

Wikimedia Chapter (India)

7th Annual Report 2016-17



President's Message

The year 2016-2017 for Wikimedia India has been a period of limited growth for the organisation. This limited growth was due to various challenges faced by the Chapter of which primarily includes our expiration of the FCRA Prior Permission license. We are currently in process to apply for a new FCRA license & hopefully should start all our activities in full swing soon.

In spite of our limited Financial leeway available to us, we were still able to help support & organise WikiConference India Chandigarh 2016, which was one of the biggest Wikimedia events organised in India ever.

This event wouldn't have been possible without the massive support by the Indian community, especially the Punjabi community who were the organisers of the event.

Overall, 2016-17 was a very Program hectic year & the amazing performance of the chapter wouldn't have been possible without our office bearers. I 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 2017 consists of many young & as well as experienced board members. This brings an ideals mix of new enthusiasm as well as experience and age to the board.

This year also was a huge year of learning with a lot of progress & successes coupled with challenges which I shall be briefing below:

Finance

Due to the expiry of our FCRA Prior Permission license, we do not have permission by Ministry of Home affair to receive any foreign funds, which we usually get from Wikimedia Foundation(WMF).

Due to this, we currently have not received any funds or any grant to conduct any programmatic activities. Most of the activities done by the chapter are in collaboration with different community members who have individually applied for grants.

Community Building

The Wikimedia chapter always believes in capacity building of the Wikimedia community in India. We believe in facilitating team building within the community members to share their best practises which in turn helps in building a strong foundation of the community. We mainly achieved this aim of ours by organizing conferences at national and regional level. WikiConference India 2016 is one of the best such examples of this. 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 was able to successfully achieve many of its targets of the previous year which included organising the national level WikiConference India 2016. Apart from this, we were also successfully able to organise various editathons, workshops and online events like Wiki Loves Monuments & Wiki Loves Earth 2016. We were the highest photo uploading country amongst all the other countries who were participating in both Wiki Loves Monuments & Wiki Loves Earth 2016.

Many other workshops & events were organised which shall be discussed in depth later in the report

Working with CIS-A2K

Continuing with last year, Wikimedia India has deepened the relationship with CIS-A2K & were working very closely with them, especially in WikiConference India 2016 & also with the Train the Trainer Program (201) which has become a yearly affair with the Centre for Internet and Society. Wikimedia India has also been regularly having its quarterly updates with CIS-A2K which is strengthening the organisational ties

Challenges

2016 – 17 was a very challenging year for Wikimedia Chapter. A spate of resignations by the 2 Executive members brought the strength of the Executive Committee to just 5. Also, due to this, there was a general decline in the activities momentum of the chapter.

Another key challenge , which we have highlighted earlier was the expiry of the prior permission FCRA license which has financially affected our activities. The chapter is currently sustaining on donations by the supportive Wikimedia community & various other well-wishers. We plan to reapply of our new FCRA license very soon & kick start our activities to continue to support & build the Wikimedia community in India.

Continuation of Key role

In the year 2015-2016, in spite of all its challenges, Wikimedia India played a very major role in continuing to play a key role in the shaping & capacity building of the Wikimedia community.

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.

Rahul Deshmukh

President, Wikimedia India

29th October 2017

Bangalore-560034

Membership

Membership at end of March 2017 was at 205.

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

By State:

Andhra Pradesh 14

Bihar 2

Delhi 8

Gujarat 4

Haryana 14

Karnataka 14

Kerala 28

Maharashtra 33

Odisha 10

Punjab 28

Tamil Nadu 7

Telangana 13

Uttar Pradesh 5

West Bengal 22

By City:

Ahmedabad 4

Bangalore 13

Chandigarh 28

Coimbatore 5

Chennai 2

Hyderabad 13

Mumbai 20

Mysore 1

New Delhi 8

Patna 2

Pune 10

Raigad 1
Thane 3
Kochin 16

By category and gender:
Individual Male 166
Individual Female 39

Donations

Donations to Wikimedia India In the year 2016-17, Wikimedia India received many anonymous donations which were very small in nature. The total donations received during the financial year 2016-17 were Rs 5600. Out of these, the Minimum donation received was of Rs 100, & we received an average donation Rs 2154 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

