

# THE WILLOWS OF KASHMIR

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A nondescript 2km stretch of National Highway 44 (NH44) is one of the two places in the world that produce professional bats made of willow—the other being England. It is thus a common sight to see stacks of willow wood neatly piled up next to the shops, and sawdust dancing about in swirling clouds on the tarmac each time a car storms past these establishments.

When the British brought with them cricket, there was a need to manufacture the bats locally, instead of depending on imports from England. According to research conducted by the faculty of forestry at the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, that demand was met by Allah Baksh, a native of Sialkot (which is today in Pakistan). He set up the first unit at Sangam-Halamulla. It was the only facility at that time, and originally produced more hockey sticks than cricket bats.

The willow wood, which goes by the scientific name of *Salix alba* var. *caerulea*, is sourced in bulk, usually from areas surrounding Anantnag. It is then cut into blocks called clefts and left in stacks to dry under the sun for up to six months.

Once ready to use, it is chiselled, hammered and polished by the workers into the finished product. A strong piece of wood, three feet in height and with a girth of 35-40 inches, will produce five full-sized bats.

In international cricket, the English willow is most preferred due to the quality of wood; its Kashmiri counterpart is considered heavier and harder, and is said to lack the punch while playing a stroke. However, the cost effectiveness of the Kashmiri willow makes it a good substitute and is consequently, more popular among budding and semi-professional cricketers. On average, a bat made of the

English willow costs over Rs6,000, while one made of the Kashmiri willow starts at Rs800.

Every once in a while, the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team has had something to celebrate—although momentarily—even as they continue to seek consistency in the domestic competition, the Ranji Trophy. The bat industry then banks on the glitz of the Indian Premier League, World Cup wins such as in 1983 and 2011, and the frenzy surrounding the rare India-Pakistan clashes, for its sales.

International cricket giants such as Sir Vivian Richards of West Indies and Sachin Tendulkar of India used Kashmir willow bats in the past with great success.

# KASHMIR

What is that at the very heights of Hindustan,  
shining like a golden crown?  
With snow laden mountains decorating its peaks,  
and virescent meadows on the ground.

Silver fir and birch dot its landscapes  
seeming to span across a thousand miles.  
Majestic brown stags and *chukar partridges*  
bring about a thousand smiles.

Vibrant red and yellow *Shikara* boats,  
ripple the glass blue waters of Dal lake.  
Merchants noisily haggle the prices  
of tourist souvenirs and bakes.

The smell of cinnamon and saffron,  
as bazaar stalls sell delicious *Kahwa tea*.  
Warm and flaky *tsot bread*,  
dusted with black and yellow sesame

A soft chatter fills the floating market,  
the tinkle of the boat bells drift in the air .  
The aura of the lake is electric  
the beauty of people is beyond compare

The intricate culture and diversity.  
Divine lifestyle and a beautiful society.  
It truly is the golden crown of India;  
Behold, Kashmir.

# TOPICS

- ❖ WHAT IS BULLYING?
- ❖ CAUSES OF BULLYING
- ❖ BULLYING AS A SURGE TO SUCCESS
- ❖ EFFECTS OF BULLYING
- ❖ CONCLUSION





# WHAT MEANS BY BULLYING?

★ Bullying is a form of aggressive behavior in which someone intentionally and repeatedly causes another person injury or discomfort.

★ Bullying can take place in the form of physical contact, words, cyber bullying, emotional bullying and more inhuman actions



# CAUSES OF BULLYING

- A person bullies others to become popular and to show others that they are smart like Peggy in the lesson ,‘THE HUNDRED DRESSES’.
- People could become bullies because of their anger or frustration due to the problems they have.
- Bullying is also a result of poor upbringing as they might have not been taught to care about others or their parents don't spend quality time with their children.



# BULLYING AS A SURGE TO SUCCESS

- ❖ Bullying makes a victim street smart. The benefits of getting bullied is knowing how to treat a person the proper way and to not do what the bully has done to you and other people.
- ❖ Bullying can help a kid strengthen their minds, learn to deal with conflicts, with people in general and maybe even motivate them to succeed in the future.
- ❖ It also motivates a person to achieve something in their life to show others that they too are capable to accomplish their goals.



# DRAWBACKS OF BULLYING

- Victims of bullying also tend to experience a wide range of emotions. They may feel vulnerable, helpless, frustrated, lonely, and isolated from their peers.
- As bullied kids grow into adults, they may continue to struggle with self-esteem, have difficulty in maintaining relationships, and avoid social interactions.
- The worst case outcome from bullying is, of course, depression and if the victim is very sensitive he/she might even take fatal decisions.





# CONCLUSION

- ★ The general solution for bullying is to control it.
- ★ But, if even a person is bullied the solution for him would be to simply ignore it.
- ★ Be friendly with each other. Be the change you want to see in the world

**“PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEMSELVES  
DON'T HURT OTHER PEOPLE. THE  
MORE WE HATE OURSELVES, THE MORE  
WE WANT OTHERS TO SUFFER”**







# THANK YOU



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