

Abhilekh Patal – FAQs

General Information:

1. What is Abhilekh Patal?

→ Abhilekh Patal is a digital repository curated by the National Archives of India (NAI) that provides access to a vast collection of historical records and documents.

2. What is the purpose of Abhilekh Patal?

→ The main goal of Abhilekh Patal is to offer easy access to India's historical archives, allowing users to explore and learn about the country's history, culture, and heritage.

3. Who can use Abhilekh Patal?

→ Abhilekh Patal is open to a wide range of users, including researchers, students, history enthusiasts, anyone interested in learning about India's heritage and past.

4. Is Abhilekh Patal affiliated with the National Archives of India?

→ Yes, Abhilekh Patal is curated and maintained by the National Archives of India.

Accessing Records:

5. How can I access the records on Abhilekh Patal?

→ You can access the digitized records on Abhilekh Patal by visiting the portal's website and navigating through the available collections.

6. Are there any restrictions on who can access the records?

→ Abhilekh Patal is generally open to all, and there are typically no restrictions on who can access the records.

7. Can I access Abhilekh Patal from outside India?

→ Yes, Abhilekh Patal is accessible from anywhere in the world with an internet connection.

8. Do I need to create an account to access the records?

→ No, creating an account is not typically required to access the records. However, registration may be necessary for certain services like viewing the entire files and requesting digitization.

9. Are the records available for download?

→ Yes, many records on Abhilekh Patal are available for download in digital format on online payment basis.

Types of Records:

10. What type of records are available on the portal?

→ Abhilekh Patal offers a diverse range of historically significant documents, including primary source materials, such as Public Records (Non-Current records of Government of India which are transferred to NAI under Public Records Act 1993 & Rules 1997), Private Papers, Cartography Records and rich Library collection that cover various aspects of India's history and culture.

11. Are there records in languages other than English on Abhilekh Patal?

→ Yes, you can find records in various Indian languages and scripts (Persian, Urdu, Sanskrit, Pali, Bengali, Gujrati, etc.), reflecting the linguistic diversity of the country.

12. Can I find photographs and maps in the collections?

→ Yes, the collections may include photographs, maps, manuscripts, and a wide range of historical materials.

13. Are there records related to specific time periods or historical events?

→ Yes, the records cover a broad spectrum of time periods and historical events, allowing users to explore different eras of India's history.

Fees and Services:

14. Is there a fee to access the records?

→ Access to the digitized records is typically free of charge. However, there might be a nominal fee associated with certain value-added services like the Digitize on Demand (DOD) and the Page on Demand (POD) feature.

15. What is the Digitize on Demand (DOD) service?

→ The Digitize on Demand service allows registered users to request the digitization of specific records that are not yet available online. This service may involve a nominal fee.

16. How do I use the Digitize on Demand service?

→ If you come across records with available metadata but not yet digitized, you can request their digitization through the DOD service. (To be Deleted: The National Archives team will prioritize digitizing those records for you).

17. Can I request the digitization of multiple records through DOD?

→ Yes, you can request the digitization of up to 5 records through a single DOD order, but fees may apply for each request.

18. What is the Page on Demand (POD) feature?

→ The Page on Demand feature allows users to obtain downloadable pages of records for a nominal fee. This feature enhances your ability to access targeted information.

19. How do I download specific pages of records through POD?

→ You can use the POD feature to download specific pages of a record by providing relevant details and paying the associated fee.

20. Are there any subscription options for enhanced access?

→ Currently, there are no subscription options mentioned for Abhilekh Patal. Access is primarily based on the services provided and any associated fees.

Navigation and Research:

21. How do I navigate the portal effectively?

→ You can make use of the digitized index registers available in the "reference tools" section to navigate the collections efficiently.

22. Can I save or bookmark records for future reference?

→ Yes, you can typically save or bookmark records within your browser for future reference.

23. Are there search filters to narrow down results?

→ Yes, the portal often provides search filters to help users refine their searches based on various criteria such as date, type of record, and keywords.

24. Can I access historical indexes and catalogs?

→ Yes, you can access historical indexes and catalogs to aid your research and exploration of the records.

Scope and Contributions:

25. Is Abhilekh Patal only for Indian history?

→ While Abhilekh Patal primarily focuses on Indian history and heritage, it also offers insights into various aspects of India's past, culture, societal changes and India's relationship with various countries over the time.

26. Can I contribute my own records to Abhilekh Patal?

→ Currently, the portal primarily focuses on providing access to records curated by the National Archives of India. User-contributed records might not be part of the official collection.

27. Are there any specific criteria for contributing records?

→ The contribution of records to Abhilekh Patal is typically managed by the National Archives of India, and specific criteria may apply. It's advisable to contact them directly for details on contributing records.

28. How can I ensure the accuracy of the records I contribute?

→ If you are contributing records, it's important to provide accurate metadata and context to ensure the records are properly cataloged and accessible to users.

Updates and Support:

29. How frequently are new records added to the portal?

→ The frequency of record additions may vary, but the National Archives of India strives to periodically update the portal with new content.

30. What if the record I'm looking for is missing from the Metadata?

→ If the record you're seeking isn't listed in the Metadata, visit the 'Reference Tools' section. Identify relevant records and contact our research room via email at researchroomnai1@gmail.com to explore access possibilities.

Contact Information:

31. How can I contact Abhilekh Patal for further assistance?

→ For any inquiries or assistance, you can refer to the contact information provided on the portal's website.

32. Are there customer support hours or response times for inquiries?

→ Customer support response times may vary, but you can typically find contact information to reach out for assistance.