Newsletter

2010 September
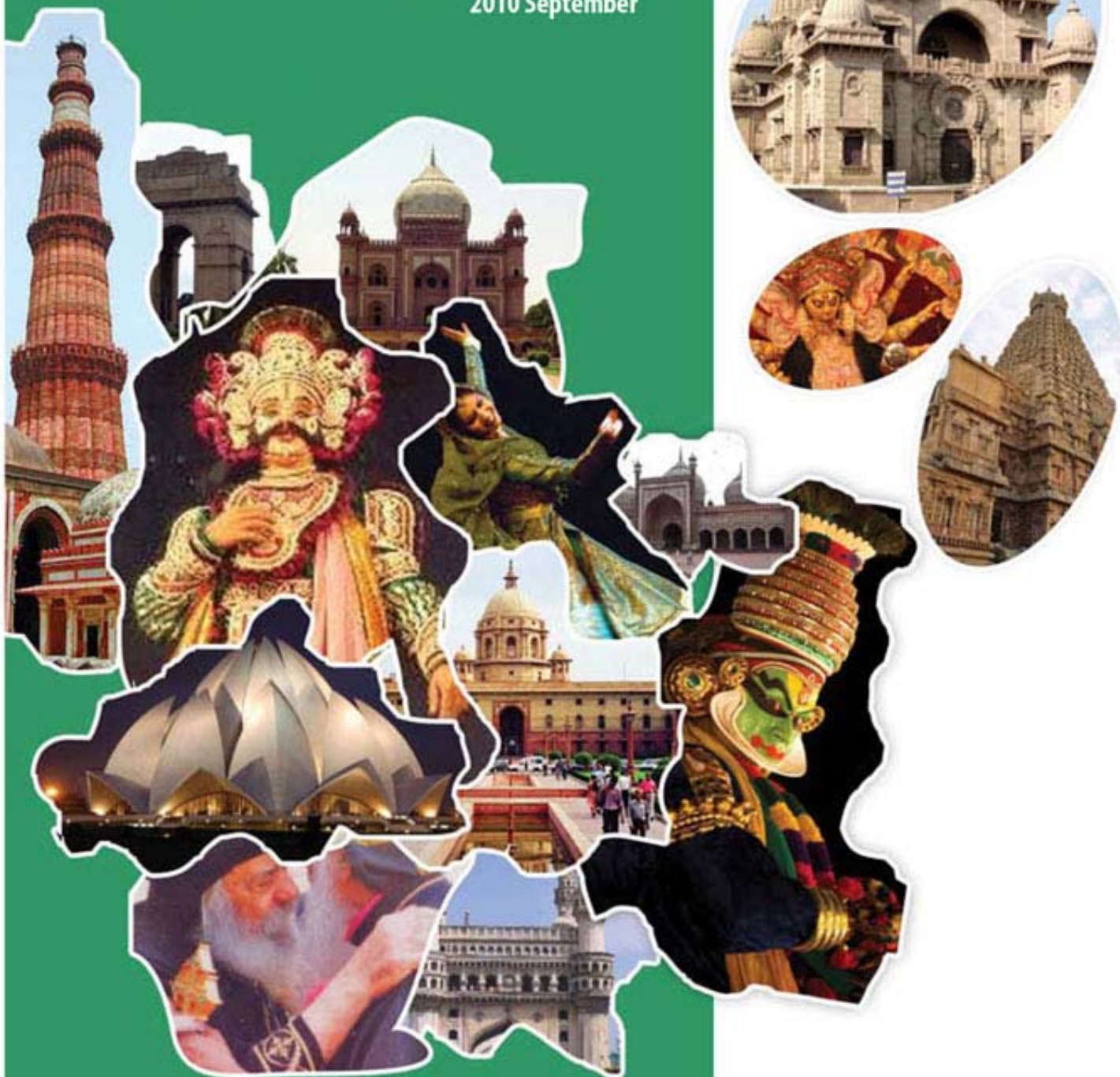
Wikimedia India Community

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About This Newsletter

Dear Indian Wikimedians,

It gives us intense pleasure to be the part of a team which consists of some of the active wikimedians from various Indian language wiki communities. Yes, finally we were able to bring out the Newsletter about the activities of different Indian language wiki communities.

The aim of this news letter is to bring together the wiki communities of all the Indian languages (including the Indian wikimedians working in English wiki projects) by sharing the news about their various activities. This is the first edition of this newsletter. For time being, the frequency of newsletter is planned for once in 3 or 4 months. Even though we have Wikipedias available in more than 20 Indian languages (See Appendix 1 on page 27 for a detailed list of wiki projects), currently only 8 wiki communities are active enough to contribute to this newsletter. When more wiki communities become active and more people join this effort we can think about a monthly newsletter. Wikimedia India chapter will have a greater role to play in this regard. Read more about the current status of the Wikimedia India chapter on page 7.

As you all know, we don't have an example to follow. Ours is a unique case that involves many languages and many wiki projects. There are lot technical and usability issues that are common to all the Indian languages. Bringing different language wiki communities together itself is a very big task.

How can we bring together all the Indian wiki communities? What is the need of it? Will sharing community news help other language wiki projects? Many of the above questions are answered or will be answered in future through Wikimedia India Newsletter. As the interaction increases and the information is shared, we are sure this initiative will benefit various Indian Language wiki communities.

You can see from the Newsletter that all the wiki communities that contributed content to this Newsletter are organizing various outreach programs to popularize their wiki projects among the speakers of the respective language. That is, their wiki activism is not confined to wiki editing. They conduct workshops, wiki meet-ups, exhibitions, seminars, and so on to popularize wiki. Tamil wikimedians have conducted wiki workshops even out side of India (Canada, Europe). Malayalam wikimedians had released an offline version of the selected wikipedia articles. All these programs had helped to increase the awareness about the wiki projects among the speakers of that language.

Even though the current format of the Newsletter is PDF, various other formats needs to be explored as we move forward. But since the content is huge there might be many design challenges for each format.

We thank all who had supported, criticized, and provided various suggestions to improve this newsletter.

Regards

Newsletter team

2010 September 24

Newsletter Team

The work on this newsletter was started on 2010 July. Following are the members of the newsletter team who contributed to this newsletter in various ways during the past 2 months.

Technical team
- Project coordination: Shiju Alex
- Typesetting, template design, and other technical support: Junaid P.V.
- Newsletter cover page and back page design: Rajesh Odayanchal

Content team
Following members provided community news about different Indian language wiki communities.

Bengali:
- Belayet Hossain
- Jayantanth
- Ragib Hasan

English
- Naveen PF
- Srikanth Lakshmanan
- Tinu Cherian

Hindi:
- Mayur Kumar

Kannada:
- Hari Prasad Nadig and other Kannada wikipedians

Malayalam:
- Praveen P.
- Raziman T.V.
- Simy Nazareth
- Shiju Alex
- Junaid P.V.
- Thachan makan
- Jacob Jose
- Rajesh Varma

Marathi:
- Mahitgar
- Abhay Natu
- Sankalp Dravid

Tamil:
- Mayoora Nathan
- C.R. Selva Kumar
- Ravi Dreams
- Sundar

Telugu:
- Arjuna Rao C.
- Ravi Vyzasatya
- Veeven
- Sujatha Thummapudi
- Bhaskara Rao Chimakurthy
- Ravi Chandra Enaganti

The Wikimedia India Community: Where We Are Now

In India, the Wikimedia community tends to be quite different from Wikimedia communities in other parts of the world. For one thing, India has number of language communities apart from English. Within India, Wikipedias - of various strength and size - exist in about 20 Indian languages. Another 20 Indian language Wikipedias are in incubator stage. Given that there are literally over a 100 languages with more than 100,000 speakers, it is worth noting that there is a long way to go - and many more Indian language Wikipedias to come

Appendix 1 on page 27 lists the Wikimedia projects in Indian languages (including the wikipedias in incubator) and Appendix 2 on page 31 lists the geographical distribution of the speakers of Indian languages having wikipedia.

English And Native Indian Language Wiki Communities

Indians working on English Wikipedia form perhaps the most active Wikimedia community in the country. This might be surprising for many people outside India, but within, it is fairly obvious that English is an important Indian language (it is one of India's "official" languages) and also the most significant bridging language between different language groups. Indeed, English is the language that connects Wikimedians from various language groups in India. What we call the "mother tongue" (i.e. the native Indian language of one's parents) is usually not English, and yet for a number of people, English remains the preferred operating language in educational, professional and online life.

As much as English Wikipedia is a crucial aspect of India's presence on Wikimedia, the growth of projects in Indian languages is equally important. Unfortunately, awareness of the fact that Wikipedias exist in Indian languages is minimal - and while several language speakers have been trained to look for news and entertainment information online, they tend to be largely unaware of the significant presence of Indian language material on Wikimedia.

Current Status Of Indian Language Wiki Communities

While some Indian language Wikimedia communities are very active (most of these are in South India), that is not the case with all Indian language communities. In general, a smart way of thinking about the growth of Indian language Wikipedias is to consider each language community distinctly, as each region - and its speakers - bring a unique set of circumstances, challenges and opportunities to the table.

