

Jammu and Kashmir Knowledge Network

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Imagine a 9th standard student sitting in a remote higher secondary school in a village near India- Pakistan Line of Control (LOC) talking to a Harvard doctorate and post-doctoral fellow at Princeton University sitting thousands of miles away.

Imagine a student from D.K. Marg, an untouched village in volatile South Kashmir, who is aspiring to be a civil servant is understanding the career opportunities in the field of diplomacy from an Indian Diplomat from Cairo, Egypt.

Imagine a successful Kashmiri entrepreneur who is a Wharton school of Business alumnus and has successfully led many multinational companies motivating Kashmiri students about business leadership and guiding them towards a meaningful career path.

Imagine a Pulwama village lad, who is now a scientist at Massachusetts institute of technology (MIT), USA mentoring youth from his native land to set and achieve their life goals.

This all imagination has actually become a reality through Jammu and Kashmir Knowledge Network (or JKKN in short.)

Jammu and Kashmir knowledge network began with an idea of connecting schools of Jammu and Kashmir with the outside world of knowledge. Difficult terrain, seasonal extremities and cultural diversity of the state makes it difficult for the students to understand the emerging fields of knowledge and various career opportunities outside the state.

ICT revolution is helping to shorten the gap between state and outside world. JKKN has utilized existing ICT infrastructure in the schools and connected more than 200 schools with each other using VC tools. The schools include various CAL centers under SSA and ICT schools under RMSA.

JKKN has opened wide range of possibilities, especially for conflict affected region of Kashmir where shutdown and protests is becoming the rule rather than exception. Connecting with outside world and especially with their successful seniors who are doing well for themselves will help give them hope.

When the proof of the concept was established the project got support from then the Minister for Education Naeem Akhtar, who took active interest in the project.



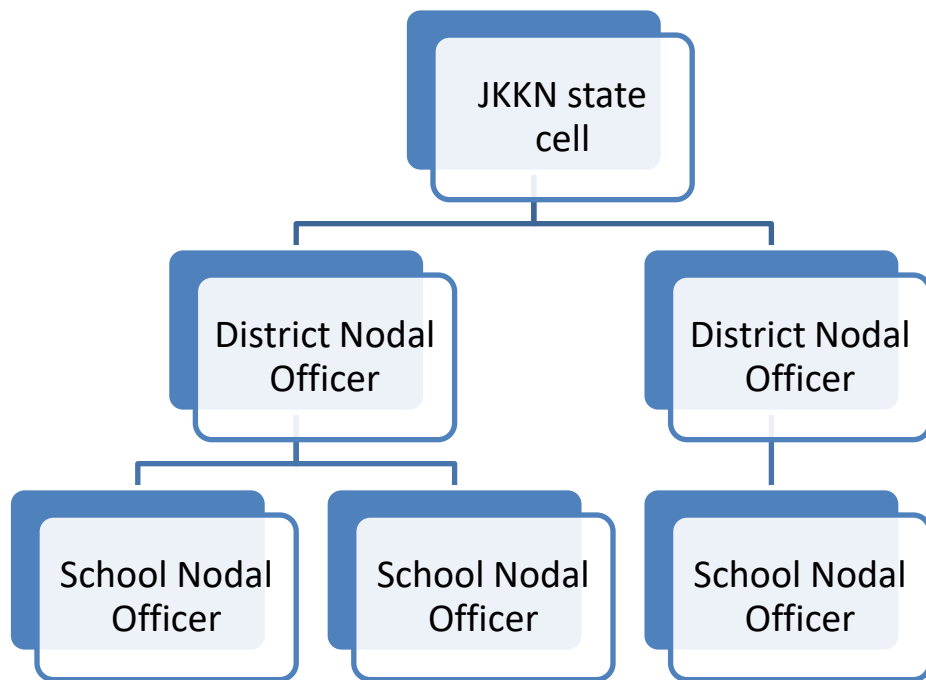
Mr. TahirQazi from Philadephia, USA 1



Mr. Karan Bandal, from Roackford USA 1

Team JKKN:

When JKKN was started there was no formal structure in place. We started contacting individual teachers of ICT schools and training them to operate internet and use tools like Skype and other VC tools. Eventually an informal structure emerged. It became more clearer how communication channel must be established and what could be the effective and efficient way to communicate and organize lectures through JKKN. Interestingly the informal structure that emerged acted as self-motivator through peer communication.