WikiConference India 2016



WikiConference India 2016 was organised in Chandigarh from 5th to 7th August 2016. This event was organised by the Punjabi language community along with Wikimedia Chapter India & Centre for Internet & Society. This event was planned with the main purpose to provide a common platform for all Wikimedians in India to meet and share their views, discuss challenges and exchange useful tips, best practices and other information. The Conference has a very distinct Indian flavor and deals primarily with issues relating to India on Wikipedia and its sister projects.

The conference was a 3 day event which consisted of many panel discussions, editathons, workshops presentations by community members, QR code tracks, OSR related workshops, meetups, introduction to other Wikimedia projects like Wikidata, MediaWiki, WikiVoyage, Wikisource & different case studies presented by many community members. You can find the complete lineup of the event including its etherpad links here -

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiConference_India_2016/Programs



The Chief guests of the conference were Katherine Maher, Executive Director of Wikimedia Foundation, Nataliia Tymkiv, Board Member of Wikimedia Foundation & Asaf Bartov, Senior Program Officer of Wikimedia Foundation

Key events of the conference included the opening ceremony, the key note speech by Katherine Maher, Panel discussion about the future of Wikimedia in India, the WikiWomen Lunch on day 2 & the closing ceremony, which was widely attended by all the participants of the event.

To make the conference a truly national level event,& to ensure a country wide participation of the Indian community, 100+ scholarships were awarded to applicants from 23 Indian Wikimedia language communities who went through a rigorous scholarship application process. You can find the detailed application process here -

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WikiConference_India_2016/Scholarships

As a precursor to the event, there was a Punjabi editathon in which articles related to Punjab were created in different Indian languages on Wikipedia. This was a tribute by the other language wikipedias for organising the 2nd WikiConference India .

Planning of Visit of Katherine Maher to India

Wikimedia India was involved in the finalization of Agenda for visit of Katherine Maher. A synopsis of these meetings has been described below.

Meeting with Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi

On 8th August, 11 AM, Mr Manish Siosdia (Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi) had an interaction with Katherine Maher. The Delhi Government had expressed its intent to conduct a Wiki-activity in Indian languages on Mahatma Gandhi in September month, such that Delhi Government could further facilitate (small souvenirs) the contributors on 2nd October as a part of the Mahatma Gandhi's birthday celebration. Delhi Government is also looking at possible interventions where GLAM activities could be undertaken. Incorporating Wikimedia projects under Delhi Government's free-public wifi scheme has also been proposed.

Department of Electronics and Information Technology Meeting

On 8th August, 1 PM, Wikimedians met Mr. Rajiv Bansal, Joint Secretary, Government of India, Department of Electronics and Information Technology at this office in Delhi. The talks centered around bringing DIETY newsletter under open license, a collaboration between Government of India and WMIN + CIS-A2K over government's vikaspedia, drawing attention to Indian language content to be released under Creative Commons, Collaboration with the ministry towards making the government websites include better and accurate language content, etc.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Meeting

On 8th August, 5.30 PM. Wikimedians met Dr Ramesh Gaur (Head Library-JNU) and Dr Anup Das (Documentation Officer). JNU will be opening up its central repository of thesis (almost 22,000 units, including PhDs, M.Phil and Master's Program) under open access. JNU will be assisting us in providing journal articles to our editors for use on Wikipedia. 'One Lib One Ref' workshop at JNU would also be conducted in JNU shortly (maybe in September). JNU also has shown its intent at digitization Dr B.R. Ambedkar's writing under the Hindi Wikisource. Further collaborations during seminars at JNU on Wikisource projects would also be taken up. The meeting was arranged by Wikimedia India and attended by Katherine Maher along with Wikimedia India EC's (Sanket Oswal, Abhinav Srivastava)

