

# Wikimedia Chapter (India)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Report 2015-16



## **President's Message**

The year 2015-2016 for Wikimedia India has been a period of massive growth for the organization in terms of programmatic activities & winning the trust of the community. This growth wouldn't have been possible without the solid foundation set up by the founding members & past office bearers. We would also like to thank the current office bearers, staff, volunteers & other well-wishers for continuing to support the chapter so that it could continue to support the Wikimedia movement in India. The new Executive Committee which got elected in 2014, for whom the term ends are leaving the chapter at a crucial time. Wikimedia India is at a cusp from where a strong Board is required by the chapter to lead it

Our year has gone pretty well with many activities as mentioned below

### **Finance**

With the successful FDC grants application approved by Wikimedia Foundation for 3,325,000 INR was approved in December 2013, we received its second instalment of 1,530,618.00 INR was received by April 2015. To continue with our activities, we had also applied for a bridge grant of 1,320,000 INR

### **Staff**

Ravishankar Ayakannu had joined Wikimedia India on 20th September 2014 & has successfully working as Program

Director. After working for 16 months, Ravishankar has resigned from the chapter effective 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016. We wish him all the best for future endeavors.

## **Community Building**

The Wikimedia chapter always believes that it can facilitate closeness of the Wikipedian network and recognize significant contributors by bringing community members together to share best practices. This aim by Wikimedia India was achieved by organizing conferences at national and regional level. By finding like minded people with whom community members can build collaborative projects, Wikimedia India have been involved in the organizing & support of many events, workshops this year. We will go into a more detailed discussion later into the report.

These events include anniversary celebrations, planning of meetups, workshops & events catering to most of the Wikimedia communities in India. By doing all this, the Wikimedia chapter has gained a good rapport & support from the communities at large as well as the individual members from them.

## **Capacity Building**

The Wikimedia Chapter in the current year has an aim to improve & increase participation in Wikimedia projects and improve its quality of content. To facilitate this, we have conducted many edit-a-thon & photography contests in various Indian communities GLAM project in Bengal & Wiki Loves Food photography competition. These shall be discussed in depth later in the report. Wikimedia India also plans to assist the Indian community to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> WikiConference India 2016

## **Working with CIS-A2K**

Continuing with the past momentum of the relationship, the chapter appreciates the close level of cooperation and collaboration shared by CISA2K. WMIN will be initiating quarterly calls with The Centre for Internet and Society for sharing ideas for future collaboration. Wikimedia India also participated and contributed to Train the Trainer Program (2016) conducted by The Centre for Internet and Society in 2016

## **Challenges**

Wikimedia India was faced with many challenges in the year. One of the biggest challenges the organization feels is to be up to date on the reporting obligations to the community so that they are aware of the challenges the chapter faces. Due to resignation of our employee, there is a sudden increase of administrative load on the

board of the chapter. Another major challenge is the renewal of the FCRA application which the chapter feels will be very time & energy consuming.

Volunteer burnout and retention of members within the Wikimedia communities continue to be a big issue like previous years. We have made several attempts to improve inclusion in the chapter and combat burnout. More such attempts would be required in the coming years in order to stabilise our volunteer base.

### **Continuation of Key role**

In the year 2015-2016, Wikimedia India continues to play an important role in promoting the movement across India panning across languages, culture & regions.

On Behalf of the Executive Committee and the extended leadership, I would like to thank everyone who has been a supporter & a well-wisher for the chapter.

Yohann Thomas

President, Wikimedia India

30<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Bangalore-560034

## **Membership**

To make it easy for the new member to renew their membership, the Executive Committee passed a resolution to accept online digital forms for members who want to renew their membership. This was done with an intention to make it easier for the existing members who had to earlier send a hard copy of their membership form to our office.

Membership at end of March 2016 was at 92

The breakup of membership by gender, state, city, and language is given below:

By State:

Andhra Pradesh 15

Bihar 3

Delhi 13

Gujarat 3

Karnataka 8

Kerala 5

Maharashtra - 11

Odisha 10

Tamil Nadu 7

Uttar Pradesh 4

West Bengal 9

By category and gender:

Individual Male 75

Individual Female 17

## **Donations**

Donations to Wikimedia India In the year 2014-15, Wikimedia India received many anonymous donations which were very small in nature. The total donations received during the financial year 2014-15 were Rs 5600. Out of these, the Minimum donation received was of Rs 100, & we received an average donation Rs 1452 per donor. Wikimedia India would like to thank all its donors for continuing to support us. For the next year, Wikimedia India plans a donation drive to increase these donations & consistently reach out to more donors to contribute to our movement

## **Election of new Executive Members**

After the Elections in November 2015, 2 new members joined the Executive committee after the elections on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Noopur Raval & Abhinav Srivastava were elected. Both of them bring a great deal of Wiki-experience with them.

The current EC wishes them all the best for the tenure at the chapter

## **Administrative Improvements within the chapter**

The Executive committee of WMIN feels that the chapter as an organization should continuously evolve with the process of self-improvement continuously happening which would improve the chapter.

