INTRODUCTION AND CONTRIBUTING TO WIKIPEDIA.

What is Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is an online free-content encyclopedia helping to create a world where everyone can freely share and access all available knowledge. It is supported by the Wikimedia Foundation and consists of freely editable content. The name "Wikipedia" is a blending of the words wiki (a technology for creating collaborative websites, from the Hawaiian word wiki, meaning "quick") and encyclopedia. Wikipedia's articles provide links to guide readers to related pages with more information.

Wikipedia is <u>written collaboratively</u> by largely anonymous <u>volunteers</u>. Anyone with <u>Internet access</u> and <u>in good standing</u> can write and make changes to Wikipedia articles, except in <u>limited cases</u> where <u>editing</u> is restricted to prevent disruption or <u>vandalism</u>.

Since its creation on January 15, 2001, Wikipedia has grown into the world's <u>largest</u> reference <u>website</u>, attracting <u>1.7</u> <u>billion unique-device visitors monthly</u> as of November 2021. It currently has more than <u>fifty-eight million articles</u> in <u>more than 300 languages</u>, including 6,473,670 articles in <u>English</u> with 127,722 active contributors in the past month.

The fundamental principles of Wikipedia are summarized in its <u>five pillars</u>. The <u>Wikipedia community</u> has developed many <u>policies and guidelines</u>; however, being familiar with

Aditya Pawar FYIT 107

the pillars, policies, and guidelines is not a requirement for contributing.

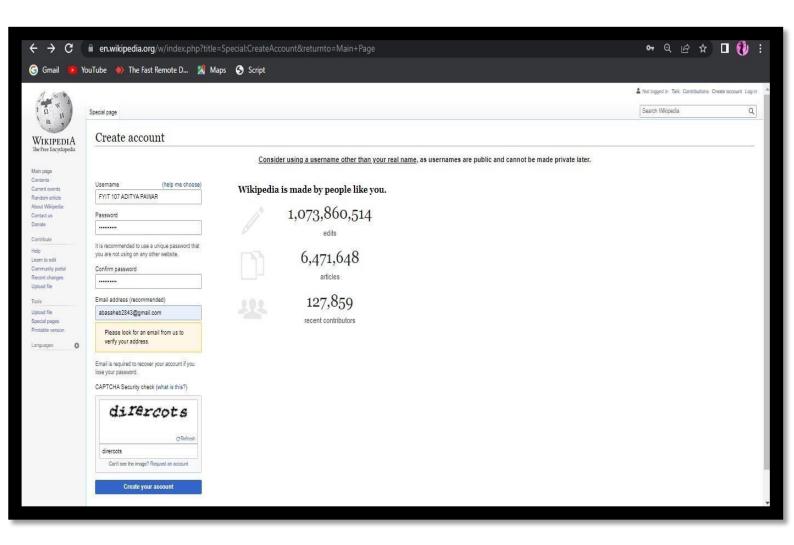
Anyone is allowed to add or edit words, references, images, and other media here. What is contributed is more important than who contributes it. To remain, the content must be free of copyright restrictions and contentious material about living people. It must conform with Wikipedia's policies, including being verifiable against a published reliable source. Editors' opinions and beliefs and unreviewed research will not remain. Contributions cannot damage Wikipedia, as its software allows easy reversal of errors, and many experienced editors watch to ensure that edits are improvements. Begin by simply clicking the Edit button at the top of any editable page!

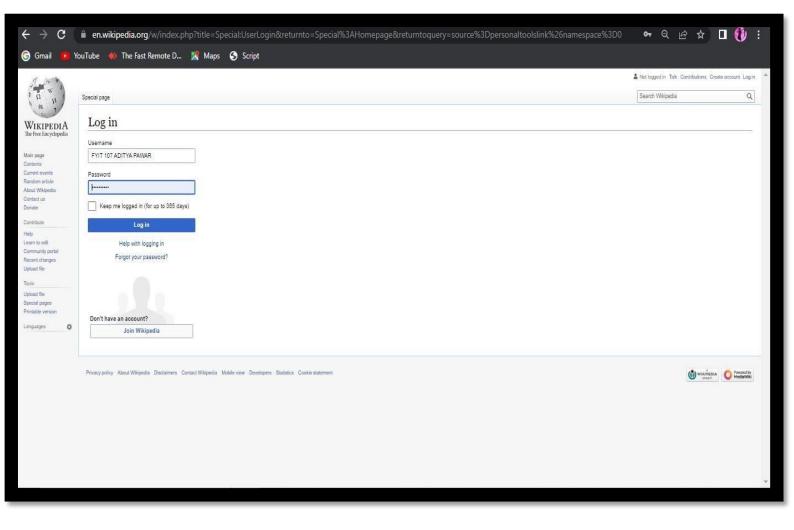
Wikipedia differs from printed references in important ways. It is continually created and updated, with articles on new events appearing within minutes rather than months or years. Because everyone can help improve it, it has become more comprehensive than any other encyclopedia. In addition to the quantity of its articles, its contributors work improving their quality, removing and misinformation and other errors. Over time, articles tend to become more comprehensive and balanced. However, because anyone can edit them, articles may contain undetected misinformation, errors or vandalism. Readers valid information recognize this can obtain (see Wikipedia:Researching with Wikipedia) and fix the articles.

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WIKIPEDIA

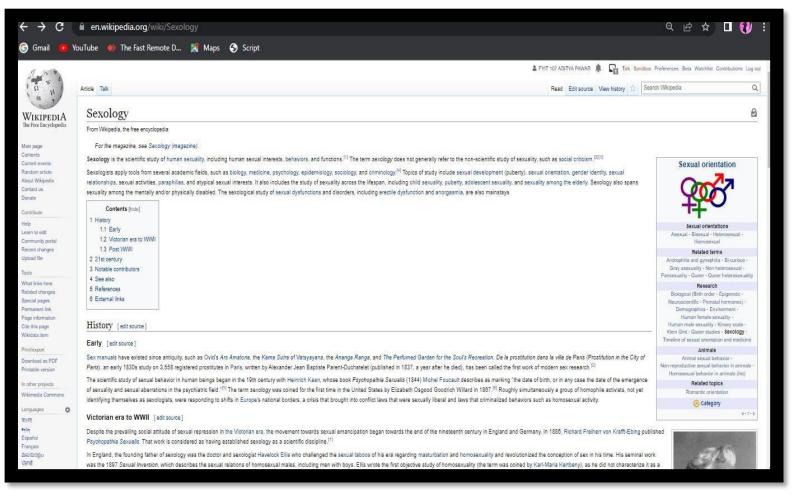
CREATING AN ACCOUNT IN WIKIPEDIA:





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♣ ARTICLE PAGE BEFORE EDITING CONTENT:



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