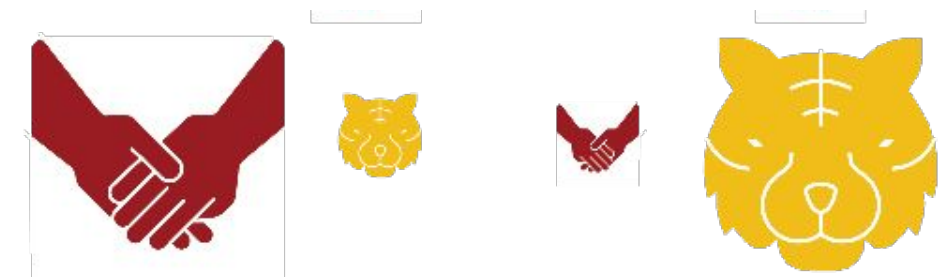# Kashmiri Wikipedia's Story

Peerzada Iflaq
Kashmir

Kashmiri Language

- Also known as Koshur
- Indo Aryan language of Dardic subgroup.
- 7 million Speakers.
- Spoken in Kashmir
- Also Spoken in Pakistan Administered Kashmir

- Kashmiri Language is written in 3 scripts, Perso-Arabic Script, Devanagari Script, Sharda Script
- Perso Arabic Script is the main script used in writing Kashmiri and is taught in Schools and Universities.
- Latin Script is used mostly in Social media sites like Facebook.

