



# lockchaar

LET'S START A JOURNEY TO LEARN ABOUT KASHMIR: ITS RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND REMARKABLE PEOPLE

# KASHMIR

PARADISE ON EARTH

Take A peek !

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Goddess Saraswati also known as Sharada, is the Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, art, speech, wisdom, and learning. She is always shown as a beautiful goddess who is dressed in all white and seated on a white lotus. A white swan is often at her feet. The color white symbolizes purity, essential for gaining knowledge and achieving enlightenment.

Kashmir is called the land of Sharada or "**Sharada Desh**".

We will start our journey with a Saraswati Mantra.

**"Namaste Sharada Devi Kashmiri Puravaasini  
Twamaham Prarthate Nityam Vidya Danancha Dehime"**

Salutations to you, Goddess Sharada, one who abides in Kashmir,  
I pray to you everyday, bestow me with self wisdom.

# THE STORY OF KASHMIR

Myths are wonderful ancient stories often involving Gods, Goddesses and of course Demons. In India, mythology books are known as Purans (Puran means old). There are many Purans, written at different times. One such is the "**Nilmata Puran**" which was probably written between the 6th and 7th century AD. In the Nilmat Puran there are many beautiful myths about Kashmir. It's worth mentioning that the Nilmat Puran is not only a mythological manuscript but also a valuable source of the ancient history of Kashmir.

The Kashmir valley is surrounded by high mountains. In the ice age all the mountains and the entire valley were covered by ice. At the end of the Ice Age as the ice started to melt, a huge lake was created in the valley. The lake was called "**Satisar**".



One day, King Nilanag found an infant on the banks of Satisar. Finding nobody around to claim the baby, the kind and noble king decided to adopt and raise the child. Since, the baby was found near water, he was named - **Jalodbhava**, which means "the one risen from water".



The Naga kingdom was spread along the banks of Satisar Lake. It was ruled by the great Naga king - "**Nilanag**". He was the son of the great **Rishi Kashyap**. The Naga kings were worshipers of snakes (Naga means snake).



Jalodbhava was raised by King Nilanag with love and affection. He grew up to be a very learned person and started meditating in the Himalayas. Lord Brahma (the creator of the universe) was very pleased with the devotion and decided to grant him a boon. Jalodbhava asked for **undefeatable powers in water**, which Lord Brahma granted him.



The thought of being undefeatable in water corrupted the mind of Jalodbhava. He became cruel and wicked and **started destroying all living things around Satisar**. No one could defeat him. Aghast and distraught at the behavior of Jalodbhava, the people of the region approached King Nilanag. When the noble king expressed his inability to control Jalodbhava, they advised him to approach his father – the great Rishi Kashyap. King Nilanag visited his father and asked for help. Rishi Kashyap assured him of his support.



Rishi Kashyap approached the devtas (Gods) for help in defeating Jalodbhava. Based on his request, the devtas assured King Nilanag of support.

A **fierce battle took place between the devtas and Jalodbhava** but Jalodbhava remained undefeated. As long as he was inside Satisar Lord Brahma's boon protected him.



Rishi Kashyap realized this. He took a big plough and **broke one of the mountains** surrounding Satisar. The water of the lake began pouring out from the gap and soon all the water of Satisar drained out. As soon as the water started emptying the powers of Jalodbhava also started waning. He was no longer any match for the powerful Devtas and was defeated soon after.



With all the water from the lake having drained out, the place became a beautiful valley surrounded by the magnificent Himalayas. The Nagas named the valley **"Kashyapmaar"** after the great sage Kashyap. Later "Kashyapmaar" became "Kashmir."

Still some waters remained in deep pockets of the valley. These became lakes in Kashmir. **Dal-Lake** is one such remnant of Satisar lake.







- **Second largest lake in J&K**
- Receives its water supply from the mountain lake Mar Sar.
- When visiting the Dal lake, you'll find it an enchanting maze of intricate waterways, numerous channels, and floating islands.
- Dal Lake is also important for fishing and for harvesting water plants.

**SHIKARA:** A type of wooden boat found on Dal Lake and other water bodies of Srinagar; used for multiple purposes including transportation of people.



