

KARNATAKA ARCHIVES – DIGITIZATION – A GLIMPSE



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&
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- **Digital Archives** and knowledge management are innovations, the implementation of which is still nascent in developing countries. However, they hold the promise of becoming key technologies for knowledge creation and management in the future. They can enhance the ongoing processes of economic, scientific, technological, and social development by providing and distributing effective and value-added information, thus contributing to the universe of knowledge. It is necessary to foster the ability of people in developing countries to build information bases as well as digitization standards, policies to make effective use of technology transfer and diffuse any new technology coming from the developed world.
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Information has become a key factor in the production and reproduction of modern societies. The enormous rate at which published and un-published data are growing, makes it impossible physically and economically for the individual user or Institution to have access to all the data. All the data needs to be compiled, evaluated, retrieved and disseminated for effective use. What is needed is a method that is less expensive and more permanent.



- Digital revolution has drastically altered the very content of the concept of information. It also provides a great opportunity for development of more economical, transparent and user driven system. Similarly, due to enormous development of the world wide web (w.w.w.) forces, all existing systems need to be modernized, adopted or to become increasingly marginalized.
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- The **Digital Archives** enables researchers to access invaluable historical material in ways never before possible – with lightning – fast searches of huge collection of specific topics, authors, issues etc. With the help of digital image your documents could be just a fingertip away by the touch of a mouse button.
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 - Karnataka, a State of rich tradition, heritage and culture, which can boast a world heritage centre in Hampi. Ruled by great emperors of equally great dynasties from Kadambas to Rastrakutas, Hoysalas to Vijayanagar to Wodeyars etc., have made this state rich in culture and heritage. The world famous temples at Belur, Halebeed, Aihole, Pattadakallu and Shravanabelagola have all been the master-showpieces of great sculptural tradition. The Aihole, Pattadakallu and Vijayanagar monuments speak the richness of our unity in diverse culture.
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- Even in the fields of Science and Technology, industry and irrigation the State is in the forefront of economic growth and development. In the recent advancements, Bangalore, the capital city of Karnataka, is regarded as one of the greatest Silicon Vallies, wherein it occupies the fifth place in the world. Hence, of late, Bangalore has occupied the prime place in the field of technology and has been hailed as the IT capital of India. Karnataka State is one of the front runners in the E-Governance in the country.

 - Karnataka State Archives is a rich store house of ancient manuscripts and documents ranging since 200 years. Besides, the State Archives is the repository of lakhs of printed documents of historical value which are of immense significance for the scholars, historians, academicians, students and public. The Karnataka State Archives is also in possession of Old Government Files (Pre-independent periods) and Secretariat files that reflect on the type of administration that the State Government has carried on from time to time.
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- Historical Records Section of State Archives, which constitutes the back bone of the Directorate, is a treasure of Records of enduring value relating to political, administrative, social & cultural heritage of Karnataka. The record series range from the year 1800 to 1956. Major collections in the Archives are:
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- Mysore Gazettes (1866-1947)
 - Fort St. George Gazettes (1833-1963)
 - Printed Proceedings of the Government of Madras (1850-1936)
 - Yearly Administrative Reports (1862-1966)
 - Census Reports (1871-2001)
 - Proceedings of the Mysore Government (1843-1961)
 - Assembly Debates/Proceedings (1889-1974)
 - Civil Lists (1898-2001)
 - File Registers (1831-1960)
 - A large collection of old maps
 - Records of Old Revenue Divisions such as Ashtagrams, Nandidurga, Nagara etc (1831-1855)
 - Government of India Gazettes (1864-1967)
 - Bound Volumes (Documents of Commissioners' Period – 1832 – 1881)
 - All file-series from British and Nizam periods
 - Manuscripts in Modi, Marathi & Persian languages
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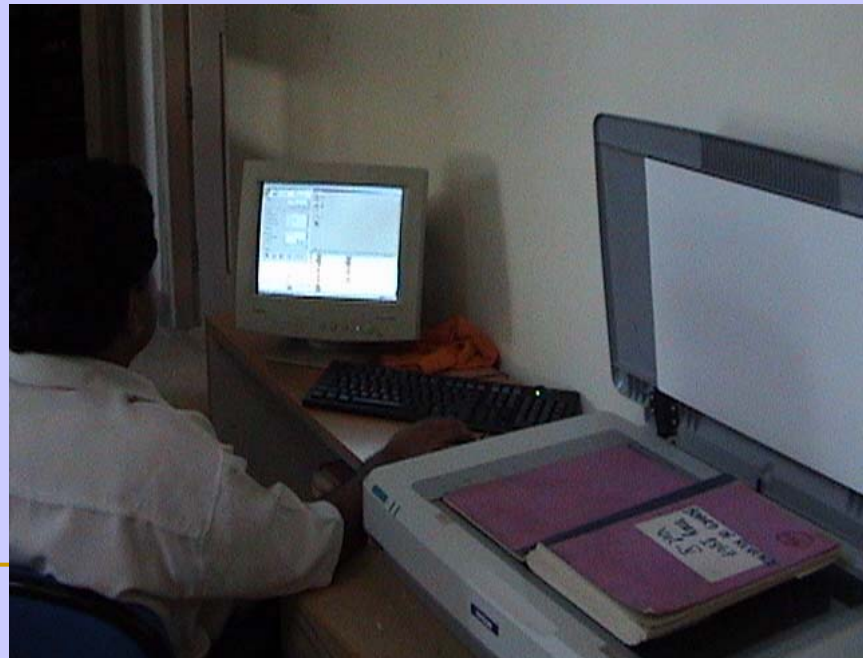
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- This Section serves as a reference centre for research scholars, both Indian and foreign. Around 17 lakhs Government and public documents are housed in this Historical Records Section. Having witnessed the new waves created in the field of Information Technology, with Bangalore as its epicenter, the Directorate lost no time in adopting the techniques of Computerization and Digitalization. Hence, it was decided in 2002-2003 to prepare descriptive catalogues (with 23 parameters) and to computerize such catalogues and to host them on Web through the Server of State Archives. As on today the State Archives has computerized the catalogues of 10 lakhs historical documents and hosted them on Web, probably for the first time in the history of Indian Archives. Still, the State Archives has a lot of digitalization work to accomplish.
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Job involved

