



125
वर्ष
YEARS
1891-2016

राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
OF INDIA



Celebrating
125th Foundation Year

2016



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Imperial Record Department to National Archives of India: A Quasiquicentennial Journey (1891-2016)

In the year 2016, National Archives of India is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its foundation. This sentinel of the nation's documentary heritage was established at Calcutta (now Kolkata) as the Imperial Records Department on 11 March 1891, and was transferred to Delhi following the transfer of capital in 1911. From 1947 onwards it came to be known as the National Archives of India and its valuable corpus of archival heritage includes public records, oriental records, cartographic records, private papers of eminent personalities and microfilms, and manuscripts, all of which constitute a rich documentary heritage of our country and forms an invaluable source of information for the administrators, scholars and other users. Today, it has one Regional Office at Bhopal and three Records Centres at Bhubaneswar, Jaipur and Puducherry.



(11 March, 2015: Dr Sanjay Garg, Smt. Sreya Guha and Dr. Mohd. Ansar-ul-Haque at the inauguration of the exhibition 'Treasures of the National Archives of India')



Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (I/C), at the 125th Foundation Day, 11 March, 2015

125th FOUNDATION YEAR CELEBRATIONS: A CURTAIN RAISER - 11 March 2015

To celebrate this important landmark in the history of the National Archives of India and with a view to bringing the archives closer to its users and public at large, year-long celebrations were planned beginning from the 125th Foundation Day on 11 March 2015. On this occasion, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (I/C), and Civil Aviation launched:

- The Logo for 125th Foundation Year Celebrations,
- Online Search Portal: Abhilekh-Patal [www.abhilekh-patal.in],
- A Virtual Exhibition on the Gandhi-Mandela, association and
- Three publications



11 March 2015: Dr. Tridip Subhrud being felicitated by Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Dr. Mahesh Sharma

125TH FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE

The Keynote speaker, Dr. Tridip Subhrud, Director, Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, Ahmedabad delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on **From Scriptorium to Variorum: The Journey towards Digital Archives**, exploring the nature and future trajectory of archives.

Milestones (1891-2016)

11 March 1891	Imperial Record Department came into existence at Calcutta and Prof. G.W. Forrest was appointed as Officer in charge.
12 October 1912	The Building Plan for the Department at Delhi was sanctioned.
19-20 June 1919	The first session of Indian Historical Records Commission, (IHRC) a consultative body of the department was held at Shimla.
1919	Sir Rai Bahadur Jamini Mitra, became the first Indian to be appointed as head of the department.
1 November 1926	The office was opened at New Delhi in the present building.
March 1937	The transfer of Records from Calcutta to New Delhi was completed.
1939	Bonafide Scholars were permitted to consult pre-1859 records.
1940	A Conservation Research Laboratory (CRL) was established.
1942	The publication programme in the department was taken up.
1942	Systematic survey of Private Archives was initiated at the behest of the Indian Historical Records Commission (IHRC)
1943	A formal course in Archival training was launched.
1947	The Departmental Journal <i>The Indian Archives</i> came into existence.
30 August 1947	The name of department was changed from Imperial Record Department to the National Archives of India.
1948	A project for obtaining Microfilm copies of documents of Indian Interest from various repositories in the world was taken up
1951	Hand lamination Technique for the repair of fragile documents was developed.
1952	Personal Papers of the great Mathematician, S. Ramanujam were acquired.
1953	National Committee of Archivist (NCA) was set up.
1956	A Regional Office was set up at Bhopal.
1957	Historical Documents Purchase Committee (HDPC) was constituted.
1959	Archival Legislation Committee was appointed by Government of India under the chairmanship of Dr. Tarachand for the systemic retirement of records.
1962	A pilot project of Records Management to help various agencies of Government of India to relieve them of their burden of Ephemeral Records was taken up.
1970	Historical Research Rules for access to records were notified.
December 1972	Archival Policy Resolution (APR) was adopted.
February 1973	On the occasion of Silver Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence MARCH TOWARD FREEDOM exhibition was organized for public viewing
1976	South West Asia Regional Branch of International Council on Archives (SWARBICA) was established.
June 1976	Report of Records Management Committee was submitted.
December 1976	Institute of Archival Training was set up in separate premises.
1977	Record Centre, Jaipur came into existence.
7-13 August 1978	First Archives Week was celebrated.
1979	Record Centre, Pondicherry came into existence.
1982	Any adult Indian was allowed access to non-current records
June 1990	The Director of Archives was re-designated as Director General of Archives
11 March 1991	Department completed one hundred years
1993	The Public Records Act was passed
1996	Record Centre, Bhubaneswar came into existence.
1997	The Public Records Rules were notified
6 July 1998	An Archives Museum was inaugurated by Shri K.R. Narayanan, the then President of India for general public.
1998	Digitization work was taken up in the department.
11 March 2015	125th anniversary celebrations were launched. A specially-designed logo was adopted To mark the celebrations. A dedicated online search portal – Abhilekh-Patal – was launched.
23 January 2016	100 declassified files of Netaji were released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and a dedicated web portal – www.netajipapers.gov.in – was also launched.
7-11 March 2016	Grand finale of the culmination of the year long celebrations of 125 th Foundation year of National Archives of India; release of commemorative Coins (Rs. 125 and Rs. 10 denomination) and Commemorative postal stamp released. The NAI adopts an emblem with the motto – <i>Vayam Abhikhan Rakshamah</i> – as a mark of its distinct institutional identity.