Punjabi has 88 million speakers the world over and Punjabi Wkipedia was the first Indian language Wikipedia. It started way back in June, 2002 June. Today, surprisingly, it is relatively inactive, and shows very little growth in terms of the number of articles. Even though Punjabi Wikipedia has been in existence for more than 8 years, it hardly has 2000 articles. Why is this so?

In the case of the Oriya language, it has 31 million speakers (almost the same number as those who speak Malayalam and Kannada). And Oriya wikipedia also started off in June, 2002. Yet, today - 8 years later - Oriya Wikipedia has less than 700 articles. Once again, the question is, why is this so? How is the lack of activity in Oriya Wikipedia similar to or different from Punjabi Wikipedia?

An interesting case is that of the Bishnupriya Manipuri Wikipedia. Bishnupriya Manipuri is a language that has just 500,000 speakers and yet Bishnupriya Manipuri Wikipedia is one of the fairly successful Indian language Wikpedias with more than 24,000 articles to date, which shows that it is not only the number of speakers of a language that is determining the state of its presence on Wikipedia.

Languages like Assamese, Kashmiri and Sindhi are yet fledgling projects and require the help and supoprt of the Indian community to get off the ground. Many such Indian languages require to be urgently supported by a few dedicated people.

Interaction Between Language Communities

Bringing Wikimedia communities of different Indian languages together (including English) is a big challenge. Even though we have more than 20 successful Indian language Wikipedias, not all their communities are active. There is particularly little interaction between different groups working on Wikipedias in native Indian languages. One of the main reasons for this is the absence of a forum for interaction between language communities. The hope is that to some extent this newsletter will bridge that gap.

Awareness About The Sister Projects

Wikipedia has, of course, various sister projects like Wikisource, Wiktionary, Wikimedia Commons, Wikibooks, Wikiquote,Wikinews, Wikiversity, and so on. Many Wikimedians in India are not aware about the fact that many of these projects are available in most of the Indian languages. Surprisingly, in some cases, Wikipedians who work in a local language are not aware that there are sister projects in the same language. Yet, projects like Wikisource and Wiktionary have huge potential in all Indian languages. It is surprising to note that a language like Sanskrit still does not have its own Wikisource domain (though a few Sanskrit source texts are in incubator at http://wikisource.org).

Community members who edit in Bengali are giving special attention to Wikisource. Tamil editors are actively adding to Tamil Wiktionary. But this is not so for most Indian languages, and currently, the focus seems to be almost solely on Wikipedia.

Appendix 1 on page 27 lists Wikimedia projects where Indian languages have a presence: sadly, even to the extent that they exist, many of these projects are inactive.

Wikipedia's sister projects clearly need your attention too!

Awareness About The Mailing Lists

Most communities are yet to start a mailing list to communicate across users. In most Indian language Wikipedias, the only method of communication available is through talk pages. Many communities are not even aware that they can create a Wikimedia mailing list for communication. Perhaps it is time that all language communities make use of mailing lists.

There is a Wikimedia India mailing list that is meant to draw Wikimedians from every sphere (and language, or interest in India) together. Unfortunately, many Wikimedians - even some of the more active ones - are not yet aware that this list exists.

The Wikimedia India mailing list is at: https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikimediaindia-l

Do join!

The Wikimedia India Chapter

The Wikimedia India chapter was approved by the Chapters Committee of the Wikimedia Foundation (and subsequently ratified and announced by Wikimedia's Board of Trustees) in June 2010. The India chapter is a great start - a great way of bringing together disparate groups of Wikimedians in India, and serving the community to take it forward - as well as, of course, building a newer, stronger, more active and more populous movement in India. Please get involved: see page 7 to know more about the Wikimedia India chapter.

Shiju Alex and **Achal Prabhala**

About Wikimedia Foundation India Chapter

Wikimedia Foundation's India Chapter has had a long history. First efforts to set up a chapter began in 2004 September with an IRC meeting and efforts continued through 2007 November when there was another round of discussions on the India mailing list and draft bye-laws were drawn up. However, the efforts received a huge boost with two things, first, Sue Gardner and Jimmy Wales visited Bangalore in 2008 December and second, regular Wiki-meetups in Bangalore that were made possible by the Centre for Internet and Society. In 2009 July, discussions and activity commenced and this culminated with India becoming the 29th chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation in 2010 July.

While the Chapter has been recognised by the Foundation, we are still waiting to become a registered organisation in India (Karnataka) – the process is however underway, and registration is expected shortly. The next step is to qualify for tax exemption. Regardless, there are several chapter activities that can commence prior to registration (work that does not involve funds) and even more at every stage in the registration process.

The Chapter has a fundamental mission of catalysing the usage and editorship of Wikipedia in India with a focus on fostering Indic language content. To this end, there are multiple tracks the Chapter will need to take to achieve this overall goal - Content, Technology, Outreach, Collaborations, Offline Work, creating Special Interest Groups and Projects.

Gautam John

Wikimedia India chapter executive committee member

Executive Committee Members Of Wikimedia India Chapter

Following are the members of the executive committee of Wikimedia India chapter.

- Arun Ramarathnam, 39, IT Professional, President
- BalaSundaraRaman Lakshmanan, 29, Software Engineer, Secretary
- Arjuna Rao Chavala, 45, Software Engineer, Member
- Anirudh Singh Bhati, 23, Student, Member
- Gautam K John, 30, Consultant, Member
- Hari Prasad H S, 26, Independent Software Developer & Consultant, Member
- Srinivas Gunta, 35, Researcher, Member

Foreword – Jimmy Wales

Dear Wikimedians of India,

I am very excited to have been invited to write an introductory foreword for this, the first edition of the quarterly Wikimedia India newsletter. As many of you know, India has long been a favourite of mine, and I travel to India as often as I can. India is one of the most exciting places for Wikimedia thanks to people like you.

We now have more than 20 Indian language Wikipedias. As you all know better than I do, there are many different technical and usability issues that are common to the Indian languages. I am a strong believer that interaction and cooperation between the different language users of India will help us all to better understand and resolve these issues for the millions of users soon to arrive on the Internet for the first time.

But I also think that - beyond just the technical issues - there is enormous value and joy in having friends who are facing the same issues and having the same kind of fun in different languages. We all like to laugh over some silly edits that were made by an anonymous IP number, or to sadly smile over some annoying person who can't abide by neutrality. All of these things are better with others by our side.

Please accept my warm wishes and hopes for the future, and I hope to meet as many of you as I can on upcoming trips to India!

Jimmy Wales
2010 August 10

Foreword – Bishaka Datta

Dear all,

When I look five years down the road, where do I see wikimedians in India? I see us everywhere. Speaking in tongues. Editing in the languages in which we think and dream. Gathering at meet-ups in metros, big cities, small towns, university clubs. Roping in newcomers. Holding academies for engineering students, at tech companies, for home makers and at women's colleges. Adding information about the things that we hold important to our lives. Writing ourselves into the world. Constructing our own sub-cultures, histories, and domains of knowledge. Brick by brick. Word by word. Edit by edit.

And how do I imagine wikipedia five years later? Hopefully, emerging as the first online point of reference for readers not just in English, but in the more than 20 indic languages in which it already exists. Whenever I tell journalists in India that there are already wikipedias in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, Malayalam, Bengali etc. (to name just a few), they are completely dumbfounded. Nobody knows. Or at least not enough people know. And even fewer of them know that they can edit and build wikipedia in these languages too.

I think the Wikimedia India newsletter is truly something whose time has come. I see it playing many many roles – helping wikimedians interact across the silos of language, providing a forum to learn about each other's projects, creating a platform for sharing experiences, giving us a voice, showcasing wikipedia to interested persons, reaching out to media, and bringing wikimedians together while allowing us to hold our own unique identities.

Congratulations to everybody who dreamed, thought, wrote, edited and created this newsletter. Good luck and let's keep it going!

Bishakha Datta[*]
2010 August 31

*Bishakha Datta serves on the board of directors of Wikimedia Foundation and she is based in Mumbai, India. She is a journalist and film-maker, best known for her work documenting the role of women in different aspects of Indian society.

Bengali Wiki Projects – Community News

Following Wikimedia Projects are available in Bengali:

Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	বাংলা উইকিপিডিয়া (vikipedia)	http://bn.wikipedia.org
Wikisource	উইকিসংকলন (vikisangkalan)	http://bn.wikisource.org
Wikibooks	উইকিবই (vikiboi)	http://bn.wikibooks.org
Wiktionary	উইকিঅভিধান (vikiavidhan)	http://bn.wiktionary.org

Bengali Wikipedia

Bengali Wikipedia is the biggest wiki in Bengali Language and the most active wiki among all the Wikimedia Projects in Bengali. As of 2010 July Bengali Wikipedia has over 21,500 articles. The site has over 14,600 site registered users. Bengali Wikipedia has 8 administrators. Among 8 administrators, 2 are from India and the rest are from Bangladesh. According to List of Wikipedias (http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedias) Bengali Wikipedia has page depth 102, which is the second among all the Indian language Wikipedias after Malayalam.