کٲشُر

कॉशुर • काॅशुर

WIKICONFERENCE INDIA
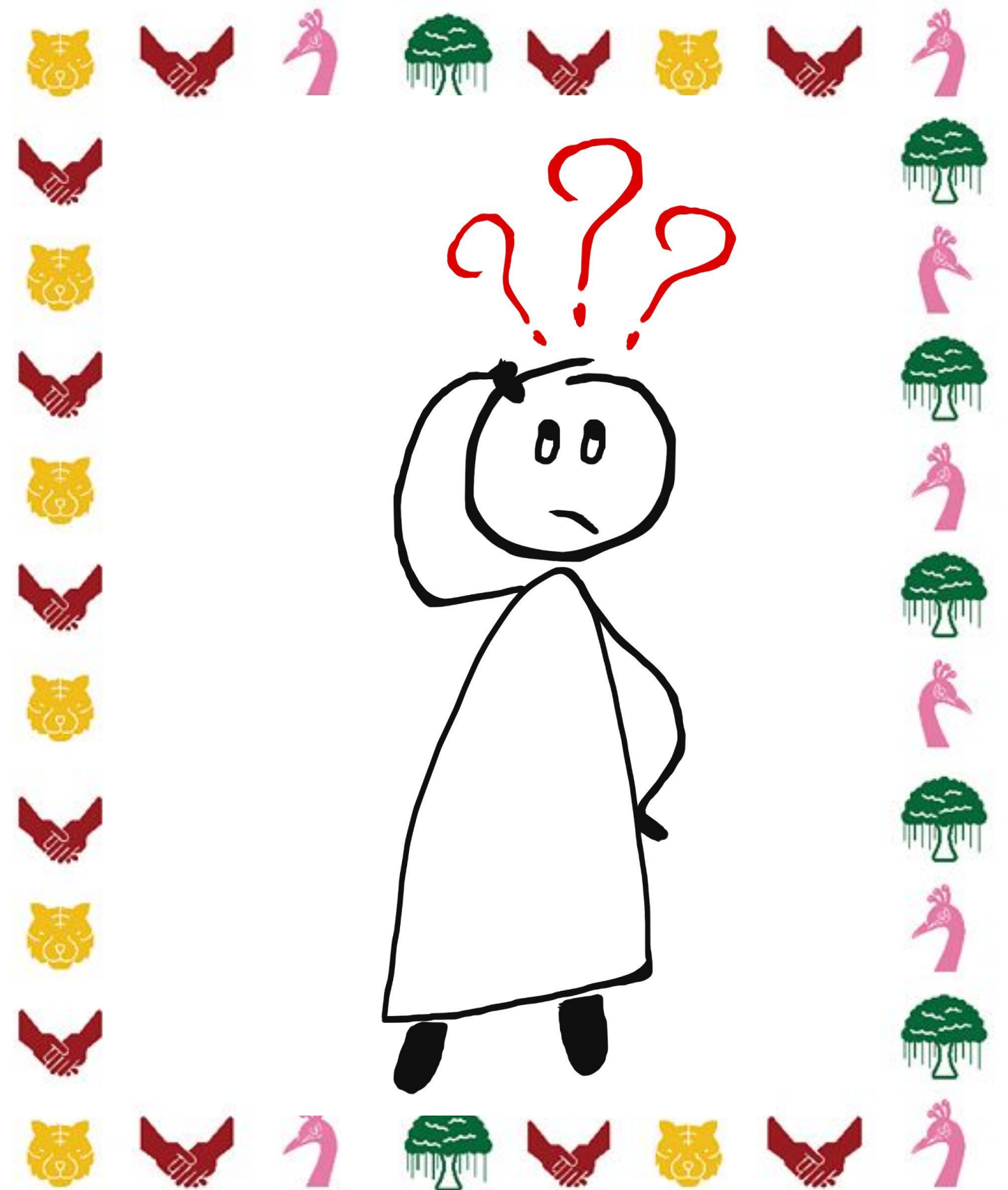HYDERABAD 2023

Kashmiri Wikipedia

- Kashmiri Language version of Wikipedia
- Started in 2004
- Under developed since then.
- On 29 November 2021, It crossed 1000 articles mark.
- Activities regained momentum in 2020
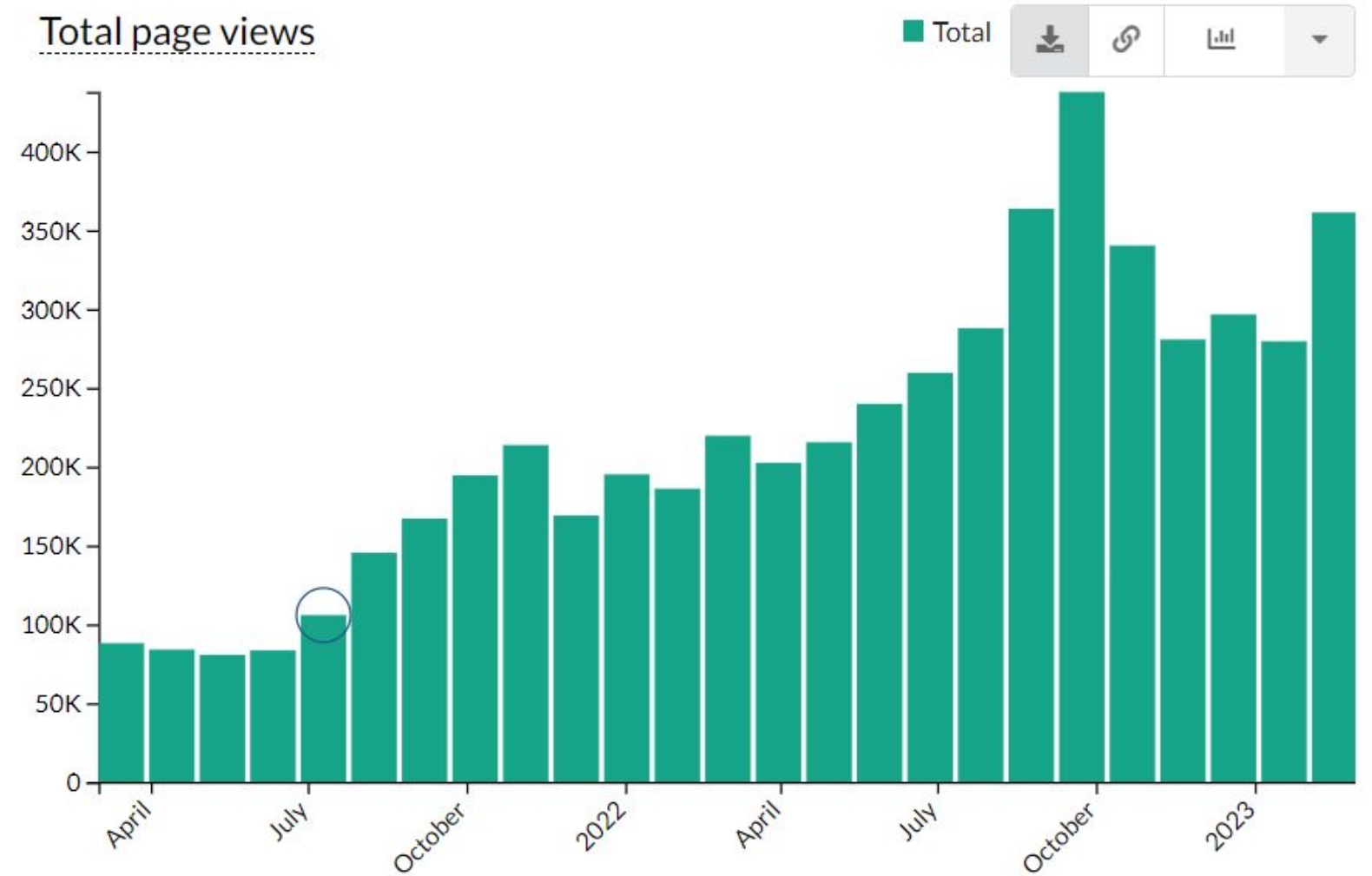- As of April 2023, Kashmiri Wikipedia has approximately 3000 articles.

Challenges

- Less knowledge about Kashmiri Wikipedia among native speakers.
- Kashmiri Wikipedia's interface is not fully translated.
- Problems with keyboards as not all keyboards support Kashmiri characters.
- Less digital content available.
- No machine translation available.