Journey forward: Challenges and Milestones

The Advisory Committee, in its First Meeting on 21 April, 2015 headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture (see box) illuminated the way forward to mark the 125th anniversary of the NAI in a befitting manner. The Implementation Committee, (see box) with the assistance of a specially created Commemoration Cell, undertook the onerous challenge to spearhead a number of activities not only at the NAI's headquarters at New Delhi, but also across its regional office & three regional centres.

The First meeting of the Advisory Committee for the 125th Foundation year Celebrations of the National Archives of India (2015-16) was held on 21 April 2015 at 10.30 am in the Chamber of Secretary (Culture), Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The following Members were present:

1. Shri Ravindra Singh, Secretary (Culture), -in chair
2. Smt. Sreya Guha, Joint Secretary and DGA -Member
3. Shri Bazil Sheikh, -Member
4. Dr. Mahesh Rangarajan, Director, NMML -Member
5. Shri Deepak Ashish Kaul, Director, Ministry of Culture -Member
6. Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director of Archives, Convener, Prof. Shahid Amin attended the Meeting as Special Invitee. Dr. Ansar ul Haque, Deputy Director of Archives, and Shri Rajmani, Assistant Director of Archives and In-charge of the 125 Commemoration Cell, also attended the Meeting.

The focus was to utilize this opportunity as a watershed year in the history of NAI in terms of outreach, digitization, branding initiatives and access. Steered and monitored by the Implementation Committee, the year 2015-16 witnessed significant achievements in all fields, and across all centres, imbued with a renewed sense of purpose.

The First meeting of the Implementation Committee for the 125th Foundation year Celebrations of the National Archives of India (2015-16) was held on 7 May 2015 at 3.00 pm in the Chamber of Director General of Archives, National Archives of India New Delhi. The following Members were present:

1. Smt. Sreya Guha, Joint Secretary and DGA Chairperson
 2. Shri Deepak Ashish Kaul, Director, Ministry of Culture
 3. Dr. Sanjay Garg, Deputy Director of Archives Convener
 4. Dr. M.A Haque, Deputy Director of Archives, Member
 5. Shri T. Hussain, Deputy Director of Archives, Member
 6. Shri Syed Farid Ahmed, Assistant Director of Archives, Member
 7. Smt. Jayaprabha Ravindran, Assistant Director of Archives, Member
 8. Shri Rajmani, Assistant Director of Archives, Member
 9. Shri Jagmohan Jareda, Assistant Director of Archives, Member
 10. Shri S.C. Mondal, Under Secretary, (A&A), Member
- Shri Shabi-Uddin Khan, Archivist, (I/C) P&B Section, Dr. Sutapa Chakroborty, Scientific Officer, and the in-charge of the 125th Commemoration Cell, also attended the Meeting.