উইকিপিডিয়া
একটি মুক্ত বিশ্বকোষ

Fully localized mobile interface (http://bn.m.wikipedia.org/) is available for Bengali Wikipedia with a nice homepage portal.

Bengali Wikisource

Bengali Wikisource is the youngest Wikimedia project in Bengali language. Bengali Wikisource started on 2007 September right after Wikimania 2007. But this wiki is the second most active after Bengali Wikipedia. Very recently Bengali Wikisource has been crossed the 5,000 pages milestone. Bengali Wikisource has the literary works of many prominent writers of Bengali language including Rabindranath Tagore. According to List of Wikisource (http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikisource) page, Bengali Wikisource is now at rank 21 among 56 Wikisource based on number of content pages.

Other Projects In Bangla

Other than Wikipedia and Wikisource, Wiktionary and Wikibooks projects are available in Bengali language. But they are least active projects in Bengali. Recently there is some initiative from the community to increase the contributor at the project. The community is so active in collection and upload free licensed regional photos at Wikimedia Commons site. Also community localized 100% of most often used messages and 85% of MediaWiki messages at http://translatewiki.net. Also community is active in translation of site notice messages at Meta site.

Bengali Wikimedia Community

The members of Bengali Wikimedia Community are mainly from Bangladesh and from the West Bengal. From 2005, to promote Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects, the community members from Bangladesh have focused on Bengali blog sites and have written numerous blogs related to projects and activities in different popular blog sites. Bangladeshi Wikimedia community identifies that Bengali blog sites are the place where Bengali Wikimedia projects can get a good number of contributors who can type Bengali in Unicode at their PC.

In different occasions, Bangladeshi members of the community have published news items in the national newspapers regarding the projects and the activities to spread the words of Wikipedia to the mass people all over the country. They regularly arrange physical or online meet-ups in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, and in regional towns. They already conducted some workshops on Wikipedia in different universities with help of local Open Source communities. To collect free licensed photos related to Bangladesh for Wikimedia projects, the Bangladeshi Wikimedia community has campaigned several times and collected and uploaded thousands of photos in Wikimedia Commons for use in Wikipedia and other projects. Also, they are working with local individuals and organizations to collect photos and references about Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi Wikimedia community is planning to form Wikimedia Chapter called "Wikimedia Bangladesh". Wikimedia Bangladesh now has a meta page, a mailing list, Facebook page and twitter account to contact with them. The URLs are:

- Page at Meta Wiki: http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Bangladesh
- Mailing list: https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikimedia-bd
- Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/WikimediaBD
- Twitter: http://twitter.com/wikimediaBD

Recent Advocacy Programs

- 2010 August 3: Published press release at national Bengali newspapers in occasion of achieving "5,000 pages milestone" of Bengali Wikisource. Weblink:http://prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2010-08-03/news/83464

- 2010 August 2: Bengali Wikimedians at Bangladesh have organized "Wikipedia Workshop" at Dhaka with the support of local Open Source community.

Picture 2: Dhaka Workshop, 2010 August

- 2010 July 28: There was a Wikipedia meet up at an historical place Bahadurshah Park in Old part of Dhaka.

- 2010 July 23: Published article at national Bengali newspaper on "Wikimania 2010". Web link: http://www.prothom-alo.com/detail/date/2010-07-23/news/80847

Other News

- On 2010 June 30 the Usability Initiative deployment has been done at Bengali Wikipedia and switch to "Vector" from "Monobook" as default interface.

Picture 3: Wikimania 2010 participants from Bangla community.

- From Bengali Wikimedian community Belayet Hossain (User:Bellayet) and Nasir Khan (User:Nasir8891) have participated in Wikimania 2010, held in Gdansk, Poland

- Bengali Wikipedia was the subject of The Telegraph (Kolkata)'s top story on July 14, 2010. In an article titled "Wiki Learns a Lesson in Bengali", the Telegraph discussed how Bengali Wikipedia took the stance of not allowing low-quality automated and paid assisted translations. Bengali Wikipedians Ragib Hasan, Belayet Hossain, and Jayanta Nath talked about different issues related to this decision. Weblink: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100714/jsp/frontpage/story_12681775.jsp

- New York Times also mentioned the posture of Bengali Wikipedian community regarding Google generated content for Wikipedia at an article titled "How Can Wikipedia Grow? Maybe in Bengali". Web link:http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/12/business/media/12link.html?_r=2&src=busln

Indian Community In English Wiki Projects – Community News

English wikipedia is the flagship project of Wikimedia foundation. English wikipedia is edited by wikimedians from all parts of the world. There are many wikipedians from India contributing to English Wikipedia. Perhaps Indians working in English wikipedia is one of the most active wiki community from India. Following are some of the main wiki projects in English language.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://en.wikipedia.org/
Wikisource	http://en.wikisource.org/
Wiktionary	http://en.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://en.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	http://en.wikiquote.org/

Introduction

Indian wikipedians actively contribute to English wikipedia on various topics not limiting to India related ones. There are more than 75 Indian or Indian orgin editors with more than 5,000 edits on English wikipedia. Indian wiki community is dedicated to mainly improving Wikipedia's coverage of topics related to the Republic of India and the history and culture of the Indian subcontinent.The efforts of Indian Wikipedians in English wikipedia is coordinated through Wikiproject India.

Wikiproject India

A WikiProject is a project by a group of editors to manage and collaborate articles on a specific topic or family of topics within the Wikipedia. WikiProject India or WP:INDIA is one of the largest Wikiprojects on the English Wikipedia. It is a group dedicated to improving Wikipedia's coverage of topics related to the Republic of India and the history and culture of Indian subcontinent. The project was started by veteran Wikipedian User:Ganeshk in 2006 July. There were only 35 featured articles and 2 GAs, related to India, during the start of the WikiProject.

The goals of this group are three-fold:

- provide guidelines and recommendations for articles that describe aspects of India.

- improve Wikipedia's coverage of India by creating, expanding, and maintaining factual articles.

- serve as the point of discussion for issues related to India in Wikipedia.

To achieve the above goals, this project group has developed features to help in managing its creative work. It includes Departments, which coordinate work on certain tasks, such as peer review or project-wide collaboration and Work Groups, and focus on content and articles related to India, such as cities, politics and culture.

Departments include – Assessment, Automation, Cartography, Collaboration, Outreach, Peer review, Photography, Translation, and Anti Vandalism. Tasks of department include authoring, maintaining the project pages, administering portals, adding articles, reviews, managing the project, and so on.

Workgroups include – Geography (we have wikigroups for each state and UTs), Religion, Media & communications (One each for Cinema and Television).We have dedicated workgroups for Maps of India and Transport systems in India. We also have Indian wikipedians who contribute to various other global communities like for UN workgroups, Cricket workgroups and different scientific / technology / cultural workgroups/wikiprojects.

It now has around 48 workgroups on India related sub-topics and ~350 active members under WP:INDIA. Every India state now has an active workgroup. The project currently has 78,000+ India related articles under the project scope, with 60 Featured Articles (FA), 16 featured lists, and 132 Good articles (GA). Project newsletters were started as early as in 2006 September.

Featured Articles dropped from 68 in June 2009 to 60 while GA articles grew from 86 to 132 in Sep 2010. The maximum number of India related FA articles ever reached were 72. The drop in the FA articles motivated wikipedians to work on improving the quality of articles on India, which can be attributed to rise of India related GAs.

Portal:India, the flag ship portal of the WikiProject, was started by User:Arunram in 2005 February.

Translation Department

The translation department of the WikiProject India aims to utilize high-quality non-English material related to India for the goals of the project. This includes both translating articles from and to other-language Wikipedias as well as assisting contributors with non-English sources. The department aims to provide services in transliteration, formulating scripts for various

languages, as well as translating articles from one language to another and validating sources in other languages to that of the encyclopedia article.

Other Activities

- India Quiz or WP:PINQ is a popular forum of interaction among Indian Wikipedians. It run as a friendly competition among Wikipedians to test and improve the knowledge of India.

- India Noticeboard WT:INB / Wikipedia talk:Noticeboard for India-related topics" is the the centre of discussion on Indian articles and other India related stuff on Wikipedia.

- Wikicamp @ Chennai in 2007 February 25 was attended by Jimmy Wales. It was attended by over 300 Wiki enthusiasts from all around India.

- User:Ganeshk's bot created articles on 5000 Indian towns based on 2001 census data.

- A picture shot in India, won the Commons:Picture of the Year contest 2009. Translations of the description in Indian languages are solicited.

- WP:IND/UBLP effort brought down the number of unreferenced BLPs from 1500+ to 560.

- User:TinucherianBot works on auto-tagging india related articles with project banners based on India related categories and auto assessment based on stub categories or other Wikiproject banners on the same article talk page.

- WP:WTCI, photo hunt based on Wikipedia Takes City was organised as part of Madras day celebration 2009 and got us 30+ pictures to commons.More photo hunts needs to be planned across India.

- English wikipedians User:Arunram, User: Naveenpf, User:Rsrikanth05 conducted a wiki academy for Sanskrit Wikipedia.