- Taking out the files/documents from the rack
- Cleaning the documents
- Opening the files/documents and studying them thoroughly



- Familiarizing the contents of each file/document in accordance with the 23 columns proforma prescribed
- Data entry of 23 columns proforma directly into the computer so as to prepare catalogues
- Scanning the documents using high speed scanner with image enhancement



- Verification and Checking the entry so made in the computer
- Placing back the documents to the rack with neatly labeled
- Taking out of the prints of the catalogues and duly bound
- Submitting softcopy in CD format



Private papers play an important role as supplementary information for researchers and as such their collection through survey work and preservation for posterity has become a vital necessity. Karnataka State Archives is a rich storehouse of private papers acquired from individuals, Institutions etc. There are nearly 350 collections, each with approximately more than hundred documents on a variety of subjects. Each collection includes holographs, autographs, memorandum, diaries, newspapers clippings, jottings, rare books, letters of correspondence etc. There are approximately 3 lakhs documents. Considering their importance, they have to be computerized so that the information content may be stored and retrieved conveniently. Arrangements and classification of private papers, preparation of suitable reference media to them has to be taken up prior to computerization. The documents have been catalogued indicating 23 parameters and their location. CDs of them have been prepared and digital images have been hosted on the web. Computerization of the catalogues of the collection available in the Divisional Office at Mysore and Dharwad is under progress.

As a pilot project the department has undertaken identification of very crucial valuable records, which are frequently required by the scholars and the general public. These records are scanned along with O.C.R. search engine. This enables the scholar to identify any particular document and obtain detailed information in this regard. The Administrative Report of Mysore from 1864 to 1960 running into total number approximately 95 volumes have been scanned. The CDs are also available to scholars for consultation.

The Secretariat Departments of the Karnataka Government have lodged approximately 5 lakhs 'B' class records (having a life of 30 years) and 3 lakhs 'C' class records (having a life of 30 years). The Archives which serves as a repository of permanent and semi permanent Government Secretariat records has drawn up programme for the data entry of these files.. It has been decided to prepare catalogues for all these files and to computerize them in 24 columns with Search Engine both in Kannada and English. Data entry of 3 lakhs files completed. It has also been proposed to host these catalogues in the LAN Server of the Secretariat under the File Monitoring System for easy monitoring of files. The World Bank Team which has recently visited Karnataka State Archives Department expressed great admiration, appreciation and approval for the work which has been initiated in this direction. The digitization activity is being continued with the financial assistance from the 12th Finance Commission.