Archives at your Finger Tips – Portal for Access to Archives and Learning (PATAL)



The Abhilekh Patal emerged as an invaluable resource, dissolving physical boundaries of space and time for the Research scholar. For the period between 11th March 2015 and 1st February 2016 -

- 9,042 users from 109 countries have visited the website.
- 99,858 pages have been viewed on the website

- 2,069 users have registered on the website.
- Average time spent by a user on the portal : 8 minutes 46 seconds
- Average pages viewed per session : 7.45 pages
- Total Number of Active Records on the Portal : 23,73,834

Prime Minister of India visits the National Archives of India

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on 23 January 2016, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India visited the National Archives of India and inaugurated an exhibition of recently de-classified files pertaining to Netaji. He also launched a dedicated portal for universal access of the digitization digitized of the Netaji Papers [www.netajipapers.gov.in] thus fulfilling a long standing demand by a milieu of Netaji's admirers.



23 January, 2016: Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paying tribute to Netaji. Also seen are Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism and Culture(I/C), Shri Babul Supriyo, Hon'ble Minister of State, Urban Development and Shri N.K.Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Culture.



23 January, 2016: Shri N.K. Sinha, Secretary, Culture showing the exhibits to the Prime Minister.

Grand Finale – 11 March 2016

A culmination of the year-long celebrations will be marked by the weeklong programme (7-11 March 2016) that will host an array of activities:

- An exhibition entitled, “Independent India: A Forward March”, based on post-independence public records, 7 March 2016
- A two-day seminar from 8-9 March, 2016 on “Sources of 18th and 19th Century”
- Foundation Day Lecture by Prof. Surendra Gopal on the topic, “Some Foreign Archives and India’s History” on 10 March 2016
- Cultural Programme and 'NAI Family Dinner' on 10 March 2016
- Issue of a Commemorative coins (in denominations of Rs. 125 and Rs.10) and
- Issue of a Commemorative postal stamp of Rs. 5 and First Day Cover
- Two significant publications on the National Archives of India

A story of our nation emerges from these hallowed precincts – a story kept alive by understanding that it is critically important to preserve records, without which no story can be written or proved.

We invite you to accompany the NAI on this one year Journey of celebrating 125 years with the hope and conviction of celebrating many more quasiquicentennials.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Papers

www.netajipapers.gov.in

The Government of India had decided to declassify the files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and make them accessible to public. This was announced by Shri Narendra Modi the Prime Minister of India on 14 October 2015 when he met a delegation of members of Netaji family at his residence in New Delhi. The first lot of 33 files which were declassified were handed over by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to National Archives of India on 4 December 2015.



Branding Initiatives

On the occasion of 125th anniversary of Foundation Day, the National Archives of India organised two contests for the designing:

- a logo for 125th Anniversary Celebrations, and
- an emblem for National Archives of India with a suitable tagline.

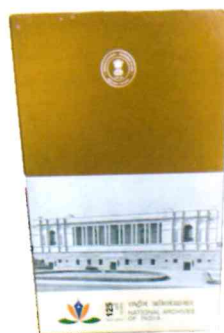
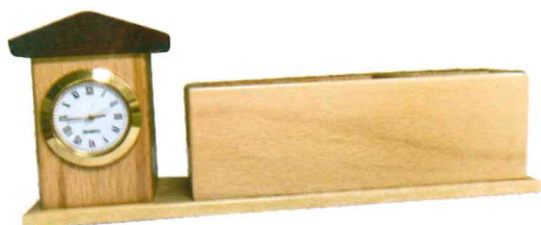
The announcements for the contest were made on MyGov portal and other sources like Facebook page and website of the department.

Both contests received encouraging response. 262 entries were received for the logo, while 1,310 entries for the Emblem with a tagline.

The emblem and a tagline giving the National Archives of India its distinct institutional identity will be released during the Grand Finale to these celebrations on 11 March 2016.

- **Emblem:** It depicts the line drawing of the facade of the heritage building of the National Archives of India set against brown colour that signifies the historical and archival character of its holdings.
- **Tagline:** Sanskrit phrase – वयं अभिलेखान् रक्षामः *Vayam Abhilekhan Rakshamah* – or 'We Protect Records' carries the ethos of the work and commitment of the National Archives of India as the sentinel of the nation's documentary heritage.

The logo for the 125th Anniversary was prominently incorporated on an array of promotional stationary brought out during the celebrations which included coffee mugs, mouse pads, signages, desktop calenders, etc., on this occasion.



