IP Survey Report

Ⅰ. Institute Overview

1. Profile of the Institute

Sahapedia is an open online encyclopedia on Indian culture and heritage. The project began in 2010 in New Delhi with the support of CMC Limited (a Tata enterprise), and in collaboration with International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad. As a comprehensive, collaboratively created multimedia web platform, Sahapedia will serve as a single-window resource on Indian culture.

At the preliminary stage, Sahapedia was conceived as an online encyclopedia consisting mainly of articles covering various aspects of Indian culture and heritage. However, realising the potential of the web, and the non-linear and multi-faceted nature of Indian culture, its mandate was enlarged to include other rich media formats for deeper and more experiential knowledge-sharing. For example, to capture the full extent of the grandeur and history of the TajMahal, the experience needs to extend beyond textual knowledge, to cover other multimedia features like interactive maps, images with audio commentary, and interviews with experts, heritage walks and learning modules for a richer experience. Such a format will also lend itself well to represent the non-linear and interdisciplinary nature of Indian culture.

Secondly, the motivating principle behind such an encyclopedic resource is that it will be dynamic and will offer a platform for multiple voices to co-exist. The web offers the possibility of bringing together a resource based on community ownership and sharing through collaboratively-generated content.

At Sahapedia efforts have been directed towards generating content, fostering collaboration, developing the technology platform, and formulating guidelines and protocols for knowledge-sharing and dissemination on the web.

The three goals of Sahapedia are information, education and action. It aims to foster knowledge, encourage engagement, and generate action towards

understanding and revitalising the diverse aspects of Indian culture. As an open online forum, Sahapedia is accessible across various user groups such as scholars, practitioners, students, teachers, travelers and enthusiasts. It is an interactive tool for both rural and urban educational institutions. Sahapedia also integrates activities and services including research, documentation, digitisation and conservation.

Vision

Sahapedia is an initiative to develop an online interactive encyclopedia on the arts, cultures and histories of India (broadly, South Asia) based on both curated and crowd-sourced content. Sahapedia is envisaged as web-based since the web as a medium is conducive to represent the inter-connected and non-linear nature of Indian culture and heritage across various domains.

Mission

Sahapedia's goals are to inform, educate and act. It aims to foster knowledge, encourage engagement and generate action towards understanding and revitalizing the diverse aspects of Indian culture. As an open online forum, Sahapedia is accessible across multiple user groups. It is an interactive tool for both rural and urban educational institutions. Sahapedia integrates activities and services including research, documentation, digitization and conservation.

Objectives
- To provide a unique experience of Indian history and culture on the web through multimedia content and tools;
- To position itself as a unique educational experience and toolkit;
- To generate and share knowledge among users with varying levels of interest and expertise;
- To facilitate dynamic access to content for users;
- To provide an inclusive space for civil conversation among members of different communities and groups;
- To become a forum for advocacy in the area of heritage conservation and revitalization; and
- To become the first-stop for reference on any aspect of India's cultural heritage.

Sahapedia is located in India. It focuses on Indian culture and heritage, and more broadly South Asian culture and heritage since these are fluid categories and have evolved syncretically.

Sahapedia is specialised in documentation, research and online dissemination of performing arts including theatre, dance, music; cultural practices; rituals; festive events; knowledge systems; culinary traditions; oral histories.

2. Characteristics of the institute

Sahapedia is a not-for-profit Society registered under Societies Act 1860 with a tripartite collaboration between three organisations. The organisations are:
- SAHA: Stirring Action on Heritage and the Arts
- CMC Limited (a Tata Enterprise)
- International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad.

SAHA

Stirring Action on Heritage and the Arts (SAHA) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the documentation and transmission of India's knowledge systems, heritage and the arts. SAHA will be responsible for generating and managing the core content of Sahapedia. The SAHA team is composed of individuals with expertise and work experience in the fields of heritage management and cultural studies.

CMC

CMC, an IT solutions company and a subsidiary of Tata Consultancy Services Limited, will provide logistical support, expertise in web management and backend operations such as site development and maintenance.

IIIT- Hyderabad

International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT- Hyderabad) is an autonomous university focused on the core areas of Information Technology. IIIT-H will create background reference content using Wiki forms with a focus on high quality encyclopedic content.

As Sahapedia is a not-for-profit Society, the main source of funding is philanthropic organizations and agencies that promote education, arts and preservation of cultural heritage. The seed fund for Sahapedia has been provided by CMC limited (a Tata enterprise).

Potential investors in the project:

- Education foundations
- Culture philanthropists
- Heritage organizations/conservers
- Promotional agencies of local expressions
- Art enthusiasts

Sahapedia also seeks project-wise funding based on institutional partnerships for content and educational programmes. For instance, Sahapedia has

collaborated with the National School of Drama for creating a theatre archive and with the Archaeological Survey of India to document the 21 world heritage sites in India.