Did You Know (DYK)

Did you know (DYK) facts are trivia picked up from newly created/expanded wikipedia articles and displayed on the main page.

Over 1300 India related articles have appeared on the DYK (Did You Know) section on English Wikipedia main page in the last 5 years.

User:Nvvchar an Indian Wikipedian, Septuagenarian is one of the top 15 DYK creators globally with 246 DYKs.

A twitter account @DYKIndia, was created to tweet India related DYK facts with link to article everyday through a script written by User:Logicwiki.

Indian Wikipedians In English - Few Statistics

- There are more than 45 Indian or Indian orgin editors with more than 10,000 edits on English Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:IND_EDITS.

- 20 Indian wikipedians are Admins of English Wikipedia.

- User:Bhadani, an Indian Wikipedian is in one of the top 20 contributors on English Wikipedia globally.

- Indian wikipedians from English Wikipedia who attended annual Wikimanias includes User:Gurubrahma, User:Sir Nicholas de Mimsy-Porpington, User:Arjunaraoc, User:Sundar, User:Tinucherian and User:Nichalp.

- User: Nichalp, a retired editor and former bureaucrat, is credited with 17 feartured articles and 5 featured lists related to India.

- The Indian Barnstar of National Merit is given to Wikipedians in recognition to exemplary contribution to the project and has been awarded to more than 100 Wikipedians.

Hindi Wiki Projects – Community News

The name of the each Hindi wiki project , its transliteration, and the URL are provided below:

Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	विकिपीडिया (vikipeediaa)	http://hi.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	विकि-शब्दकोश (viki shabdakosh)	http://hi.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	विकिताब (vikitaab)	http://hi.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	विकिसूक्ति (vikisuukthi)	http://hi.wikiquote.org/

Brief History

Hindi Wikipedia is the Hindi language edition of Wikipedia. It was launched on 2003 July.

Hindi Wikipedia had crossed 10,000 articles on 2007 December 6. The milestone of 50,000 articles was crossed on 2009 September 14.

Hindi wikipedia is the biggest wikipedia project among all the Indian languages in terms of total number of articles and the number of registered users.

Current Status

As of 2010 August 31, Hindi Wikipedia had 56,000 articles, 34,000 registered users, and 278 active users. Hindi Wikipedia has 5 bureaucrats, 24 Admins, 9 reviewers and 43 bots.

Hindi Wikipedians aim to provide most important articles to their readers. The quality of Hindi Wikipedia articles can be measured from the number of its featured articles.

Focus On Usability

There is active focus on improving usability. For this, we started to improve the Mediawiki used for Hindi Wikipedia. Many gadgets were installed on Hindi Wikipedia. We also created a new user group **Interface administrator**. Any wiki admin having technical ability and software interface knowledge is welcome to join this group to introduce any new feature in Hindi Wikipedia.

Google Translation Project In Hindi Wikipedia

In 2010 July, Google announced that they had begun working with Hindi Wikipedians to translate English language articles into Hindi and had so far translated 600,000 words in Hindi using a combination of Google Translate and manual review / checking. This coordinated translation has been responsible for a 20% rate of growth for the site.

Sister Projects Of Hindi Wikipedia

The sister projects of Hindi wikipedia are wiktionary, Wikibooks, and wikiquote. Hindi wikitionary is active to some extent. It has definitions for 1885 words as of 2010 August 31.

Other sister projects of Hindi wikipedia are waiting for the arrival of few dedicated users. Wikisource project for Hindi is not yet started in its own domain (hi.wikisource.org). Some source text is available at http://wikisource.org/wiki/Main_Page:Hindi

New Interface

Hindi Wikipedia and its sister wiki projects are moved to the new interface (vector) on 2010 September 1. The tranlteration tool for typing Hindi in Hindi wikipedia is also enhanced within few days after it is moved to new interface.Future advocacy programs

Hindi Wikipedians are working hard to make the encyclopedia in Hindi more comprehensive. Hindi Wikipedians are looking to organise public events to let all Hindi speakers know about Hindi Wikipedia projects.

Some of the programs planned for future are:

- Good article categorisation to make offline CD/DVD of Hindi wikipedia articles.

- Conduct Wikipedia meetups and workshops to reach the speakers of the Hindi language

- Enhance user interface and tools.

- Encourage other Indian language Wiki admins to join Hindi wiki who are good in Hindi and technical aspects.

- Update featured articles frequently on the main page.

- Special attention is being given to new column on the main page.

- Encourage the usage of common wiki embassy for all Indian languages to interact with each other in technical and some other aspects.

Kannada Wiki Projects – Community News

The name of the each Kannada wiki project , its transliteration, and the URL are provided below:

| Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	ವಿಕಿಪೀಡಿಯ (vikipeediaa)	http://kn.wikipedia.org/
Wikisource	ವಿಕಿಸೋರ್ಸ್ (vikisource)	http://kn.wikisource.org/
Wiktionary	ವಿಕಿಶಬ್ದಕೋಶ (viki shabdhakosha)	http://kn.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	ವಿಕಿಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು (viki pusthakagalu)	http://kn.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	ವಿಕಿಕೋಟ್ಸ್ (vikikotes)	http://kn.wikiquote.org/

Brief History

Kannada Wikipedia was initiated in 2004 September with an article on Rashtrakavi (National Poet) Kuvempu. The project has since grown with several contributors to 9,100+ articles. Although the Kannada speaking population on Internet is a tiny fraction of the overall number of total speakers of the language, the number adapting to new technology and Internet has been increasing sharply. The recent gradual progress in the number of active contributors is a reflection to this.

Wiktionary

Kannada Wiktionary is another project that has had substantial activity, with over 70,771 dictionary entries.

Kannada Wiktionary has improved and its entries have sprung up in number. It is now one of the largest Wiktionary projects in Indian languages behind Tamil which is leading in numbers.

Wikibooks

Kannada Wikibooks has had its share of contributions with around 337 articles yet home for some valuable text available in public domain.

Mediawiki Translation

Although it is a continued project to translate the interface to adapt better to the users, the free software that runs Wikipedia - 'Mediawiki' has had good quality translations in Kannada language.

Several Firsts In Indian Language Projects
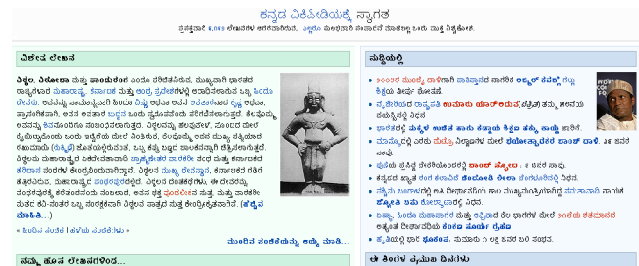
Picture 2: Kannada Wikipedia

Kannada Wikipedia has had editors from India and abroad. Students, professionals residing outside the country have equally contributed to the project as have passionate editors from the state. There have been several firsts on Kannada projects in comparison to other Indian language Wiki projects.

An event was organized on 2006 April 2 at Kannada Bhavana, Bangalore to introduce Wikipedia to the media and the users. This was the first event to be held in the entire country that was solely dedicated to introducing concept of Wikipedia to largely novice Internet users in local language. The event was organized with the help from Wikimedia foundation. The press briefings organized after the event had resulted in some major newspapers picking up stories about Wikipedia in local languages.

Community Overview

Kannada Wikipedia over the last few years has had a little but steadily growing and vibrant community with contributors: software engineers, a neuro surgeon to high school teachers, retired professionals to scientists editing the wiki. Given that the editors do this in free time, not everyone have been active at all the time. The group of editors which was limited to those well versed with technology (for there were limitations in setting up input methods to use local language script) earlier has now grown beyond to include people who were once unable to key-in using the local language to contribute although they were passionate about doing so. This change can well be attributed to improvements in technology on various platforms that have allowed easy to use input methods (not to forget Google transliteration). There have been some excellent editors contributing from outside India (mainly students residing in US), who after their educational course have gone almost completely inactive perhaps owing to the hectic schedule of work life. Some old time editors are also now missing from the scene - some taking up other roles, but not distant from the community.

Potential For Growth

Roughly 30 million speak Kannada in India. There is an increasing population outside the country with interest in language and the culture. With more and more native speakers getting easy access to Internet over mobile and via affordable broadband in the state, the potential for growth of Kannada projects seems to be good.

Roadblocks

The immediate roadblock for many contributors is to get help on some basic stuff like

i)   how to set-up the IME (on either desktop or use online),

ii)   which layout to use to learn typing in Kannada (there are "phonetic", "kgp layout" and "inscript" along many others to choose from)

iii) how to add articles with the wiki formatting

iv) how to add images.

To overcome the lack of support for users having limitation with technology, an FAQ page was setup as early as 2004 at http://kn.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Kannada_Support that catered to most users with some knowledge of technology. The necessity to read up and set-up the system to render Unicode properly itself turned out to be a challenge (it is continuing to be even now) as some platforms do not support Kannada rendering out-of-box.