Digital Initiatives @ NAI: A Year of Historic Firsts

A critical component of the 125th Foundation Year celebrations was the renewed commitment towards digitization.

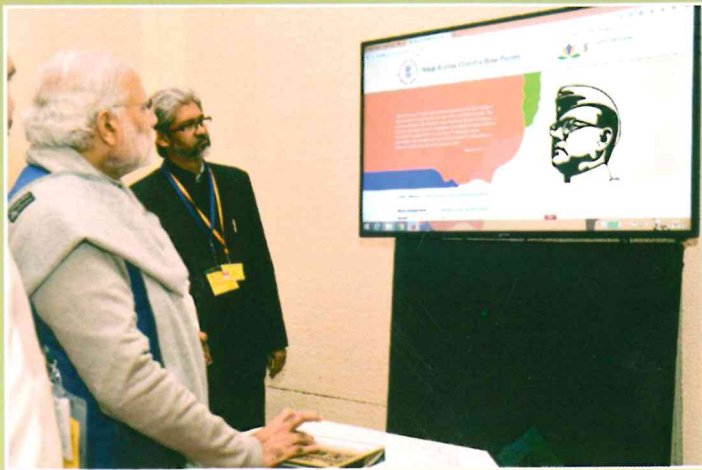
Launch of Abhilekh-Patal

On 11 March 2015, working within the overall national mission of Digital India, a full featured web-portal "Abhilekh patal" was launched by the Honorable Minister of Culture, Government of India, to enable access to the digitized data of NAI and its reference media (Catalogue of Records) by worldwide users. This portal consists of 2.3 million reference media and over 12,000 digitized images from the record holdings of NAI.



11 March, 2015: Launch of Abhilekh-Patal

Launch of the de-classified and digitized files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



23 January, 2016: Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launching the de-classified and digitized files on the public domain, www.netajipapers.gov.in

Another historic first was the launch of the de-classified and digitized files relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by the Honorable Prime Minister of India on 23th January 2016. In the first phase, the digital copies of 100 files have been put in public domain under the URL www.netajipapers.gov.in.

Future Perspectives: preservation and proactive management

As part of the Government of India's initiative under Digital India, the National Archives of India has charted an ambitious programme to take a giant leap in the digital world. It has already signed a MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune for streamlining the digital preservation of electronic records - both for born digital and burn (formatted) digital records, under the initiative of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

The C-DAC team is also engaged in the formulation of standards for digital records in NAI. The outcome of this Project will enable NAI to develop the digital preservation capabilities of e-records in fulfillment of the mandate of the Public Records Act of 1993, and also to take care of the electronic archives. Incorporating the ISO standards for Open Archival Information System (OAIS) and Trusted Digital Repository, and through a research for over four years, the C-DAC has designed an integrated workflow from start to end of the records management process and is included in 4 customized software:

- **Abhilekh Digitalaya:** an Open Archival Information System (OAIS) which helps in long-term preservation of digital records;



- **E-Rupantar:** Enables in managing in implementing the digitization best practices;



- **E-Sangrahan:** a software tool for acquisition of digital records received from various depositors, and



- **Records Reporting System:** an online reporting mechanism for compliance of various statutory requirements by the Departmental Records Officers (DROs), under the Public Records Rules, 1997

