



Commentary: Exhibition - India at 70 and the Jammu & Kashmir Saga



7 Feb, 2018 Ramanand Garge, Associate Fellow, VIF View1792 Comments 0

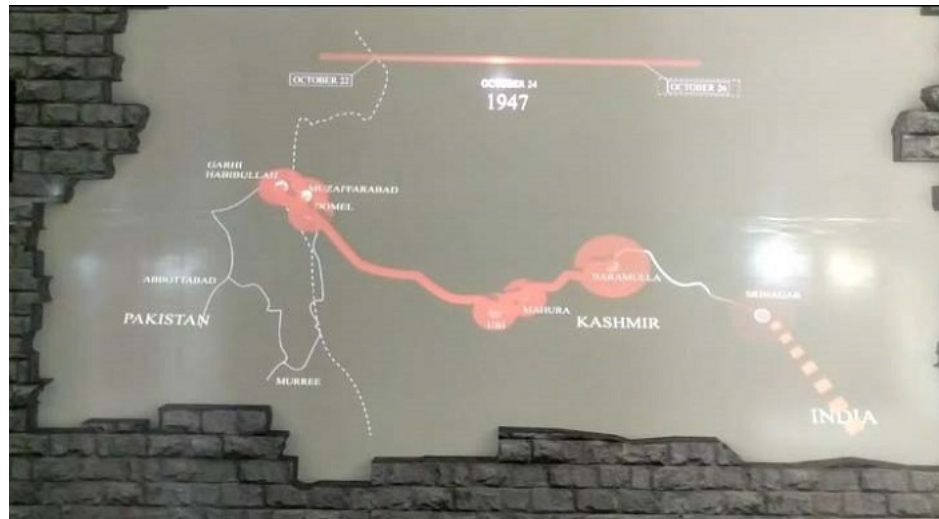
On the occasion of 70 years of Jammu & Kashmir's accession to India, an interactive digital exhibition was organised by the National Archives of India on January 11, 2018. The exhibition has been organised at the National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi, and is open for free public access including Sundays till February 10, 2018.

Through the digital exhibition National Archives of India aimed to sensitise the youth of the country who are born in Independent India about the heroism, valour and sacrifice of the valorous souls of Indian Armed Forces and civilians. It is one of those rare opportunities at the National Archives where common citizens of India were able to step through the passages of official communications like letters, telegrams, archival rare documents pertaining to the Kashmir imbroglio. For this exhibition, History Division of the Ministry of Defence have contributed rare inputs in the form of operational records, war diaries, dispatches etc. The exhibition was characterised by the rare exposure of documents like the Treaty of Lahore (March 11, 1846), Treaty of Amritsar (March 16, 1846), Standstill Agreement between Independent Dominion of India and Princely States of the British India prior to the integration of the new dominion, and the Instrument of Accession of October 27, 1947. It was an initiative by the Ministry of Culture to sensitise the masses through the details of the accession of Jammu & Kashmir in such an interactive manner.

The state of the art digital exhibition can be considered as a bridge to the evolution of today's India and a historical foundation for the integration of Jammu & Kashmir into the Union of India. Along with documents, an audio-visual digital display of rarest of the rare photographs, documentaries, soldier's maps, newspapers of the 1940's and 1950's, and number of books unfold the saga of dramatic yet humbling moments. During the exhibition one would come across the circumstances that led to the accession of Jammu & Kashmir to subsequent actions that protected integrity and restored peace in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Qualitative use of audio-visual means of communication enable the citizens of India to understand the social and cultural legacy of Jammu & Kashmir in true perspective.

In the exhibition, one steps through landmark events, well preserved in archival records to understand the idea of India and its le existence. It gives the first-hand view of developments achieved by India in 70 years of Independence and gives a factual account of India in maintaining its sovereignty. The beautifully curated exhibition provides a valuable insight about historical facts as to how var were integrated into the Union of India.

(Views expressed are of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the VIF)





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