Community Building

- The Featured Wikimedian of the month has been going on very successfully for the last 2 years. We have been able to bring forward new & upcoming Wikimedians who are contributing immensely to the movement. You can find the list of the wikimedians for 2016 here -

http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Featured_Wikimedian/Archive

- The Wikipedia Meetup Hyderabad9 was the ninth edition of Wikipedia/Wikimedia Meetup in Hyderabad held on 15th of May, 2016. The meetup was held as a part of a monthly get-together of Wikipedians (contributors and users), predominantly Telugu Wikipedians- to meet up, discuss ongoing projects, share experiences, reach out and advocate for Wikipedia and Wikimedia.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Hyderabad/Hyderabad9>

- The Wikipedia Meetup Pune was held on 21st May, 2016. The meetup is held as a part of a series of regular get-togethers of Wikipedians (contributors and users) - which majorly consist of Marathi contributors. The main agenda was to discuss the ongoing projects, reach outs and experience sharing.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Pune/Pune23>

- Wiki Summit Nashik was organized on 26th June 2016 at IEI hall, Nashik. The event provided a common platform for all Wikimedians to meet and share their views, discuss challenges and exchange useful tips, best practices and other information. The Summit was open for participation of existing editors and for students who wish to learn Wikipedia editing. This summit was funded by Wikimedia Foundation & supported by Wikimedia India.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Project/Rapid/Wikipedia_Nashik_Mee tup_%26_Workshops

- After being inactive for more than 2 years, Wikimedia India aimed to reactivate the Delhi community & start having regular Delhi meetups. Such a meetup was planned on 30th July 2016. In spite of the heavy rains in Delhi, Wikipedians from the city were able to meet & strategize for the future.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/Delhi/Delhi13>

- **SAARC Meeting at the WikiConference India 2016** - This meeting was in continuation with the past meetup done by Wikimedians from the countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal & Pakistan in past Wikimedia Conferences conducted by Wikimedia Foundation in Berlin in 2015 & Wikimania Mexico. This meetup consisted of members from members of Wikimedia Bangladesh, Wikimedia India, Representatives of Wikimedia Nepal & Wikimedia Pakistan represented by editors of Urdu Wikipedia Community. One of the ideas presented by the attendees was to conduct a SAARC regional conference for Wikimedians. To reach this goal, it was agreed to take a first step by setting up a Mailing list amongst the chapters of the 4 countries.

- During WikiConference India 2016, representatives from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held a short meeting. One of the outcomes of the meetings was to create a SAARC mailing list. SAARC mailing is the first attempt for SAARC Wikimedians to come on a common platform for discussions and doing programs together. The interested Indian community members may subscribe to the mailing list.

<https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikimedia-saarc>

- Rudra Pratap Sinha will be representing the Indian community & Wikimedia India at the Lua Workshop which took place in San Francisco, CA, on October 13–14, 2016 .

<http://www.lua.org/wshop16.html>

Organizational Updates

- As a step to nurture Wikimedia India into in fact even bigger roles such that it realizes its mission, beliefs and goals more efficiently, Wikimedia India has decided to setup an advisory committee. Advisory committee would be a panel of experts with different expertise and connections with the chapter could rely on to get specific advice. However, They are not a "committee" in the usual sense to discuss all issues together and provide consensus. While the chapter relies on senior and experienced members from the community, it would now also try to enroll people outside Wiki movement. This should be an ongoing process. The chapter decided to select its first in-office advisers : Karthik Nadar, Satdeep Gill, Yann Forget, Dhaval Vyas
http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Advisory_Committee

- On 9 January, Wikimedia India Chapter has published its final draft of Conflict of Interest policy and had been opened for the community to review. The Col policy is intended to permit the Chapter and its EC members, officers, and executives to identify, evaluate, and address any real, potential, or apparent conflicts of interest that might, in fact or in appearance, call into question their duty of undivided loyalty to the Chapter. The policy is expected to be updated as the organization evolves.
http://wiki.wikimedia.in/Conflict_of_interest_policy

- Wikimedia India's website layout has remained the same since its inception in 2011 With an outdated server & firmware, and the website facing downtime with periodic snags, a decision was made to upgrade the server & also the interface of the Wikimedia India website In the months of October & November, the software was upgraded & migrated to the new software. With a new interface & updated layout, the website of Wikimedia India is now better than ever. Naveen Francis & Ranjith Siji played a key role in this upgradation.