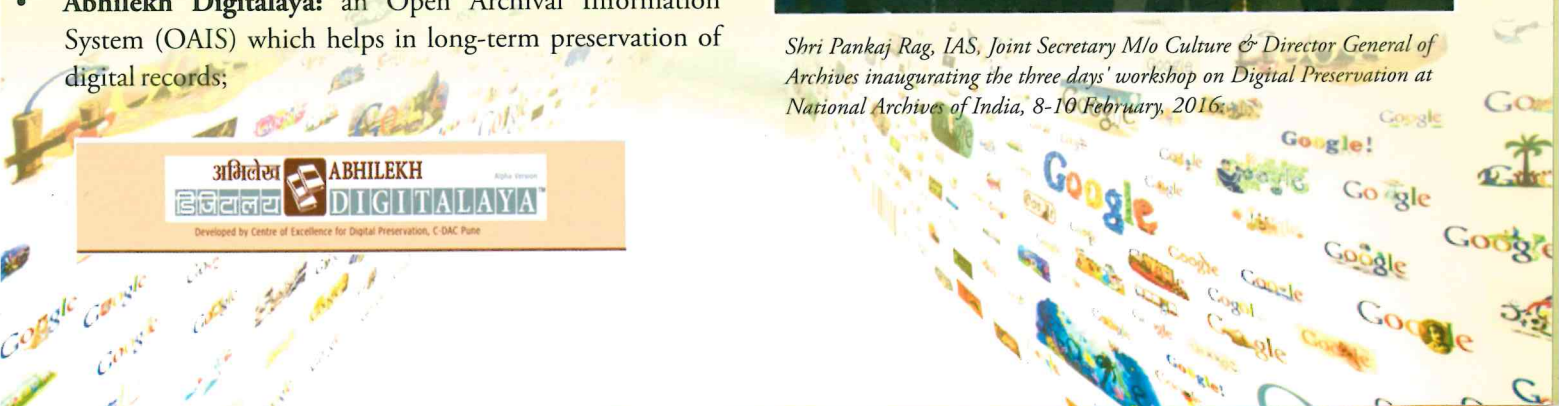


Digital Preservation Training

With a view to build up the technical capabilities in the digital field, the NAI, in association with C-DAC conducted preservation Workshop for archivists and record officers, from 8-10 February, 2016.



Shri Pankaj Rag, IAS, Joint Secretary M/o Culture & Director General of Archives inaugurating the three days' workshop on Digital Preservation at National Archives of India, 8-10 February, 2016.

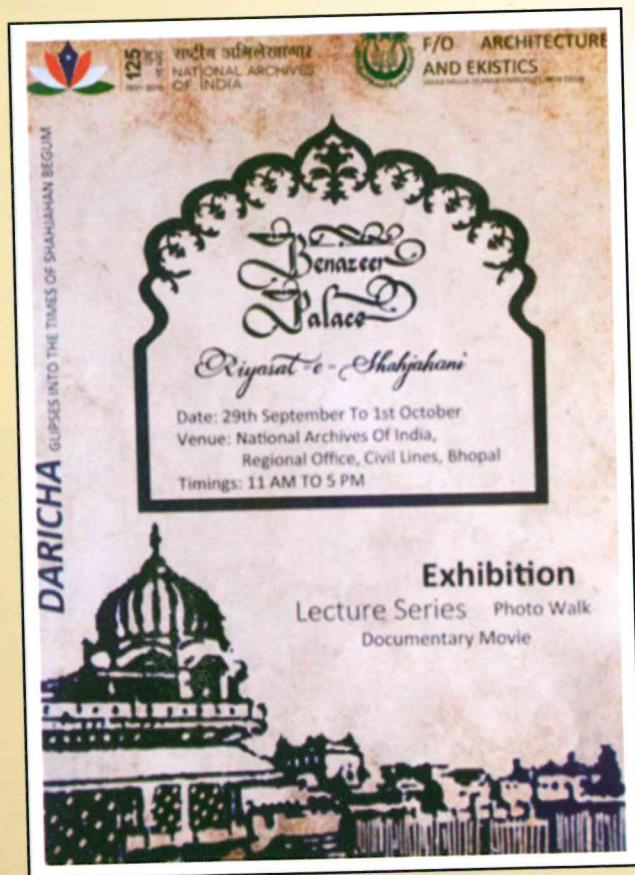


125th Year Celebrations in the NAI Regional Office and Record Centres

National Archives Regional Office, Bhopal

The National Archives of India, Regional Office, Bhopal whose major holdings consist of the records housed in the Central Records Office of the erstwhile Bhopal State, wove in innovative archival experiences such as Lectures, Photo walks and movie screenings, to promote an atmosphere of lively enquiry. Some of the main activities undertaken were:

- As part the three day outreach initiative commencing from 29 September 2015, an exhibition entitled 'Daricha: Glimpses into the times of Shahjahan Begum' with special reference to 'Benazeer Palace' was organized in collaboration with Department of Architecture and Ekistics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, from 29 Sept to 1 October 2015.