An Alternative Project By The Government? Not Quite

In 2009, the Karnataka government announced a project that was intended to be 'similar to Wikipedia'. The brief project description projected on media that had a symbolic reference to Wikipedia led to speculation that the government is trying to build another Wikipedia. Turns out though that the project being carved out by the Knowledge Commission has more ambitious objectives to garner 'creative' content and literature from all round the state to a collective knowledge base different from Wikipedia. The initial discussions, debates surrounding the project suggested that the commission intends in asserting the need for a government monitored editorial board which again is quite different from the community moderated Wikipedia.

Efforts are on presently to persuade the state Knowledge commission to release content it has been gathering in Creative Commons and in a framework that would allow easy use and portability of content.

A scientist who is addicted to Wikipedia:

Haldodderi Sudhindra is a popular columnist on Vijaya Karnataka, the largest selling and most followed newspaper in the state. With a most respected profile of having been a research fellow at the reputed Indian Institute of Science, an officer at The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and DGM at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Haldodderi Sudhindra has now taken up teaching for Aeronautics aspirants in a reputed Engineering college of Bangalore. Perhaps with academics came the exposure to Wikipedia, but the respected writer says "I'm now addicted to Wikipedia!". He finds himself reading articles on Kannada Wikipedia every day and adding/editing topics that interest him, mostly biographical or astronomy related.

Picture 3: Haldodderi Sudhindra

Malayalam Wiki Projects – Community News

The name of the each Malayalam wiki project , its transliteration, and the URL are provided below:

Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	വിക്കിപീഡിയ (vikipeedia)	http://ml.wikipedia.org/
Wikisource	വിക്കിഗ്രന്ഥശാല (vikigranthasala)	http://ml.wikisource.org/
Wiktionary	വിക്കിനിഘണ്ടു (vikinigandu)	http://ml.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	വിക്കിപാഠശാല (vikipadasala)	http://ml.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	വിക്കിചൊല്ലുകൾ - (vikichollukal)	http://ml.wikiquote.org/

Brief History

Malayalam Wikipedia (http://ml.wikipedia.org/) was launched on 2002 December 21. Initial growth was slow - it took two years to reach the 100 article milestone. Main obstacles in growth were browser related issues and the lack of tools to type in Malayalam Unicode. The issues were resolved gradually. The number and the diversity of articles improved after the arrival of few active users. Malayalam wikipedia reached 1000 article milestone on 2006 September. 10,000th article was born on 2009 June 1.

Malayalam wiki community keeps its interest over sister projects also rather than concentrating only on wikipedia. A community has formed around Wikisource and Wiktionary also.

Current Status

Wikipedia is the most active Malayalam wiki project. Malayalam Wikipedia has more than 14,000 articles as of 2010 September 7. Wikisource and Wiktionary are also active. Recently there are some initiative from the community to make the Wikibooks and Wikiquotes also active.

Malayalam Wikipedia

When comparing to the other Indian language wikipedias, Malayalam wikipedia/community leads in some key quality matrices. Some of them are:

- Highest number of revisions per article (More than 30 on average)

- Highest number total edits (More than 9,00,000 (9lakhs))

- Highest number of uploaded images (most of these images are free from all types of copyright issues)

- The first Indian wiki community to release the offline version (CD) of wiki articles.

- The first Indian language Wiki community from where a steward (Jyothis) is elected.

Even though Malayalam wikipedia fares better in quality measures, it lags behind in article count. The main reason for this is a key decision and trend from the earlier days. We give more priority to the quality of articles than to the quantity of articles. Initial active users made sure that the new articles had at least fundamental information, and they transferred this tradition to new comers. We are sure that as more users arrive, the number of articles will also increase.

Malayalam wikipedia has number of wiki projects, which are the joint activities of the users who are interested in particular topics. Wiki projects help the community to retain users for a long period of time. A few examples are the Astronomy, Melakartha raga (an Indian classical music raga), and Categorization wiki projects. Astronomy wiki project maintains the Astronomy portal of Malayalam Wikipedia. The users of this project are keen on starting new articles and maintaining the articles that are related to Astronomy. Mela kartha raga project is lead by users interested in Indian classical music. Because of this project Malayalam Wikipedia has articles about all the 72 Melakartha Ragas written in a systematic way. Categorization wiki project handles the scientific categorization of all the articles in Malayalam Wikipedia. Wiki projects like these keeps people active in Wikipedia and retain them in wikies for a longer period of time. Wiki projects also leads to new ideas. Some examples are, Malayalam wikipedia CD project, e-book about the FAQ of Malayalam Wiki projects, and so on.

Malayalam Wikisource

Malayalam Wikisource (Wiki Granthasala) was started on 2006 March. Over the past 4 years Malayalam Wikisource has collected some of the best Malayalam source texts. Religious texts like Bhagavad Gita, Bhagavatham, Bible, Qur'an, Ramayana, and so on are already part of Malayalam Wikisource. Malayalam transliteration of some other Indian language source texts are also included. For example, the works of Sankaracharaya which is in Sanskrit, is transliterated to Malayalam script.

We are trying to collect the complete works of notable writers of Malayalam. Compilation of the complete works of Sri Narayana Guru - the spiritual leader and social reformer of Kerala - is completed recently. Currently, the works of Changapuzha Krishnapilla and Kumaranasan are getting added. Notable source texts and the works of notable personalities of Malayalam will be added to Malayalam wikisource soon. We hope Malayalam Wikisource will soon become the online reference library of Malayalam language.

Malayalam Wiktionary

Malayalam Wiktionary (http://ml.wiktionary.org/) intends to create a free content dictionary, providing definitions in Malayalam for the words in all the other languages. As of 2010 August 31, there are 60,155 words in Malayalam Wiktionary. Of these definitions, around 40,000 definitions are of Malayalam words and 20,000 are English words. Notably, there are definitions of 250 Japanese words, 130 Tamil words, 100 Korean words and several words in Chinese, Arabic, and Hindi. The project has progressed significantly in the last two years growing from a Wiktionary with 1700 definitions in 2008 January to where it is today. There is significant need for volunteers not only to add new definitions, but also to refine, expand, and categorize existing definitions.

Recent Advocacy Programs

Malayalam wikimedians had organized their third wiki meetup at Ernakulam, Kerala on 2010 April 17. 40 active Malayalam wikimedians and 40 newcomers had attended this meetup.

Picture 1:Third Malayalam Wiki meetup - 2010 April 17.

Following are some of the outcome of this meetup.

- A CD that contained 500 selected articles from Malayalam Wikipedia was released. The ISO image of the CD is available for download at http://mlwiki.in/

- A booklet that contained FAQs about Malayalam wiki projects was released. The booklet is available for download at http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/ml/1/10/MalayalamWiki_FAQ_2010_April_17.pdf

- A website of the Malayalam wiki community was launched. It is available at http://mlwiki.in/

We had conducted malayalam wiki workshops in Bangalore, Palakkad, and Madurai.

- Bangalore 1 - 2010 March 24
- Bangalore 2 - 2010 June 6
- Palakkad 1 - 2010 July 2
- Madurai 1 - 2010 September 21

Now we are planning to conduct wiki workshop in Kozhikode (Calicut) on 2010 October 10.

Wiki2CD

Malayalam wikimedian Santhosh Thottingal has developed a software (Wiki2CD) for the creation of the Malayalam Wikipedia CD.

Picture 2: Malayalam Wikipedia CD Sticker

Now you can create Wikipedia CD of any language (including all Indian languages) using Wiki2CD. More details about this software is available at http://wiki.github.com/santhoshtr/wiki2cd/

WikiMania

Malayalam wikimedians Santhosh Thottingal, Tinu Cherian, and Shiju Alex had participated in WikiMania 2010. Santhosh Thottingal and Shiju Alex along with two other Wikimedians had conducted a workshop on *Creating offline version of Wiki content - Solutions and Challenges*.

Other News

Malayalam Wikipedia is moved to the new interface (vector) on 2010 June 30.

Marathi Wiki Projects – Community News

The name of the each Marathi wiki project , its transliteration, and the URL are provided below:

Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	विकिपीडिया (vikipediaa)	http://mr.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	विक्शनरी (viktionari)	http://mr.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	विकिबुक्स(wikibooks)	http://mr.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	विकिक्वोट (wikiquote)	http://mr.wikiquote.org/

Brief History

Marathi Wikipedia is one of the leading wikipedias among South Asian language wikipedias and it was started on 2003 May 1.

The growth in the first 3 years was very slow. On 2006 January it was having just 1500 articles. By 2007 January, the total edits in Marathi wikipedia reached 50,000 edits. Compare this with the present scenario, where we have one user with over 50,000 edits. By 2008 September, Marathi Wikipedia crossed 20,000 articles. As of 2010 August Marathi Wikipedia has more than 30,000 articles and more than 5,80,000 edits. Marathi Wikipedia has made slow but steady progress in growing its content and user-base. While we face similar difficulties as the rest of the Indian language wikipedias, we have devised and adapted several ways to overcome these. In the initial stages, the focus was more on creating consensus on the correct writing practices and supporting the new editors. Now the focus is shifting slowly towards providing reader oriented help and concentrating on various online reader oriented and quality improvement projects.