Major Events & Activities

Wiki Loves Earth 2016



This Picture is taken behind Nirar Dam at Valparai, Tamil nadu overlooking the beautiful Annamalai R.F division (Indra Gandhi Wildlife Reserve) by User:JohnJoelraj . This Won the first prize in Wiki Loves Earth India 2016.

Wiki Loves Earth (WLE) is an annual international photographic competition that will commence in June, organized worldwide by the Wikipedia community members with the help of local Wikimedia affiliates across the globe.

Wikimedia India is conducting this competition in India. Participants will take pictures of local natural heritage and scenic landscape in their countries, and upload them to Wikimedia Commons.

The aim of event is to highlight the conservation areas of the participating countries with the goal to encourage people to capture pictures of these sights, and to put them under a free licence which can then be re-used not only in Wikipedia but everywhere by everyone.

The results for Wiki Loves Earth 2016 India edition were announced in August. With over 32,000+ images uploaded for the competition by 6,000+ Contributors, the competition saw a phenomenal response from India.

Wiki Loves Monuments 2016



This Picture is of the Qutb Shahi tombs in Hyderabad. Photograph was taken by Alaka123. This Won the second prize in Wiki Loves Monuments India 2016.

Wiki Loves Monuments is an international photo contest around cultural heritage monuments in September. Starting from the Netherlands in 2010 and organized on a European level in 2011 and global level in 2012.

The basic concept is that people are invited to upload images of monumental objects under a free license for usage on Wikipedia. The main aim of the competition is to try to get complete lists of all the Indian monuments on Wikipedia, including photo. This gives a great and unique overview of the cultural heritage in India, which in turn, will also help complete many articles relating to India. After going through more than 37,000 images from 1784 participants, the Top 10 images were announced . You can find the winners here-

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Commons:Wiki_Loves_Monuments_2016_in_India/Winners

The WLM India core team comprised of Abhinav Srivastava, Kiran RaviKumar, Karthik Nadar, Naveen Francis, Sanket Oswal, Santosh Shringare and Yohann Thomas. WLM was funded by Wikimedia Foundation, Wikimedia India Chapter for joining hands and WLM International team for the support received throughout the competition.

Wikipedia Asia Month

With the 2016's iteration of the online edit-a-thon, taking place in November 2016, the purpose of Asian Month on the English Wikipedia is to improve the quantity and quality of articles relating to Asian countries. In 2015, over 7,000 articles were contributed in 43 languages in Wikipedia Asian Month. This year too, more than 500 users have enrolled themselves to contribute to this online edit-a-thon.

As a symbol of friendship between Wikipedia's Asian communities, each participant who creates at least four (4) articles that fulfill the criteria will receive a specially designed Wikipedia postcard from other participating countries. Wikipedians who create the most articles on each Wikipedia will be honored as "Wikipedia Asian Ambassadors".

This year, Wikimedia India took an active role in the activities & were one of the participating affiliates of the event.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Asian_Month

Rio Olympics editathon

As a mark of respect and paying tribute to Indian athletes and sportsperson who represent India at Olympics, Wikimedia India in 2016 comes forward with an edit-a-thon to celebrate the success of Indian sportsmen. A list of 100 articles of different Indian participants of the Rio Olympics 2016 were made & as part of the editathon, all these articles were to be created in all the Indian Wikipedia languages. This event consisted of 150 participants who created 750 articles in different languages.

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/WMIN/Events/India_At_Rio_Olympics_2016_Edit-a-thon



Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge...

That's what we're doing!!

Multimedia Attributes

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Concept and Coordination: Wikimedia India Chapter Executive Committee