Dal lake actually consists of 4 lakes: Lokut Dal, Bod Dal, Gagribal and Nagin

# Dal Lake



People living within the lake buy their daily fruit and vegetable supplies at the **FLOATING MARKET** located on Shikaras.



A **FLOATING POST OFFICE** is located amidst picturesque snow-clad mountains, on a huge houseboat in Dal Lake. The only one in the world !!

Did you know the connection between these two ?

Answer on last page.



# YOU ASK, WE ANSWER.



How did houseboats come to Kashmir ?



Better known as **floating houses** the origin of the houseboat lies in the chapters of Kashmir's history. It is believed that the native kings had forbidden foreign visitors, especially the British from owning land in the valley. To work around this restriction the foreign visitors began to build houseboats to live in during their stay.

Are there any islands in Dal Lake ?

Dal Lake has 2 artificially built islands - Sona Lank (Golden Isle) and Ropa Lank (Silver Isle) both with majestic Chinar trees.

Roph Lank located in Bod Dal, is marked with the presence of majestic Chinar trees at the four corners, thus known as **Char-Chinari (Four Chinars)**



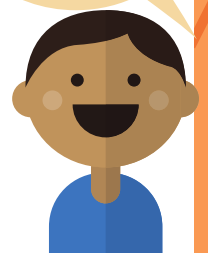
Which is the largest lake in Kashmir?  
**Wullar Lake** is the largest fresh water lake not just in J&K but also in India



The line of the lake is hemmed by beautiful flower gardens, hotels and parks. The gardens around it include Kashmir's famous Mughal gardens - Shalimar, Nishat and Chashma Shahi. Shankracharya temple overlooks Dal lake.

During winter, the lake freezes and you can enjoy skiing on the frozen surface of the Dal lake.

What is Around Dal Lake ?





# I AM A KOSHUR KID

Meet your friends from different countries !

I LOVE KASHMIR BECAUSE...  
I LOVE SNOW &  
MY FAVORITE FOOD IS ROGANGOSH!

**Aarav Tak, 6  
Pune, India**



As a Kashmiri I get to  
celebrate lots of festivals  
and eat Dumaluv. I also  
use Kashmiri as my secret  
language.

**Ipsita Dhar, 8  
Minnesota, USA**



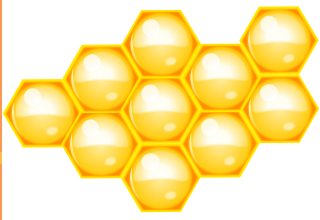
Best thing about being a Kashmiri is..  
you get to eat the most delicious food  
and use cozy things like  
Pheren and Kangdi!