Till date, the chapter used to do bookkeeping through our consultant. In recent times, it was observed that to improve the quality of bookkeeping & to meet the current standards as suggested by the Wikimedia Foundation, the EC has taken a decision to hire a professional bookkeeping organization who would streamline the work & update the bookkeeping on a weekly basis.

WMIN has hired Eeshaa Financial services to do the official bookkeeping of the chapter. They would also be in charge to pay the TDS which we deduct from our contractors & employees.

The chapter routinely hires interns to expose them to the working of the chapter which would give them exposure which would be useful for their professional life. We hired 3 Interns in the year 2015-16 in various roles like community building, Human resources & Website & blog maintenance.



# Wiki Loves Food 2015



[Wiki Loves Food](#) (WLF) is a public photo competition on Wikimedia Commons for use on Wikipedia and other project websites of the Wikimedia Foundation. Wikimedia India Chapter is running this contest. For the year 2015, the aim of this project was to improve the quality of pictures of different cuisines of the Indian sub-continental region and to celebrate Indian Cuisine's diversity and beauty.

[Results](#) [\[ edit \]](#)

**Phase-2** [\[ edit \]](#)

We congratulate all the winners and thank all the participants! It was a very tough contest indeed :) Images that made it to the [final round can be seen here](#).



1st Prize. **Curd Rice** by Sudharshan Shanmugasundaram



2nd Prize. **Banaras ki Lassi** by Vivek Pathak



3rd Prize. **Kala Jamoon** by Prakruti M



Community Award. **Keema Pav with hari chutney** by Vidur Mayor

The contest aimed to educate people about and promote donating images to Commons on a national scale. India has a vibrant photography community and we succeeded in adding 10,000+ Indian Food related photographs on Commons through this contest campaign. More than 3000 people registered for this contest from various parts of India.

The Competition saw Wikimedia contributors unite across language & other geographical barriers to take part of the pan- india event. This was truly a national event with members from every major language community.

# Wikipedia Asian Month 2015

**WIKIPEDIA**  
**ASIANMONTH**  
**NOVEMBER2015**

Wikipedia Asian Month is an online Edit-a-thon aimed at promoting Asian content in Wikipedia. It was held in November 2015; each of the participating communities runs a local Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on their own language Wikipedias, which promotes the creation or improvement of the Wikipedia content about Asia except their own country.

Wikimedia India was one of the participating chapters who would send postcards to all the editors who would successfully complete the Asian month.

As one of the parts of friendship of Wikipedia Asian Community, each participant who creates at least four articles that fulfill the criteria will receive a special designed Wikipedia postcard from other participating countries.

# Scholarship Program to Wikimania 2015



Wikimania 2015, the 11th annual international conference of the Wikimedia movement, is being held between 15 and 19 July 2015 in Mexico City, Mexico.

The Wikimedia Foundation Scholarships Program is offering a limited number of scholarships to offset the cost of selected individuals' attendance at Wikimania using funding provided by the Wikimedia Foundation (WMF).

The WMF is not the only organization offering scholarships for Wikimania 2015; other Wikimedia organizations such as chapters and thematic organizations may also be offering their own scholarships.

India is one of the chapters that gave 2 such scholarships. Following were the 2 Indian contributors whose name were shortlisted by the scholarship committee.

1. Suryaprakash Shanmugam (Tamil Wikipedian)
2. Manoj Karingamadathil (Malayalam Wikipedia and WikiSource contributor)

# **GLAM for Kolkata Little Magazine Library O Gabeshana Kendra**

This project aims to synchronize the sharing of resources between the Kolkata Little Magazine Library O Gabeshana Kendra and the Wikimedia community. The privately owned library comprises approximately 70,000 experimental, radical, alternative and avant-garde periodicals and little magazines.

There are numerous little magazines in the library from the pre independence era, including Bangadarshan and Tatwabodhini from their first publication in 1872. Needless to say, they are having a close association with the Independence movement of Bengal, rather India.

In addition to these magazines, the library is also having a rare collection of handicrafts personally collected by founder Sri Sandip Dutta. Majority of these books are in Bengali, but there are several books and periodicals are in other languages as well, including English and Hindi.

Subjects range from literature to broader disciplines of social science and humanities. As the collection starts from 1872, we can have a massive collection of articles for Public Domain.

[http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Grants/GLAM for Kolkata Little Magazine Library O Gabeshana Kendra](http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Grants/GLAM_for_Kolkata_Little_Magazine_Library_O_Gabeshana_Kendra)

# Community Building

- Featured Wikimedian column in chapter wiki has been started again.
- We are encouraging the community to converse more on wiki at the Community Hall ([http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Community\\_Hall](http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Community_Hall) ) so that the chapter becomes a hub for pan Indian cross community activities. This will also help to build transparency, inclusiveness and institutional memory.
- Infrastructure Scholarship which we started in 2015 is going very strong. We have successfully given 2 laptops & a scanner. Please check our site for more information on this-[http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Infrastructure\\_Scholarship](http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Infrastructure_Scholarship)
- Kannada Wikipedia event in Bidar  
For one year, OmShivprakash has been building contacts and built interest in Wikipedia editing and QRcode projects for Bidar,Kannada. He was able to find some enthusiasts around Bidar to build pages around the monuments such as Bidar Fort (Unesco world heritage site). Even district administration has come forward to help him with these initiatives. Wikimedia India helped Om to travel to Bidar & organize an editathon  
[http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Grants/Bidar\\_Wikipedia\\_Edit-a-thon](http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Grants/Bidar_Wikipedia_Edit-a-thon)
- Malayalam community grant request  
Malayalam community organized a workshop for the Wikipedia editors & organized an edit-athon in October 2015
- Natural world editathon Chennai