- A lecture on 'The Architectural Heritage of Bhopal' by Prof. Savita Rajee of School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal was delivered on 29 September, 2015.
- A lecture series on various themes of History and Archives was organized on 30 September 2015. The details are as under:

- Dr. Mamta Chinsoria spoke on "Key to archival treasures available in Madhya Pradesh with special reference to NAI Records Centre, Bhopal"
- Prof. Suresh Misra spoke on "Role of archives in research"
- Dr. Ranjan Sharma spoke on "Historiography and current trends in archives' keeping"
- Dr. Rehman delivered a Lecture on "Early writings during the Medieval period"
- Dr. S.D. Gaur spoke on, "Archival Sources available in Madhya Pradesh", and
- Dr. Mangla Anuja spoke about "Importance of Archives & Libraries"

On 1 October 2015, two Lectures by eminent Heritage Conservators were also organized:

- Dr. S.M. Hussain spoke on "The importance of Heritage conservation in Bhopal" and
- Mr. Akhtar Husain, Local historian and photographer spoke on "The Royal Journey of Bhopal".



- On the occasion of the 125th Foundation Year celebrations, a seminar-cum-exhibition was organized on the Great Uprising of 1857 from 4 - 5 March 2016.

National Archives of India, Records Centre, Puducherry

NAI Records Centre, Puducherry zealously celebrated the 125th foundation year through its various activities and initiatives such as:

- Commemorative structures such as wooden Commemoration Pillar (with a stone base), Memorial Arch and a colour painting bearing the logo of the 125th NAI Foundation year were installed to celebrate a sense of shared pride of this momentous event.



Seminar on Archives

As part of the 125th NAI foundation year celebration, a Seminar on Archives was organised in this Record Centre on 25 January 2016 for 77 students and five faculty members of Acharya Arts and Science College with the objective of encouraging the student community towards a better understanding and use of archival resources.

Open House program

As part of the 125th NAI foundation year celebration, this Record Centre has organized visits of students from St. Joseph of Cluny Hr. Secondary School, Puducherry on 4

March 2016 for interactive open house session to promote archival awareness among the students, and to encourage the use of original documents for historical research.

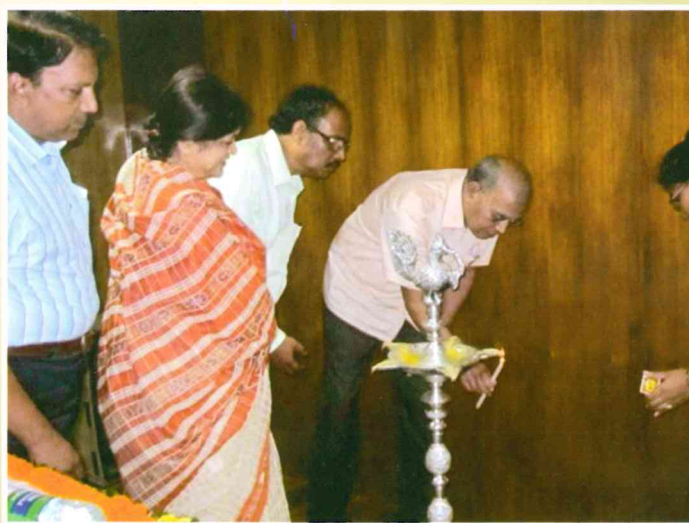
National Archives of India, Records Centre, Bhubaneswar

As part of the 125th Foundation Year Special lecture Series, a host of lectures/panel discussions were organized, detailed as under:

- Panel Discussion on 'Changing Role of Archives vis-vis changing technology', with Prof J.K. Nayak, Ms Mallika Mitra and Shri P.K. Mahakud as panelists, 11 March, 2015.



Mr Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, coordinator, INTACH, Odisha Chapter delivering lecture on 'Archiving in Odisha with special reference to royal households, temples and monasteries'. The talk was delivered on 9 June 2015 on the occasion of 125th celebration programme and International Archives Day.



Mr Amiya Bhusan Tripathy, coordinator, INTACH inaugurating the celebration programme on 9 June 2015. Also seen are: Shri Farid Ahmed, ADA (RC), Dr. Nivedita Mohanty and Dr Lalatendu Mahapatra, Assistant Director, NAI Records Centre, Bhubaneswar.