**Shlok Saraf, 6  
Ontario, Canada**

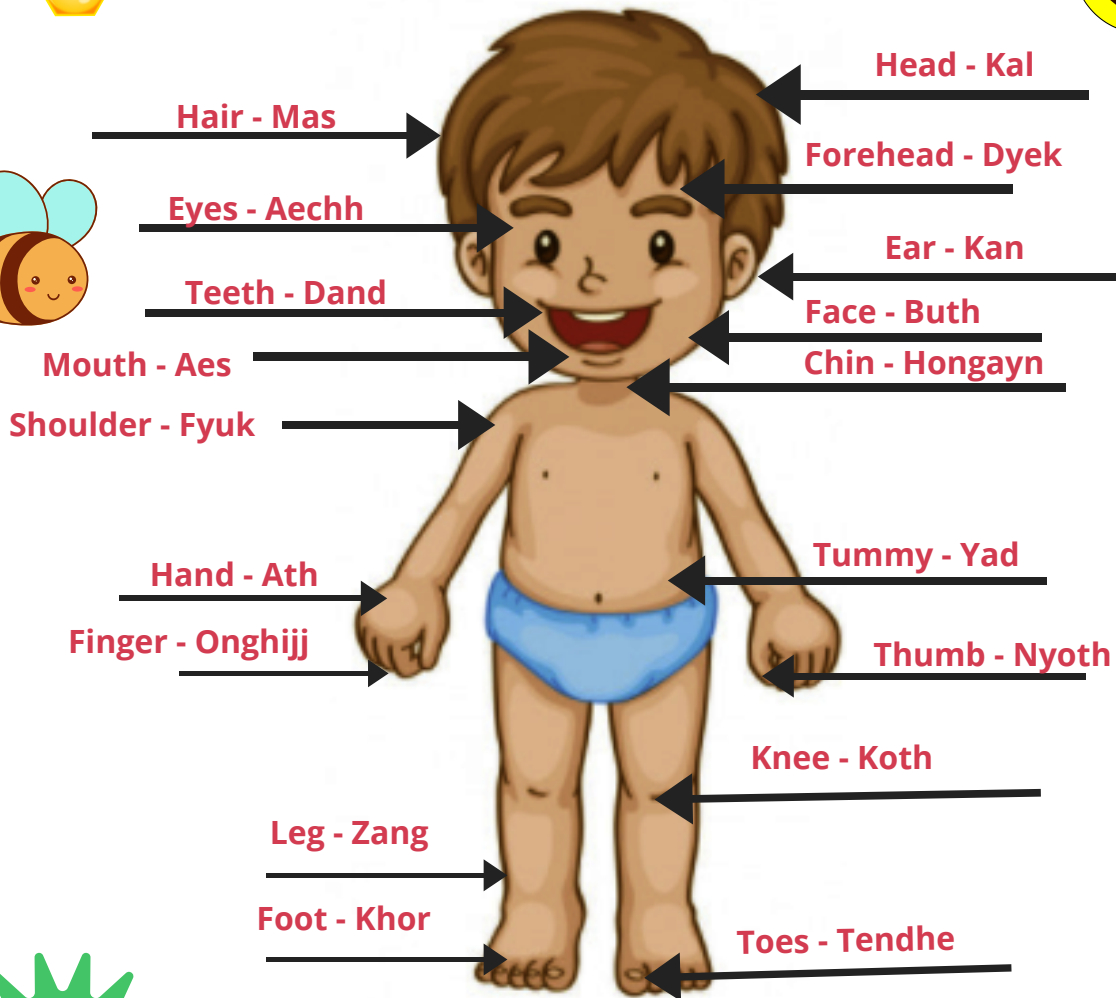


The world of our children is Wide.  
The imagination of our children is Great.

# KOSHUR BEE LEARN WITH ME!



## Body Parts in Koshur



## Ready for a Challenge?

Lets sing the famous rhyme in KOSHUR as fast as we can (Don't forget the tune)



**Head (Kal) Shoulders (Fyuk) Knees (Khot) and Toes (Tendhe) Knees and Toes And Eyes(Aech) and Ears (Kan) and Mouth (Aes) and Nose (Nas)!**

**Head Shoulders Knees and Toes Knees and Toes!**





# FUN THIS MONTH!

Lets find our Koshur Ninja !



What is the lake which was created at the end of Ice Age called?



Why did the Nagas name the valley "Kashyapmaar" ?

Which is the largest freshwater lake in India ?



Which boats are found in Dal Lake ?

Goddess Saraswati is also known as ?



Answer- Nadru is the stem of the lotus plant.

## Word Search

E F A I K C M G L J J I H G N O W J I T  
 R P Y B R Y E B G Y Z Z A K B H U E U M  
 P Z U V A B V M A M Z C K N F P T E S X  
 F T T J V O L P A Z D Y E K K Y H R M F  
 H K M H P D J Z H A A F P S D G U C I O  
 F Q D O K U N O E E E J H D Z B R K D G  
 S T H T O K N A Y A D C G O W P Q H F B  
 T N P U O G F N D F V O H N Z V K T V W  
 A N U U A Q J W K N I W R H A P I W W Y  
 B Q D Y K U S E E H H L Y V L Z P U L S  
 D U N E A W G V T H S S H I I V J K I H  
 W Z G B N D Q O P A A S E H C B P A F C  
 U N S T G X Y M N M T X E Y B F M E O E  
 A L B Z O N H Y B T X K X Y K N E L C K  
 X R B N K S Z S V U Z C M G J S T O S C

Aechh  
Dyek  
Kan  
Nas  
Wuth

Buth  
Fyuk  
Koth  
Nyoth  
Yad

Dand  
Hongayn  
Mas  
Onghijj  
Zang



Want to feature your kid ? or for any feedback

Please write to us

lockchaar@gmail.com or Lockchaar Page on