At many instances Marathi Wikipedia covered important issues that concern to common people. For example, when swine flue break out in 2008 wikipedians came up with various articles related to that with at least primary level information. Marathi Wikipedia community has been ahead in giving timely encyclopedic coverage of major international sports events, and also democratic elections at assembly and parliamentary level. Now Marathi Wikipedia dreams a target reaching 1 lakh articles by the end of 2011. Certainly the target is big, but if the community grows we can achieve more than this. We are planning for some public out reach programs to reach the speakers of the Marathi language.

Support For New Editors

Every new user in mr wiki gets a welcome message that includes helpful information about basic editing, links to help pages as well as pointers to "offline" communication methods to connect with other Wikipedians. We have a team of editors that looks out for new users and study their pattern of early edits to identify areas of improvements. Once identified, the new user is given a customized message to help him/her resolve these mistakes and improve the quality of their edits. New users are also shown and encouraged to use sandbox initially, reducing the amount of errors in articles. Another distinguishing feature of Marathi Wikipedia is the active effort to increase the awareness about copyrights and related matters. One of the ways Marathi Wikipedia accomplishes this is by using the central notice feature of Mediawiki software to display messages to users.

Taking lessons from German Wikipedia, we have a mentor program in place that provides a new (or not so-new) user with step-by-step instructions on avoiding mistakes/errors seen in their own edits. The mentors also maintain and distribute a list of do's and don't's for Marathi Wikipedia users.

Marathi Wikipedia Projects

We are committed to increase the content on Marathi Wikipedia without losing the quality. The "upcoming article", that has a place on the front page looks to introduce articles that are promising and seeks collaboration from multiple editors to increase their quality. Another initiative is the "52-carat" effort that aims to produce one peer-reviewed article every week. We aim to work on current events and happenings, including sports, elections and other major news.

Public Outreach Programs

Marathi Wikipedia has several online communication avenues, including an active Yahoo group, an Orkut community, a Facebook page and also a Google SMS channel. Day-to-day as well as planning and strategic messaging is disseminated

through these channels along with Wikipedia "village pump" type of pages. We also conduct occasional online campaigns to increase awareness about Marathi Wikipedia among Marathi speaking internet users through these channels.

Marathi wikipedians met on 2010 September 18 at Women's Studies Centre, University of Pune. The meetup was attended by 17 wikimedians. We are planning to organize more Marathi wiki meetups and workshops soon.

Other Wiki Projects

Marathi Wiktionary is slowly growing an it contains set of newly standardized words for computation in Marathi Language finalized by FUEL with support from CDAC. Marathi Wikiquote is growing under new sysop. Marathi Wiki books contains more of source literature like Dnyaneshwari etc.

Tamil Wiki Projects - Community News

Following are the wiki projects available in Tamil Language.

Project	Native Name	URL
Wikipedia	விக்கிப்பீடியா (vikkippeediyaa)	http://ta.wikipedia.org/
Wikisource	விக்கிமூலம் (vikkimoolam)	http://ta.wikisource.org/
Wiktionary	விக்சனரி (viksanari)	http://ta.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	விக்கிநூல்கள் (vikkinoolkaL)	http://ta.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	விக்கிமேற்கோள் (vikkimEtkOL)	http://ta.wikiquote.org/
Wikinews	விக்கிசெய்தி (vikkicheythi)	http://ta.wikinews.org/

Current Status

Tamil Wikipedia has crossed 23,500 articles recently. It has more than 20,000 registered users and about 260 of them had contributed actively since the inception of the project. Tamil Wikipedia has a slow but steady growth. However, statistics for recent months show an increased activity. The number of active users in a month has increased almost three fold and the rate of article creation reached 17 per day in 2010 June.

Tamil Wiktionary is one of the largest in its kind and has more than 1,20,000 pages. Recently,Tamil Nadu government, during the World Classical Tamil Conference held in Coimbatore in 2010 June, handed over a CD consisting of thousands of Technical Terms, collected by Tamil Virtual University, for Tamil Wiktionary. Preparation work for uploading these terms are under way.

Wikicheythikal (Tamil Wikinews) experienced a period of inaction for sometime and has been revived in last year, mainly through the untiring efforts of user Kanaga. Sritharan living in Australia.

Wikimoolam (Tamil Wikisource) is also growing. It has about 1100 pages of Tamil source documents.

Article Competition

As part of the World Classical Tamil Conference and Tamil Internet Conference, an article competition was arranged for university and college students in 2010 April. This covered about 3000 institutions all over Tamil Nadu. This was organized through a joint effort between Tamil Nadu state government and Tamil Wikipedians. This is a major breakthrough in Tamil wikipedia outreach activities. Tamil Wikipedia, through this initaitive, has been introduced to large number of prospective contributors and had extensive media coverage during this period, which is expected to bring in long term growth to Tamil Wikipedia.

Picture 1: Users Mahir and M. Mauran receiving the CD with a collection of technical terms from the IT Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Picture 2: Some of the prize Winners of the article competition.

Google Translation Efforts And Tamil Wikipedia

Google is implementing a program for increasing content in smaller Wikipedias by translating articles from English Language Wikipedia. This program covers Tamil Wikipedia too. This project started in mid 2009. There had been lot of concerns about the quality of these articles and the impact of this project on the quality of Tamil Wikipedia. Tamil Wikipedians initiated talks with Google and offered to co-operate with them in an effort to ensure the quality of translated articles.

Picture 3: Tamil Wikipedian Sundar with Telugu Wikipedian Arjuna and representatives from Google.

The effort has seen partial success particularly in creating basic framework that would facilitate better control. The coordination process is still continuing with mixed results. Tamil wikipedians A. Ravishankar (User:ravidreams) and Balasundararaman (User:Sundar) have done a commendable job in this regard.

Wiki Workshops

Tamil Wikipedians took numerous outreach activities in the last 18 months. Wikipedia workshops were conducted in Chennai, Bangalore, Toronto and Bergen (Norway). During the World Tamil Internet conference held in Coimbatore during 2010 June, they manned Wikipedia awareness stalls and introduced Tamil Wiki projects to people from all walks of life.

Picture 4: User Kalaiyarasi conducting a workshop in Norway.

Wikimania

In 2010, two proposals for presentations from Tamil Wikipedians have been accepted. First one is *A review of Google Translation Project in Tamil Wikipedia* by wikipedian A. Ravishankar. The second one was titled *A study of Tamil Wikipedia in its Socio-Cultural Background* by Wikipedian R. Mayooranathan. Mayooranathan participated in the conference and delivered the presentations. Wikimania was a good opportunity to network with fellow Indian Wikipedians and others.

In Wikimania 2009, Wikipedian Sundar participated on behalf of Tamil Wikipedia and presented a paper on *Tamil Wikipedia: a case study* outlining the growth phases and some highlights of the Tamil Wiki.

Telugu Wiki Projects – Community News

Following are the wiki projects available in Telugu Language.

Project	Native name	URL
Wikipedia	వికీపీడియా (vikiipedia)	http://te.wikipedia.org/
Wikisource	వికిమూలము (vikimuulam)	http://te.wikisource.org/
Wiktionary	విక్షనరీ (vikshanari)	http://te.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	వికిపాఠ్యపుస్తకాలు (vikipattyapusthakaalu)	http://te.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	వికీవ్యాఖ్య (vikivyakhya)	http://te.wikiquote.org/

Brief History

Telugu Wikipedia was started on 2003 Dec 9 by Venna Nagarjuna renowned for Padma, a system for transforming Indic text between various public and proprietary formats. By the end of 2005, article count touched 110.

In 2005, Telugu wikipedia received a much needed initial thrust after the wikipedians Chava Kiran, Makineni Pradeep, Vyzasatya, Veeven, and Chaduvari (who later spearheaded e-Telugu campaign) joined wikipedia. Vyzasatya planned and executed a project to have stubs for districts and mandals and Telugu movies with the help of a bot and filling in the information with the help of several volunteers from Telugu online community. Chaduvari translated and drafted many of the initial policies. Pradeep wrote scripts to automate many tasks. The article count became 6000 with these efforts. A symbiotic relationship fostered by the telugu blogger-wikipedian members with the larger Telugu online community proved to be a bigger catalyst for Telugu wikipedia's initial growth. The growth gained further momentum, after wikipedians like Kasubabu, Dr.Rajasekhar, Chandrakantha Rao, Ravichandra, Rahamtulla, and Sujatha joined Telugu Wikipedia.

Current Status

As of 2010 August, Telugu wikipedia has more than 45,000 articles. Page views of Telugu Wikipedia for 2010 July was at 1.8 million. This is a growth of over 16% over 2009 July. 2010 February recorded 4.5 Million page views, the largest so far, though the statistic was said to be under reported due to a server bug.

Telugu Wiktionary is also a notable project, with major contribution from Ms. Sujatha. Brown's English-Telugu dictionary was incorporated into Telugu Wiktionary in its entirety using a bot script written by another Telugu wikipedian, Makineni Pradeep.

Advocacy

Wikipedia was promoted through Book fairs at Hyderabad and Vijayawada with active support from e-Telugu organization and the Telugu language media. This generated lot of interest among the general public.

Picture 1: (e-Telugu Photo courtesy: CB Rao's Blog DeepthiDhara)

Recent activities to promote Telugu Wikipedia include organizing Telugu Wikipedia academies at educational institutions with hands-on workshop and publishing a web newsletter.

Material for Wikiacademies was consolidated and the first Telugu wiki academy was conducted at Chirala on 2009 October 6. Details at http://teluginux.blogspot.com/2009/10/6-2009.html

Arjuna Rao Chavala conducted two wiki academies at Ongole and Narasaraopet during 2010 February. Details at http://teluginux.blogspot.com/2010/03/20-28-2010.html

Telugu Wikipedians Arjuna Rao Chavala and E Ravichandra initiated a newsletter, Tewiki Vaartha. The first issue was released on 2010 July 1.

Picture 2: Ongole Telugu Wiki academy

Picture 3: Logo of Telugu wiki newsletter

Wikimania 2010

Arjuna Rao Chavala and Srinivas (Gurubrahma) attended Wikimania 2010 at Gdansk and presented papers on *Improving project management* and *Growing small wikipedias*.

Appendix 1 – WMF's Wiki Projects In Indian Languages

Wikipedia itself is available in more than 20 Indian Languages. There are many other Indian Language Wikipedias in incubator. Not all languages have an active wiki community. The details of WMF's wiki projects in Indian languages are provided in this Appendix.

Following are the details of the wiki projects existing in different Indian languages.

Assamese - as

Assamese is spoken mainly in the state of Assam in North-East India. It is the official language of Assam. It is also spoken in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and other north-east Indian states. It is spoken by over 13 million people.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://as.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://as.wiktionary.org/ (locked due to inactivity)
Wikibooks	http://as.wikibooks.org/ (locked due to inactivity)

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Bengali – bn

Bengali or Bangla is an eastern Indo-Aryan language. It is native to the region of eastern South Asia known as Bengal, which comprises present day Bangladesh, the Indian state of West Bengal, and parts of the Indian states of Tripura and Assam. It is written with the Bengali script. With nearly 230 million total speakers, Bengali is the sixth most spoken language in the world.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://bn.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://bn.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://bn.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	http://bn.wikisource.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Bhojpuri – bh

Bhojpuri is spoken in the western part of state of Bihar, the north-western part of Jharkhand, and the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh(UP), as well as adjoining parts of the Nepal. Bhojpuri use Devanagri script. It is spoken by over 33 million people.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://bh.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://bh.wiktionary.org/ (locked due to inactivity)

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Bishnupriya Manipuri –bpy

Bishnupriya or Bishnupriya Manipuri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in parts of the Indian states of Assam, Tripura, Manipur and others, as well as in Bangladesh, Burma, and other countries. It is spoken by over 4,50,000 people.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://bpy.wikipedia.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Divehi – dv

Dhivehi, language is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by about 3,50,000 people in the Republic of Maldives and also in the island of Maliku (Minicoy) in Union territory of Lakshadweep, India.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://dv.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://dv.wiktionary.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Gujarati – gu

Gujarati is spoken in the Indian state of Gujarat, , as well as in the adjacent union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. There are about 46.1 million speakers of Gujarati worldwide.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://gu.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://gu.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://gu.wikibooks.org/ (locked due to inactivity)
Wikiquote	http://gu.wikiquote.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Hindi – hi

Hindi is spoken in northern and central India, Pakistan, Fiji, Mauritius, and Suriname. Standard Hindi is one of the official language of the Indian Union and it is one of the most widely spoken language in world. According to the 2001 Indian census, 258 million people in India regarded their native language to be Hindi

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://hi.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://hi.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://hi.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	http://hi.wikiquote.org/
Wikisource	Project not yet started. Some source text is available at http://wikisource.org/wiki/Main_Page: Hindi

Mailing list:
https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikihi-l

also

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/HindiWikipedia/

Kannada – kn

Kannada is a Dravidian language, spoken predominantly in the state of Karnataka. Kannada, whose native speakers are called Kannadigas number roughly 38 million, making it the 27th most spoken language in the world.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://kn.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://kn.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://kn.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	http://kn.wikisource.org/
Wikiquote	http://kn.wikiquote.org/

Mailing list:
https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikikn-l

Kashmiri – ks

Kashmiri is a language spoken primarily in the Kashmir Valley, in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. Approximate number of speakers is around 4.6 million. Kashmiri language is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India,

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://ks.wikipedia.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Malayalam – ml

Malayalam is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India with official language status in the state of Kerala and the union territories of Lakshadweep and Mahé. It is spoken by 37 million people.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://ml.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://ml.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://ml.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	http://ml.wikisource.org/
Wikiquote	http://ml.wikiquote.org/

Mailing list:
https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikiml-l

Marathi – mr

Marathi is the official language of the state of Maharashtra. There are 90 million speakers worldwide. Marathi is the 4th most spoken language in India.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://mr.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://mr.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://mr.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	http://mr.wikiquote.org/
Wikisource	Project not yet started. Some source text is available http://wikisource.org/wiki/Main_Page: Marathi

Mailing list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mr-wiki/

Nepali – ne

Nepali is a language in the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European language family. It is official language of Nepal and is also spoken in Bhutan, parts of India and parts of Myanmar (Burma). In India, it is one of the official languages. Nepali has 17 million speakers worldwide.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://ne.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://ne.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://ne.wikibooks.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Oriya – or

Oriya is spoken mainly in the Indian state of Orissa. Oriya is spoken by 31 million people.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://or.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://or.wiktionary.org/ (locked due to inactivity)

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Pali – pi

Pali is a Middle Indo-Aryan language (or prakrit) of India. It is the language of many of the earliest extant Buddhist scriptures, and as the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism. Pali has no native language speakers.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://pi.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://pi.wiktionary.org/ (locked due to inactivity)

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Punjabi – pa

Punjabi with 88 million speakers is spoken by the inhabitants of the historical Punjab region (north western India and in Pakistan).

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://pa.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://pa.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://pa.wikibooks.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Sanskrit – sa

Sanskrit is an Indo-Aryan language and the primary liturgical language of Hinduism.It is one of the official language of the state of Uttarakhand. It has 14,135 native speakers in India.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://sa.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://sa.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://sa.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	Project not yet started. Some source text is available at: http://wikisource.org/wiki/Main_Page:Sanskrit/

Mailing list:
https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikisa-l

Sindhi – sd

Sindhi is the language of the Sindh region of Pakistan . It is spoken by an estimated 34,410,910 people in Pakistan and 2,820,485 speakers in India.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://sd.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://sd.wiktionary.org/
Wikinews	http://sd.wikinews.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Tamil – ta

Tamil is a Dravidian language spoken predominantly by Tamil people of the Indian subcontinent. It has official status in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and in the Indian union territory of Puducherry. Tamil is also an official language of Sri Lanka and Singapore. It has 66 million speakers world wide.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://ta.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://ta.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://ta.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	http://ta.wikisource.org/
Wikiquote	http://ta.wikiquote.org/
Wikinews	http://ta.wikinews.org/

Mailing list:

https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikita-l

also

http://groups.google.com/group/tamil_wiktionary (for Tamil wiktionary)

Telugu – te

Telugu is the official language of Andhra Pradesh, one of the largest states of India and the centrally administered Yanam district of the union territory of Puducherry. Telugu is the third most-spoken language in India (74 million native speakers).

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://te.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://te.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://te.wikibooks.org/
Wikisource	http://ta.wikisource.org/
Wikiquote	http://te.wikiquote.org/

Mailing list:
https://lists.wikimedia.org/mailman/listinfo/wikite-l

also
http://groups.google.com/group/teluguwiki

Urdu – ur

Urdu is the national language and one of the two official languages of Pakistan, and one of the 22 scheduled languages of India, as an official language of five Indian states. Number of speakers is roughly 65 million.

Project	URL
Wikipedia	http://ur.wikipedia.org/
Wiktionary	http://ur.wiktionary.org/
Wikibooks	http://ur.wikibooks.org/
Wikiquote	http://ur.wikiquote.org/

Mailing list: (Not Available or unknown)

Indian Language Wikipedias In Incubator

Wikimedia Incubator (http://incubator.wikimedia.org) is the location where potential wikimedia project wikis in new languages are arranged, written, tested and proven worthy of being hosted by the wikimedia Foundation. Following Indian language wikipedias are in incubator. All these wikipedias are waiting for the speakers of the respective language so that it can go live once an active community is formed around it.