Lecture on 'Role of Binode Kanungo in Building of Knowledge Society' delivered by Prof J.K. Nayak on 2 December 2015

- Special lecture on 'Role of Binode Kanungo in Building of Knowledge Society' by Prof J.K. Nayak on 2 December 2015
- Special lecture on 'Laxmi Panda: An unsung INA soldier of Odisha' by Mr. Anil Dhir on 20 January 2016
- Special Lecture 'Iconoclastic Imaginings: Kalapahar in Odisha and Bengal' by Prof. Ishita Banerjee Dube on 18 February 2016

Besides, a brochure on Records Centre, Bhubaneswar was released and three logos pertaining to 125th Foundation year celebration were mounted on the front wall of the office building.

National Archives of India, Records Centre, Jaipur

Besides the display and installation of the 125th Foundation Year Logo, the Centre organised various activities to disseminate a better understanding of its holdings through outreach initiatives such as:

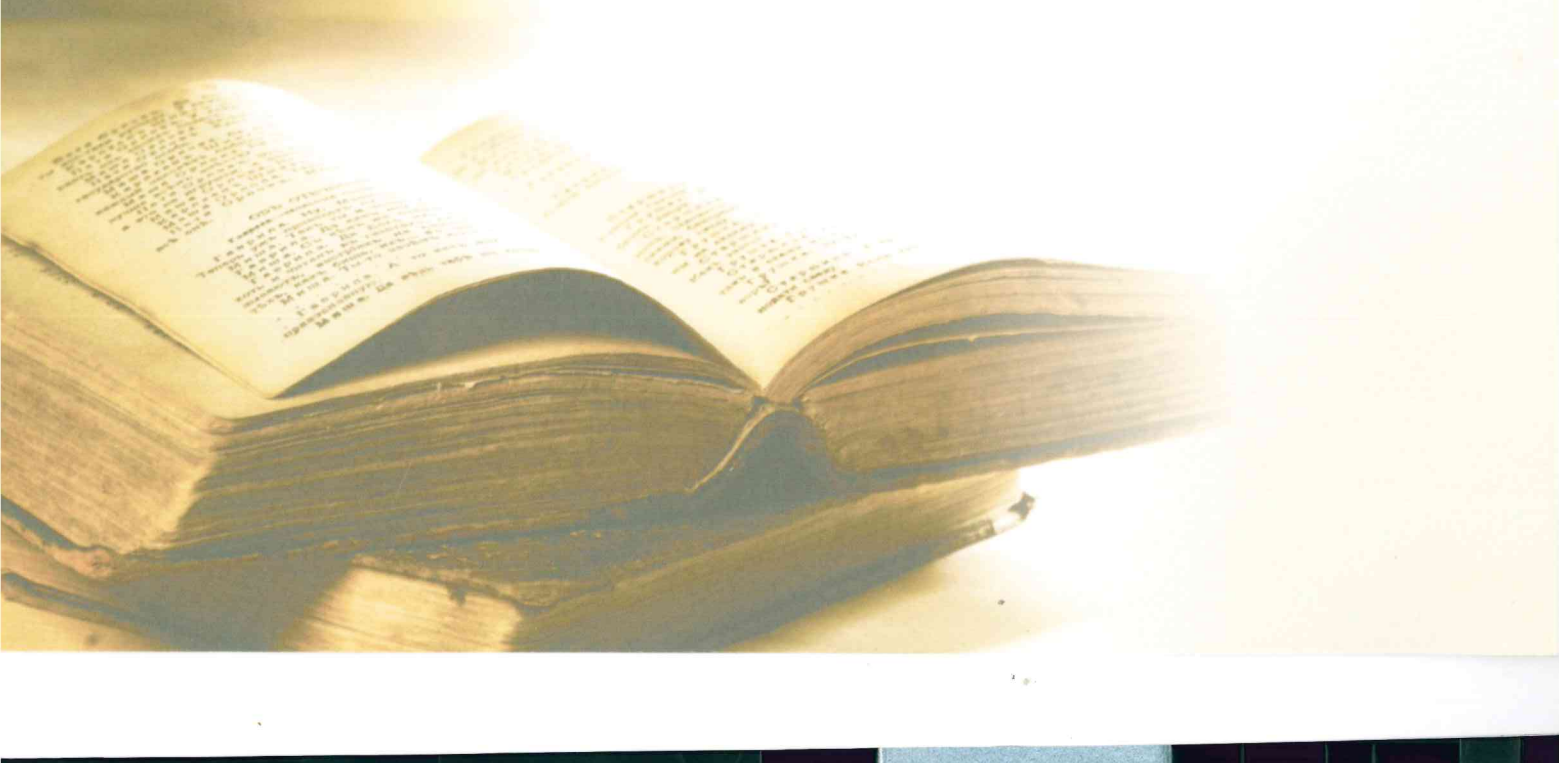
- Organizing visits of students from varied academic backgrounds from 23-24 February 2016 for interactive open house sessions, to familiarize and inculcate an appreciation of their documentary heritage. Crafts & Design Institute, I.I.S University, Department of History, Rajasthan