Wikimedians in Chennai got together for an editathon to improve articles on plants, animals, geology and other aspects of nature around them. The two day workshop was aided by User:Shyamal. Part of the facilitation will include helping identify and obtain reliable sources, learning to structure an article, paraphrase, cite and otherwise polish up articles that the participants choose to improve (we have a long menu of articles to choose from).[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Chennai/Natural\\_world\\_editation\\_2015](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Chennai/Natural_world_editation_2015)

## **Partnership building**

### **Wikimedia India signs an MoU with a local educational institution group to research on Wikipedia**

Wikimedia India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a local educational institution group, SKP. The project aims at supporting Wikipedia in different Indian languages by focusing on engaging Engineering college students in MediaWiki and Indic language computing related technology development work. Lack of freely available computing tools for Indian languages is one of the challenges for the growth of Wikimedia projects in Indian languages. To address this specific issue, Wikimedia India will facilitate the setup of a Language Computing Lab at SKP Group of Institutions. Wikimedia India will also work to provide adequate learning opportunities for students and faculties in the technologies they work under this partnership.

### **WMIN, on behalf of Global Tamil Wikimedia Community, signs an MoU with Tamil Virtual Academy**

Tamil Virtual Academy (TVA) is a high-profile autonomous institution established by the Government of Tamil Nadu under its Information Technology Department. TVA aims at providing Internet-based resources and opportunities for the Tamil communities living in different parts of the globe as well as others interested in learning Tamil, Science, Technology, Tamil Computing software and acquiring knowledge of the history, art, literature and culture of the Tamils and to identify, establish, maintain and promote the solutions for the Tamil computing requirements of Tamil Diaspora, Government, Educational, Media and Business institution.

Collaboration on this will include

- Policy initiatives for adoption of free content licenses in public institutions
- Infrastructure support
- Capacity building programs
- Digitization of Galleries, Archives, Museums, Libraries in Tamil Nadu
- Access to information for writing Wikipedia articles
- Wikipedia content improvement
- Outreach
- Wikipedia in Education

## Events & Activities

### **Infrastructure Scholarship**

Wikimedia India runs Equipment Lending and Community Support program for established Wikimedians to retain and enable them to be more active. This is mainly intended at removing limitations in contributing for user groups like students, unemployed and others facing financial constraints. Reference books, laptops, internet connection, camera and lens were provided as part of equipment lending programme to emerging and prominent wiki editors.

Some of scholarships which we gave in 2015-16 include

- Pranayraj Vangari Laptop
- Info-farmer Laptop
- Jim Carter Laptop
- Bodhisattwa 3G Internet Connection for 1 year
- Camera and lens for User:Jkadavoor

### **Microgrants**

The Wikimedia India Chapter provides micro grants for innovative projects from chapter members and the Wikimedia community and others aligned to its mission. All grantees are accountable for project expenses by line item, and are required to report on all projects.

Following are the approved funded microgrants –

- Bidar Wikipedia Edit-a-thon
- GLAM for Kolikata Little Magazine Library O Gabeshana Kendra
- Wiki Meetup@kottayam



## **Wikimedia Conference 2015**

Yohann Varun Thomas and Ravishankar Ayyakkannu participated in the [Wikimedia Conference 2015](#) on behalf of WMIN.

At the conference, Wikimedia India met with editors from Wikimedia Bangladesh and Nepal. In this meeting, a decision was made to create a SAARC regional collaboration group which will follow a similar model like Wikimedia CEE (Central & Eastern Europe), Wikimedia Indaba (African Countries collaboration) & Wikimedia Iberocop. Running a small article writing contest was decided to run in this model.

## **CC global summit 2015**

The 2015 CC Global Summit was held in Seoul, South Korea. The CC Korea team put forward an exciting bid, and have proven their experience and skill at planning conferences. The year of 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of the CC team in South Korea. On this occasion, 15-17<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Global summit took place & SAnket Oswal from WMIN represented India at the summit

## 15<sup>th</sup> Wikipedia Anniversary Celebrations



On the Occasion of 15years of Wikipedia, the editing community organized workshops all over India.

Wikimedia India helped organized some of the workshop in some cities & supported them with logistics. Please find below list of cities where 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations was held.

- Badaun, Uttar Pradesh
- Bangalore
- Gwalior
- Hyderabad
- Indore
- Jaipur
- Kolkata
- Kozhikode
- Puri
- Ranchi
- Mumbai
- Sangrur, Punjab
- Thiruvananthapuram
- Noida

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**Concept and Coordination:** Wikimedia India Chapter  
Executive Committee

