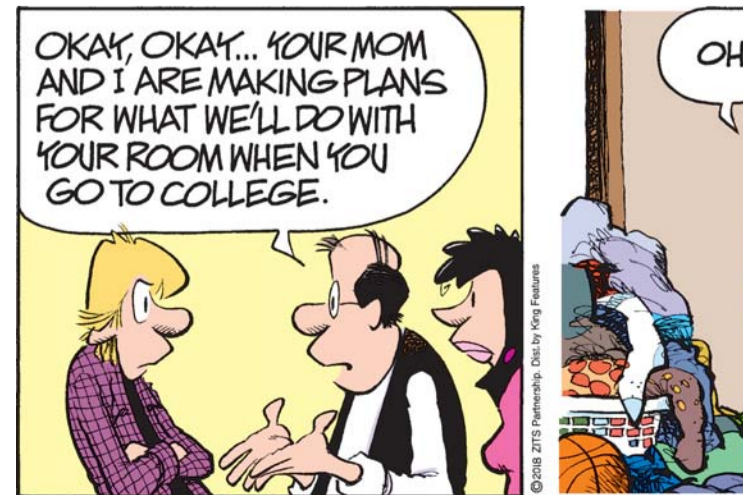


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman