

# Women's History Month, India (2014)

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## INTRODUCTION

Women's History Month (India) was conducted in March 2014 to increase the participation of Indian women in Wikimedia projects and to increase the quality and number of articles related to Indian women on Wikipedia in English and Indic languages. Among the events conducted includes six workshops, two themed edit-a-thons, one Wikidata label-a-thon and a Wikiparty. The event happened in four languages: English, Malayalam, Telugu and Marathi.

A statboard was created to track the progress of the event. Blog posts were published on Wikimedia blog, DNA blog and several personal blogs to promote the event, announce new events and to bring in more participants. An event page on facebook was created to engage people via social media. The event was reported by prominent newspapers and websites in India.

A total of 251 articles related to Indian women were created and several articles were expanded as a part of this event. 67 participants signed up for the event.

This event was co-ordinated by the Wikimedia India community and supported by the Access to Knowledge team of Centre for Internet Society, Bangalore, India. The event was conducted as a part of the global Women's History Month events which ran in several languages.



The poster for the global women's history month events. This is a parody of the "We can do it" poster replaced with the Media-wiki style section edit link. At the bottom, the Westinghouse logo has been replaced a Wikipedia puzzle piece logo and the words 'War Production coordination committee' has been replaced with 'Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia'.

## OBJECTIVES

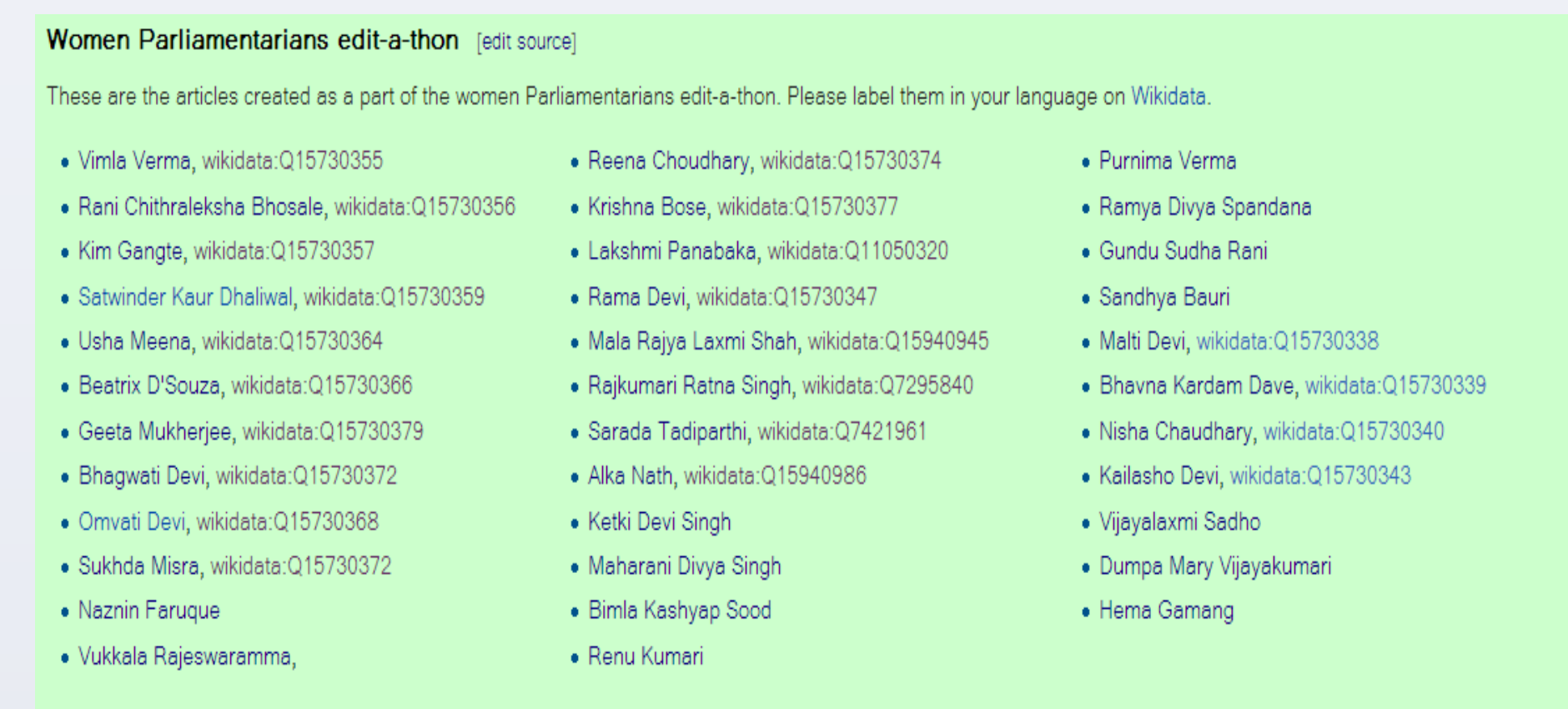
1. To increase the participation of Indian women in Wikimedia projects.
- 2.. To increase the quality and number of articles related to Indian women on Wikipedia in English and Indic languages.
3. To evaluate the event and share the learnings from the event with the global Wikimedia community.
4. To increase the visibility of articles related to Indian women on the internet via social media and blogs.



The emblem of Women's History Month (India) events used across all Wikimedia projects. This is a portrait of a lady from Maharashtra by the famous Indian painter Raja Ravi Varma. (1848-1906). Image courtesy : <http://artoflegendindia.com/> (Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain, CC)

## ONLINE EDIT-A-THONS

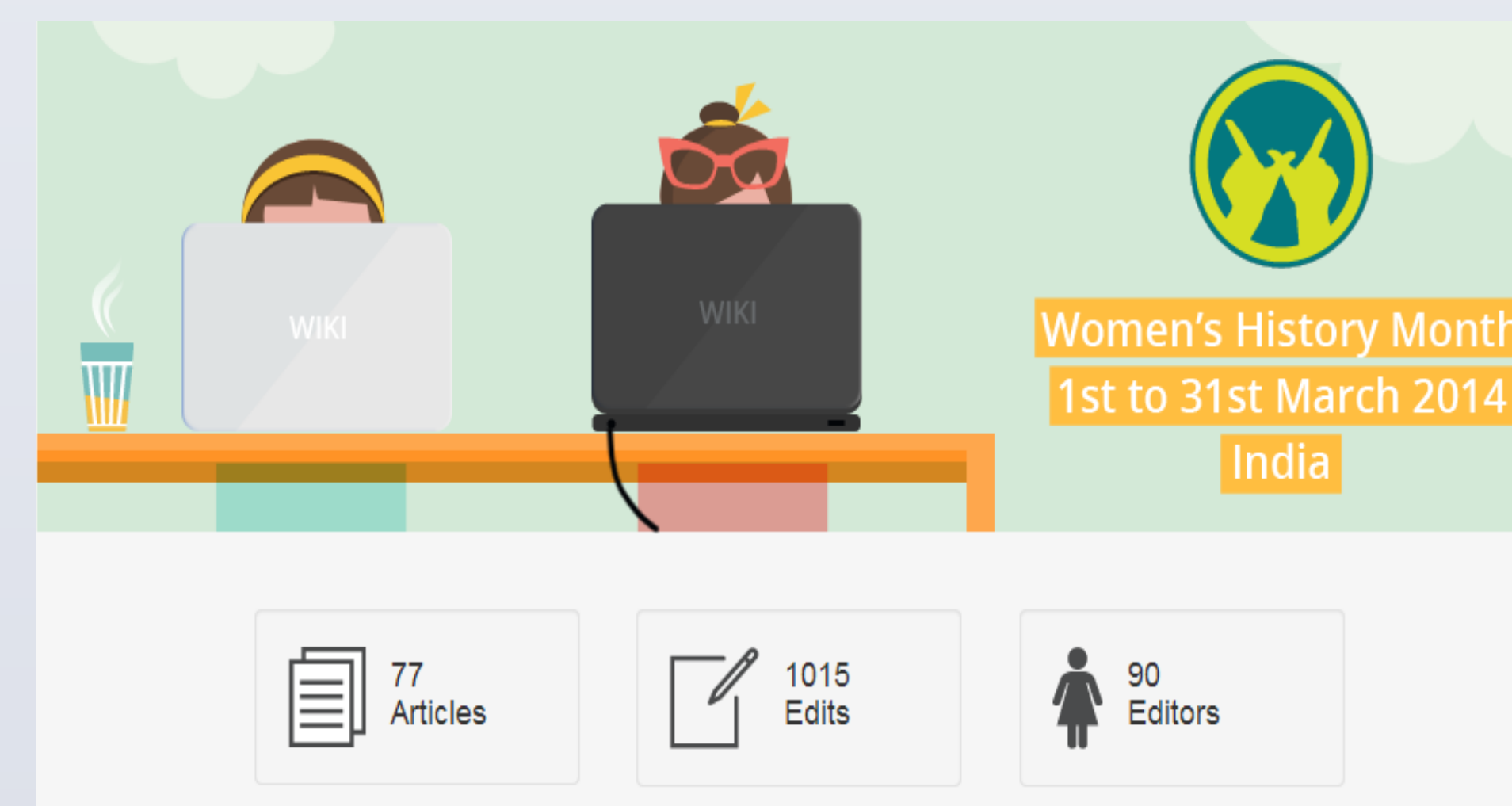
The online edit-a-thon took place from 1 to 31 March, 2014. A co-ordination page was created on meta wiki and event pages were created on all participating languages. Volunteers were encouraged to sign up on the event page and write articles about Indian women. A list of suggested articles was created and results were added on the same page. The page also had links to useful resources.



Results of the Women Parliamentarians Edit-a-thon, a screenshot

There were two themed edit-a-thons on the second and third weekends of March. The themed edit-a-thon were to create and expand biographies of Indian women Parliamentarians and Indian women scientists on English Wikipedia.

Header of the Women's History Month (India) statboard :



The full statboard can be viewed at <http://wikiwomen.in>

## OFFLINE EDIT-A-THONS

Offline edit-a-thons were conducted at eight locations :

1. Roshni Nilaya School of Social Work, Mangalore
2. International Centre, Goa
3. Indira Gandhi College of Engineering and Technology, Kerala
4. College of Engineering, Guindy
5. Breakthrough Offices in Delhi and Bangalore
6. BarCamp, Bangalore
7. Wikiparty at Wikimedian User: Outofindia's residence



The poster created for Womoz festival, the webmaker event for women conducted by volunteers from Mozilla. The Women's history month edit-a-thon at Indira Gandhi College of Engineering and Technology was conducted in association with the Womoz festival. Image courtesy: User: Ekuttan, CC-BY-SA, Wikimedia Commons.

## BLOGGING

"How many Indian women scientists can you name? Go on! Think about this one. Think really hard. How many can you name, now? One? Two? Three?"

I wrote this blog post at a co-working space for tech startups in the Southern Indian city of Kochi. I was surrounded by science students. None of them could think of a single woman scientist from India. Pretty shameful, isn't it? And, there was nobody to burst our sexist bubble, except, Wikipedia." (From Diksha Madhok's blog post, announcing the Women Scientists edit-a-thon).

Media references were on the popular newspapers *The Hindu*, and *Times of India*. Techgoss.com, the news website, also reported the event.

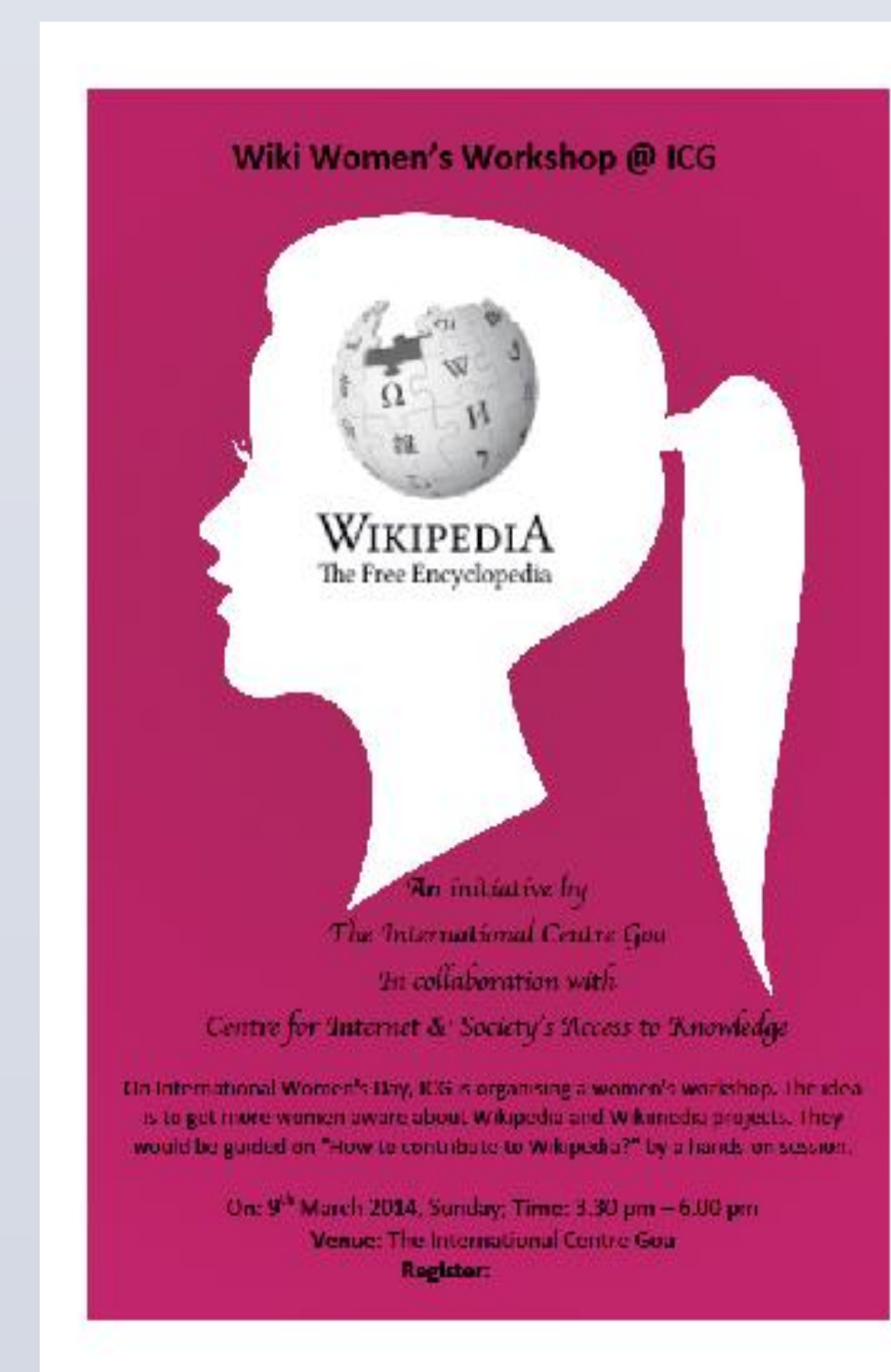
## RESULTS

Language-wise list of new articles created and number of signed-up participants:

Language and language code	No. of articles created	No. of participants
Malayalam (ml)	174	32
Telugu (te)	108	19
English (en)	77	16

Results of themed edit-a-thons in English:

Theme	No. of articles created	No. paarticipants
Women Parliamentarians	35	5
Women Scientists	28	10



The poster of Wikiwomen's workshop, held at International Centre, Goa on International Women's Day, 2014. The workshop aimed at facilitating women to write articles on Wikipedia in English and Indic languages. Image Courtesy : Nitika Tandon, The Centre for Internet and Society, CC-BY-SA.

The pattern of contributions of the signed-up participants were evaluated for the following two months. It was found that a total of 2069 edits were made in the Category: Women's History Month (India) 2014 in English and Malayalam languages taken together. The cotribution of participants during the edit-a-thon was compared to their monthly average edits, and it was found that there was an average increase of 101.28 edits per person during the event compared to their monthly average. The Wikidata label-a-thon had four signed up participants who created labels for entire related to Indian women.

## RESULTS

Top contributors listed language-wise:

Language and language code	Maximum number of edits per participant
Malayalam (ml)	345
English (en)	310



A poster designed by User: Sugeesh for Women's History Month in Malayalam

## LINKS

- Co-ordination page on meta wiki: [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Women's\\_History\\_Month\\_India-2014](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Women's_History_Month_India-2014)
- Event pages:
  1. English : w:en:Wikipedia:Meetup/International Women's Day, India/2014
  2. Malayalam : w:ml:Wikipedia:WHMIN14
  3. Telugu : w:te:Wikipedia:WHMIN14
- Event page on facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/whmIndia2014>
- Wikidata label-a-thon page: [https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Women's\\_History\\_Month\\_India-2014/Label-a-thon](https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Women's_History_Month_India-2014/Label-a-thon)



A blog post by Parul Thakur about Women's History Month events

## CONTACT US!

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