University, were some of the academic institutes which participated in these events.

- Another highlight of this celebration was the curating of an exhibition entitled 'Bharatiya Film Udyog dwara nirmit Etihaasik Filme', [Historical Films produced by Indian Film Industry] based on archival collection of the Indian Film Certification Board. This exhibition was inaugurated on 8 February 2016 by Dr. V.K. Vashishta, former Professor and Head, Department of History, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer.



8 February, 2016: Inauguration of an exhibition entitled 'Bharatiya Film Udog dwara nirmit Etihaasik Filme 'National Archives Records Centre, Jaipur



The Special Lecture Series

Through the years, the archives has been the bedrock of seminal research for academics and researchers from various fields and a tremendous variety of archival material has been used to produce works of great scholarship and insight. As part of the 125th Foundation Year celebrations, the National Archives of India was very fortunate to have a galaxy of eminent academics,

researchers and stakeholders sharing various aspects of their work and contextualizing the role of archival sources therein. Peppered with personal reminiscences, these invaluable experiences enriched the interactive ethos of our institution. Noted academics, archivists gave an unique perspective and also deliberated upon the latest research trends.



The first Special Lecture delivered by Dr. Arun Chakraborty, Director General, Raja Ram Mohan Library Foundation, Kolkata on 'Leading with LAMP: Integration of Library, Archive and Museum Practices in Digital Age', 20 April, 2015



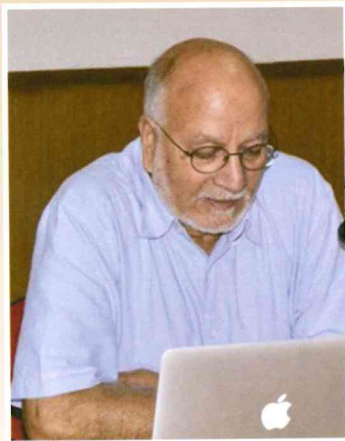
Sqn Ldr. R TS Chhina (Retd) Secretary and Editor, Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research, United Service Institution of India speaks on 'India and the First World War: Records, Memory and Memorialisation', 29 May 2015



Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray, Chairperson, National Monuments Authority, M/O Culture, speaks on "Archaeology of Buddhism in India: Sourcing the Archives", 15 June 2015



Dr Rakesh Batabyal, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University spoke on 'Archives at the times of Transition: Explorations into the Contemporary History of Eastern Europe', 27 July 2015



Dr. Rana P. Behal, Associate Professor (Retd.), spoke on "Historiography of Indian Labour History", 07 August 2015



Dr. Narayani Gupta, Professor of History, (Retd.), University of Delhi and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi spoke on 'Hunting for towns in the archives', 28 September 2015



Dr. Najaf Haider, Associate Professor of History, Centre For Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, spoke on 'Book Collection and Circulation in Mughal India', 16 October 2015



Mr Bruno Racine, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France delivered a Lecture on 'Digitisation and Cultural Heritage', 26 October 2015



Prof. Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul, Professor of Economics, (Retd.), University of Delhi, New Delhi spoke on 'The National Archives of India and the making of New Delhi: An Untold Saga of the Shamilat-deh or Village Commons, 1911-2015', 23 November 2015



Ms. Penny Brook, Head of India Office Records, the British Library delivered a Lecture on "The India Office Records Improving access for audiences worldwide", 4 December 2015





Dr. Biswamoy Pati, Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library and Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi spoke on "The Cuttack Asylum, c.1860-1900", 15 February 2016



William Dalrymple, Renowned Author and Literary journalist spoke on 'The Return of a King: An Indian Army in Afghanistan', 4 March 2016

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