Language	Incubator URL
Angika	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/anp/Main_Page
Awadhi	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/awa/Main_Page
Badaga	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/bfq/Main_Page
Bhili	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/bhb/Main_Page
Bodo	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/brx/Main_Page
Chhattisgarhi	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/hne
Dogri	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/dgo
Kanikkaran	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/kev/%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%81%E0%AE%A4%E0%AE%B2%E0%AF%8D_%E0%AE%AA%E0%AE%95%E0%AF%8D%E0%AE%95%E0%AE%AE%E0%AF%8D
Kokborok	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/trp/Main_Page
Konkani	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/gom/Mukhel_Pan
Kumaoni	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/kfy
Kutchi	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/kfr/Main_Page
Maithili	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/mai/Main_Page
Manipuri (Meitei)	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/mni
Mizo	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/lus
Rajasthani	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/raj
Santali	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/sat
Saurashtra	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/saz/Main_Page
Tamang	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/taj
Tulu	http://incubator.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wp/tcy/%E0%B2%AE%E0%B3%81%E0%B2%96%E0%B3%8D%E0%B2%AF_%E0%B2%AA%E0%B3%81%E0%B2%9F

Appendix 2 - Geographical Distribution Of Primary Speakers Of Languages Having Wikipedia

Wikipedia is available in more than 20 Indian Languages. 20 other Indian language wikipedias are in incubator. The following map and table shows the geographical distribution of the primary speakers of languages that have wikipedia. Many languages are omitted since it doesn't have a wikipedia yet.

Map created by **Rajesh Odayanchal**

NOTE:
- This map shows where the majority of the primary speakers of an Indian language (having wikipedia) reside in various Indian states.
- This map is not showing every language and dialect in use in each state.
- The languages are not shown based on the number of speakers of a language in an Indian state.
- English is in use all over India, and it is one of the official languages of the Indian union. So it is not shown as the language of any particular state.
- Migration within India is highly evident, particularly in the cities, which means that a mix of languages may be in use in many parts of the country

The following table provides details about the states/regions of India where the majority of the primary speakers of an Indian language reside. (Only languages having wikipedia are shown.)

Language	Number of Speakers (in millions)	States/Region
Angika	7.2	Anga pradesh (spread across Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal)
Assamese	13	Assam, Arunachal pradesh
Awadhi	38	Uttar Pradesh (Awadh region)
Badaga	4	Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris District)
Bengali	83	West Bengal, Trupura, Andaman Nicobar islands
Bhili	5.6	Gujarat (Ahmedabad district)
Bishnupriya Manipuri	4.5	Assam, Tripura, Manipur
Bodo	1.4	Assam
Bhojpuri	38	Uttar pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand
Chhattisgarhi	11	Chhattisgarh
Divehi	3.5	Lakshadweep Islands (Minicoy Island)
Dogri	2.3	Jammu Kashmir (Jammu region)
Gujarati	46	Gujarat
Hindi	550	Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand
Kannada	38	Karnataka
Kanikkaran	0.19	Tamil Nadu (Tirunelveli district), Kerala (Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts)
Kashmiri	5.5	Jammu Kashmir
Khasi	8.65	Meghalaya
Kokborok	9.5	Tripura
Konkani	3.6	Goa, Karnataka
Kumaoni	23	Uttarakhand
Kutchi	8.6	Gujarat (Kutch region)
Maithili	12	Bihar
Malayalam	33	Kerala, Lakshadweep Islands
Manipuri	1.5	Manipur
Marathi	72	Maharashtra
Mizo	6.7	Mizoram
Nepali	2.9	Sikkim, Assam, West Bengal
Oriya	33	Orissa
Pali	-	No native language speakers
Punjabi	88	Punjab
Rajasthani	80	Rajastan
Santali	6.5	Jharkhand, West Bengal
Sanskrit	0.01	Karnataka (Mattur village)
Saurashtra	3	Tamil Nadu (Madurai district)
Sindhi	28	Gujarat, Maharashtra
Tamang	1	Sikkim
Tamil	61	Tamil Nadu
Telugu	74	Telugu
Tulu	1.95	Karnataka, Kerala
Urdu	52	Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

Appendix 3

Indian Language Wikipedia Statistics

Following is the statistics of Indian language wikipedias as of 2010 August 31. The data for this report is taken from the statistical analysis of all the Wikimedia wikis prepared and maintained by Erik Zachte (Website: http://infodisiac.com/). The statistics is available at http://stats.wikimedia.org/EN/Sitemap.htm.

The data for this report is collected on the last day of the month. That is, the statistical data for the month of 2010 August is collected at 2010 August 31 23:59 PM GMT.

Language	Speakers (in millions)	Number of articles	Number of edits	Edits per article (average)	Active editors
More than 10,000 articles					
Hindi	550	56,233	7,57,141	7.6	55
Telugu	80	45,435	5,39,775	8.5	30
Marathi	90	30,683	5,85,614	13.6	28
Bishnupriya Manipuri	0.45	24,743	5,07,382	10.4	3
Tamil	66	24,147	5,97,691	17.3	77
Bengali	230	21,578	7,13,010	19.5	45
Gujarati	46	16,305	1,10,753	5.1	12
Urdu	60	14,224	3,33,273	16.7	15
Malayalam	37	13,917	8,85,671	31.1	78
More than 1,000 articles					
Kannada	47	9,098	1,61,463	13.5	27
Sanskrit	0.05	3,943	88,733	18.4	2
Nepali	30	6,925	64,151	7.6	11
Pali	NA	2,318	60,893	23.4	1
Bhojpuri	38	2,673	70,641	22.6	3
Punjabi	88	1,923	30,837	11.5	2
Less than 1,000 articles					
Odia (Oriya)	31	638	25,718	25	1
Kashmiri	5	378	15,310	32.9	-
Sindhi	41	339	15,828	26.8	1
Assamese	13	275	11,556	24.1	1

Compiled by **Shiju Alex**

Q3 Results Of Wikipedia Usage

The statistics for Q3 of Wikipedia usage were released recently. They pointed to some surprising trends in the Indian Demographic and Languages.

India ranks at number 15 globally, in terms of Wikipedia page views and edits which is expected for having only 7% internet usage in the entire country, one of the lowest in the first 50 countries on the list. However, India is still the fifth largest viewer of the English Wikipedia. 94% of all Indian Wikimedians view the English Wikipedia, the second largest language group for India after English is Hindi with 0.6% of total views. The viewing trends point at a steady rate of viewer-ship from India registering at 93-95% of total view for the past year.

The edits from India on the English Wikipedia are another story, 70% of edits from India are on the English Wikipedia, and this marks a gradual fall in edits over the past year. The edits were at 81% in Q4 of 2009 but have fallen by almost 10% between the year to 70.3% this Quarter.

The second largest Indian Language that received edits from India was Telugu at 6.6% followed by Tamil at 5.5% and Malayalam at 4.4% of total edits. Of note here is a reversal in trends in Hindi, Malayalam and Marathi, all of which registered a drop in edits this quarter, the largest one in Hindi from 4.8% to 3.3% between the last quarters.

The Visits per language from India is also of note here, besides the 94% of visit that are to the English Wikipedia, no other Indian language registers more than 1% of total Views from India. Hindi leads with 0.6% of total views followed by Tamil and Marathi at 0.3% and 0.2% of total views.

Some of the Key Take-away from this Quarter's Usage Statistics are-

- 94% Indian Wikimedians view the English Wikipedia ahead of any other Indian Language.

- All Indian Language Wikipedia registered less than 1% of total views from India.

- Edits originating from India has been steadily dropping by almost 10% in the last year to the English WIkipedia.

- Edits from India to Indian Languages has increased in the case of Telugu and Tamil but fallen for all other Indian Languages.

NOTE: Statistics on the location of editors and users might be questionable for India because of the manner in which ISPs (private and public) route their systems. Indian editors and users often get shown up as belonging to some other part of the world - due to a non-Indian IP address assigned to them.

Sources:

http://stats.wikimedia.org/wikimedia/squids/SquidReportVisitsPerLanguageBreakdown.htm

http://stats.wikimedia.org/wikimedia/squids/SquidReportEditsPerCountryOverview.htm

http://stats.wikimedia.org/wikimedia/squids/SquidReportEditsPerCountryTrends.htm

Salmaan Haroon

Did You Know

...that India has more than 40 language wiki communities, the highest in the world.

...that Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, and Malayalam were the first Indian language Wikipedias created. All these Wikipedias were created on 2002.

...that Hindi Wikipedia has most number of articles (more than 56,000) among Indian language Wikipedias.

...that Malayalam Wikipedia has the highest number of edits among all the Indian language Wikipedias.

...that Pali language has no native language speakers.

...that Tamil Wikimedians have conducted wiki workshops even outside India (Norway, Canada).

...that Kannada wiki community is the first Indian wiki community to conduct a wiki workshop in India.

...that Nepali and Bhojpuri wikipedias are the first Devanagri wikipedias created.

...that the Mattur village of Karnataka has native language speakers of Sanskrit.

...that Marathi Wikipedian Abhay Nathu is the Indian language Wikipedian with most number of edits (almost 63,000 edits).

...that Telugu Wikipedia is the first Indian Language Wikipedia to release a Newsletter (called "TeWiki Vaartha").

...that Malayalam wiki community is the first Indian wiki community to release an offline version (CD) of wikipedia articles. Also, it is the first non-Latin wikipedia to release a wikipedia CD.

...that Tamil Wikipedian Sundar is the first Indian language Wikipedian to present a paper in Wikimania.

Complied by

Shiju Alex

Raziman T.V.

Junaid P.V.

Newsletter
Wikimedia India Community