The school nodal officer is the kingpin of the whole operational structure. He is the one who manages smart classroom and all technical issue at ground. Empowering him and motivating SNOs was very important to weed out any cynical apprehension about this project.

The team brought out hidden IT talent from the district. Many of the teachers who were trained in computer applications proactively started contributing the ideas. One of the junior assistants from high school of District Doda developed a web page for knowledge network. He was immediately called

JKKN website and Careers Information Portal...

www.jkkn.co.in

www.jkkn.co.in/cip.php

www.jkkn.co.in/links.php



JKKN website was developed by Vikrant Singh, an inspired young employee of education department. It is a platform for the e-learning and it also has a career information portal.



JKKN website is regularly updated and information about upcoming lectures, transcripts of the lectures will be put on the website.

Brainwaves:

When Brainwaves session was started nobody thought that it will be successful to the extent that schools will start demanding for these sessions. Brain child of honorable minister for education and the state project director RMSA/SSA, under this, schools were paired with each other one school from Kashmir region and one school from Jammu region respectively.

Schools were given a topic for group discussion and both schools started open discussion about the topic. The main motive of Brainwaves was to connect students from Jammu region to Kashmir region. When students started talking with each other results were astonishing.

In one of the Brainwaves group discussion sessions on JKKN, when the students from GGHS Kathua wished to see snowfall and were invited by girls from GGHS Kupwara to experience snowfall and understand Kashmiri culture then little did they know that their dream to visit Kashmir will be a reality in less than 15 days. When around 25 students from GGHS Kathua were taken to visit their newly made friends from Kupwara they were flabbergasted by the beauty of Kashmir, the hospitality and the love they received from people of Kashmir.

Brainwaves: Kathua students visited Kupwara



The sheer excitement in their eyes and the absolute happiness they saw on each other's faces were sufficient to convince them that they were meeting their long lost friends. They toured the valley from Srinagar to Kupwara and from Kupwara to Gulmarg along with their friends. Together they played, ate, sang, climbed, learned and laughed. Each of them learned new perspectives about other culture and people. This was a beginning of eternal friendship for them.

Invited guests:

Guest Speakers on JKKN

NAME OF GUEST	Background	Place	Topic	Schools	Students
Dr. ShaidaAndrabi	Scientist MIT USA	Massachusetts	Foreign Education avenues	55	1450
Dr. AhsanulhaqQureshi	Nano Scientist PhD from South Korea Postdoc Japan	Riyadh	Careers in Nanotechnology and Renewable energy	22	600
Dr. KartiekAgrawal	Scientist Post Doc Fellow at Princeton PhD from Harvard	Princeton	Research as a career	22	600
Dr. VikasTrivedi	Technocrat Bio-engineering Phd From Harvard	Cambridge	Engineering Perspective of Biology	22	600
Ms. Padma Karri (I.F.S.)	Diplomat	Cairo	Career in Diplomacy	60	1600
Mr. TahirQazi	Business Leader, CEO iQuesar	Philadelphia	Leadership and Entrepreneurship	48	1400
Prof. VivekPonkshe	Educationist	Pune	Concepts of physics	22	600
Ms. Sheetal Nanda (I.A.S.)	Deputy Commissioner, Samba	Samba	Community Led Total Sanitation	52	1500

Dr. Shah Faesal (I.A.S.)	MD, Power Development Corporation, J&K	Jammu	Importance of goals in school life	22	600
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Upcoming Guest Speakers on JKKN

NAME OF GUEST	Background	Place
Mr. SonamWangchuk	Renowned eductionist	Leh
Dr. MadhavGadgil (Padma Bhushan)	Renowned environment	Pune
Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed	Landscape Photographer	Srinagar