Steps to overcome challenge

- Use of Social Media handles to reach to potential editors and for promotion.
- Creation of diverse content to encourage users from different backgrounds.
- Translating interface through Translatewiki.net
- We are using Nadeemulhaqmir-bot for correcting the mistakes but the problem continues as the mobile keyboards don't support all kashmiri language characters.
- Thanks to Aamir from WMF's Language team, we managed to get Universal Keyboard extension working for Kashmiri Language.
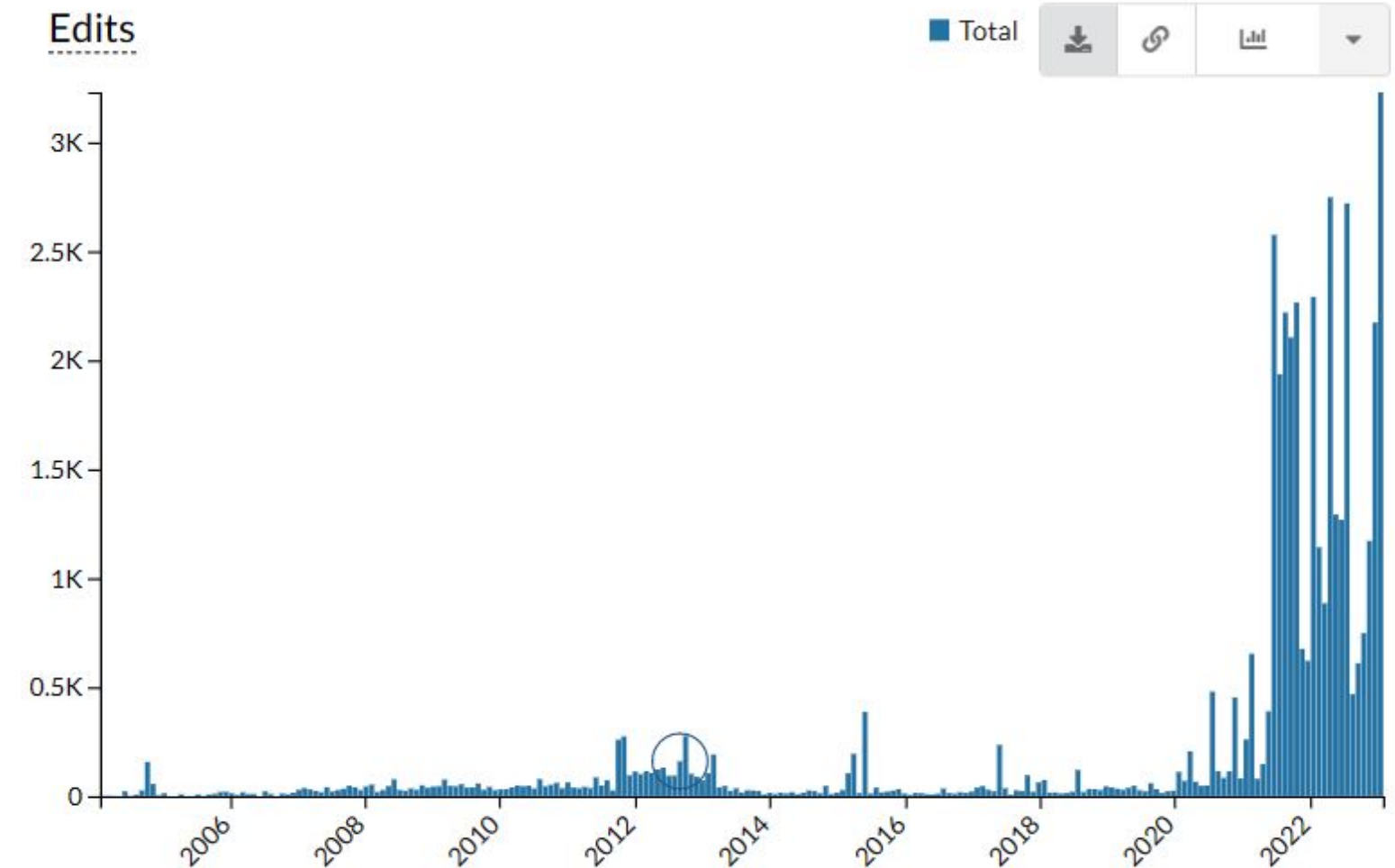- Organizing Edit-a-thons to encourage new editors.

Total page views

Statistics of Kashmiri Wikipedia Taken from Wikistats.

Activities

- Edit a thons: They prove a great means of producing and improving content.
- Monthly Meetings: Community decided to meet on every first sunday of the month.
- Movement Charter Community Consultations: We also took part in Movement Charter Consultations and provided the feedback for the first 3 drafts.
- Feminism & Folklore 2023: We have seen a great success in the recent Feminism and folklore about 90 articles were created during this event.

Plans

- **In-person events**: We are planning to organise in person meetings so as to build the bonds better in our community.
- **Social media promotion**: We have seen great potential in social media in ways of promotion.
- We will be organizing photo walks for better coverage of different parts of Kashmir.
- We will be reach out to different institutions for partnership and try to engage students in Kashmiri Wikimedia projects.

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