

912A.V- Boatpeople are Menaced in Asian Mountains

or

Pollution Threatens Houseboat Owners' Way of Life in Kashmir

Rebecca Byerly | Kashmir, India 15 December 2009

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/environment/Pollution-Threatens-Houseboat-Owners-Way-of-Life-in-Kashmir-79296282.html>

Houseboat business dating from the days of the British is an important economic contributor to the Himalayan region.

A centuries-old way of life for boat people living on once pristine Himalayan lakes is threatened by pollution in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

Every morning for nearly seven decades Azim Tuman has looked out over Nagin Lake in Indian-controlled Kashmir. He and his family operate houseboats and cater to tourists from around the world.

"My family has been one of the pioneers among the four families who started tourism here," he said. "We have a record from 1880."

These delicately carved houseboats have been moored along the tranquil waters of Dal Lake and Nagin Lake of Srinagar since British colonial days. The boat business fell off in recent years because of the conflict between India and Pakistan over Control of Kashmir.

"These 19 years have broken our backs," Tuman stated.

Now, there's relative peace along the lakes and tourists are starting to return. Still, houseboat operators say their livelihood is threatened.

Sewage from more than a million people dumps directly into the lakes. And springs that feed them are blocked by trash and human waste.

In the last three decades the lakes have shrunk to less than half of their original size. India's central government has pumped tens of millions of dollars to have the lakes cleaned. Most of the money was spent on dredging equipment. But Tuman and others who live on the water say these machines rarely work and have not helped with the pollution problem.

Houseboats also contribute to the lake's pollution and the development authority says they should install small sewage systems. Azim Tuman's son, Yaseen, agrees, but he says some boat owners can't afford it.

Yaseen and his father disagree on the future of the houseboat industry.

"My calculation for the houseboat industry is for another 25 years," Tuman said.

His son is more hopeful. "The future of the industry is very much connected to the future of the lakes. The more we get our lakes cleaner we leave them secure for the future generations the future of the houseboats is good," he said.

Vocabulaire du fichier vidéo : à chercher dans <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>.

→

Azim Tuman	Nagin Lake
cater to /'keɪ.tə r/	carved
moored along	
Dal Lake	Sewage /'su:.ɪdʒ/
Srinagar	dredging

springs	pristine	<i>/'prɪs.ti:n/</i>
Yaseen		

Téléchargement du fichier vidéo sur votre disque (2' 25, 5 690 Ko, fichier wmv à lire par le Windows Media Player pour profiter de la lecture au ralenti) :

Lecture : cliquer simplement sur [Windows Media](#) pour revoir la vidéo.

Enregistrement : une fois sur la page VOA, clic droit sur [Windows Media](#) dans *Watch: Kashmir Houseboats* et choisissez « Enregistrez la cible sous » par exemple dans le dossier où vous rangez ce corrigé.

SCRIPT EXACT de la vidéo :

Every morning for nearly seven decades **Azim Tuman** has looked out over **Nagin Lake** in Indian-controlled Kashmir. He and his family operate houseboats and **cater** to tourists from around the world: *"My family has been one of the pioneers among the four families who started tourism here. We have a record from 1880."*

These delicately **carved** houseboats have been moored along the tranquil waters of **Dal Lake** and **Nagin Lake** of **Srinagar** since British colonial days. The boat business fell off in recent years because of the conflict between India and Pakistan over control of Kashmir : *"These 19 years have broken our backs"*. Now, there's relative peace along the lakes and tourists are starting to return. Still, houseboat operators say their livelihood is threatened.

Sewage from more than a million people dumps directly into the lakes. And **springs** that feed them are blocked by trash and human waste.

In the last three decades the lakes have shrunk to less than half of their original size. India's central government has pumped tens of millions of dollars to have the lakes cleaned. Most of the money was spent of **dredging** equipment. But Tuman and others who live on the lake say (*pause*) these machines rarely work and have not helped with the pollution problem.

Houseboats also contribute to the lake's pollution and the development authority says they should install small sewage systems. Azim Tuman's son, **Yaseen**, agrees, but he says some boat owners can't afford it. Yaseen and his father disagree on the future of the houseboat industry: *"My calculation for the houseboat industry is for another 25 years"*.

His son is more hopeful: *"The future of the industry is very much connected to the future of the lakes. The more we get our lakes cleaner and you know for we (bad English) leave them secure for the future generations, the future of the houseboats is good"* (*the better the future of the houseboats should have been said*¹).

If this does not happen, these once **pristine** lakes and way of life will be lost for ever.

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¹ Note from A. Toma