Glimpse of arrangement of Archival records at Karnataka State Archives Bangalore

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Archival arrangement State Archives Bangalore

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Thus Directorate has been able to digitally capture the most important documents and hyper link them with catalogues and make them available to scholars/public/institutions as CDs. Putting the catalogues on the web has facilitated people to see them at their convenience and then contact the department for a copy or any other further information. In future the department proposals to issue authenticated documents through the web itself and also pursue queries on documents through e-mail. Establishment of swan (State wide area networking) would help to link with other State Archives/National Archives/Private Bodies.

Conclusion

Digitization is the only way of efficient handling of documents

International access to the catalogue is the first step to generate awareness

Sharing of information becomes feasible with digital document

Sources may come forward to contribute to the existing documents

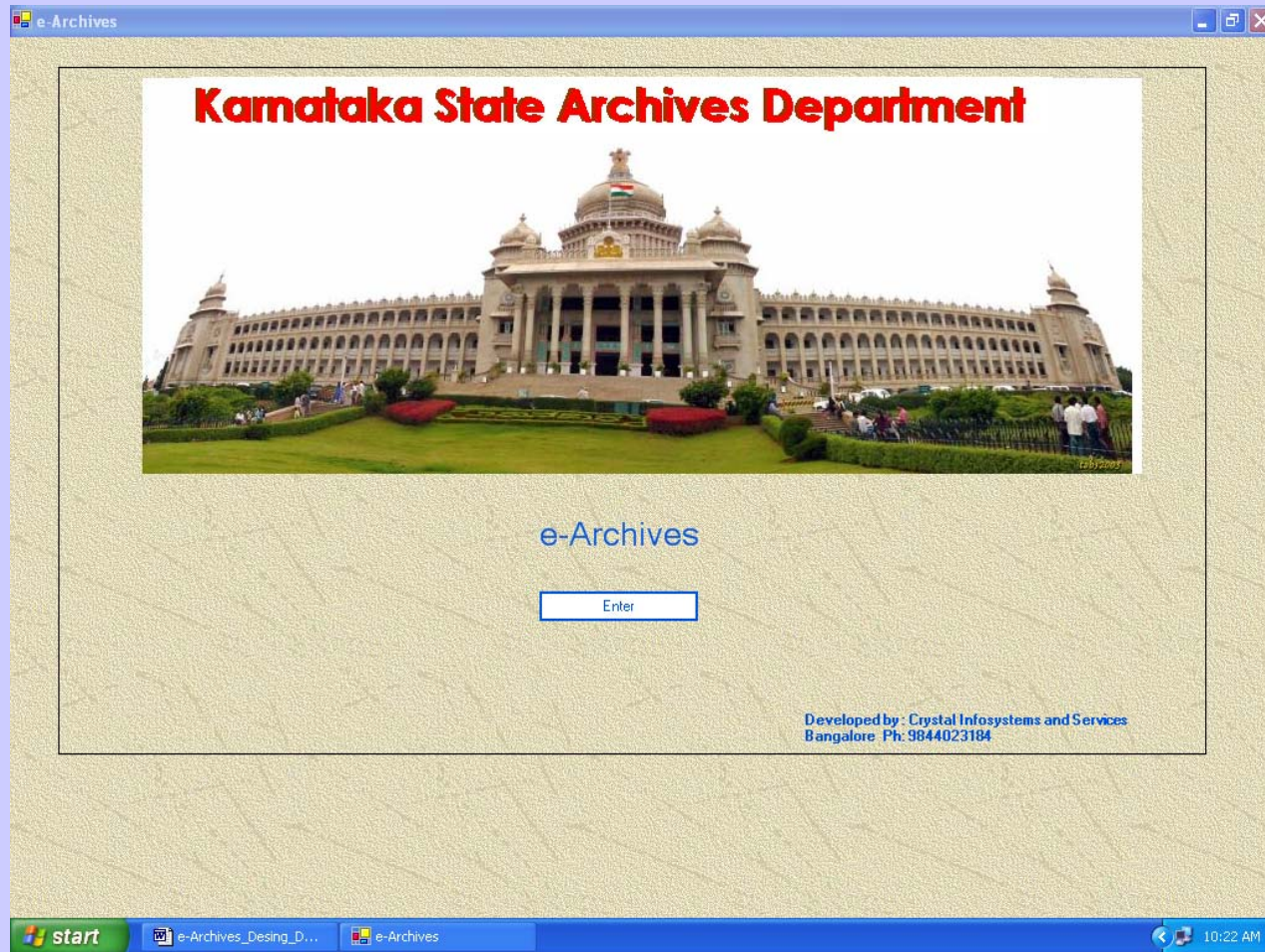
Document requisition, search and supply of information can be streamlined

Internet facilities for remote access will facilitate other Govt departments

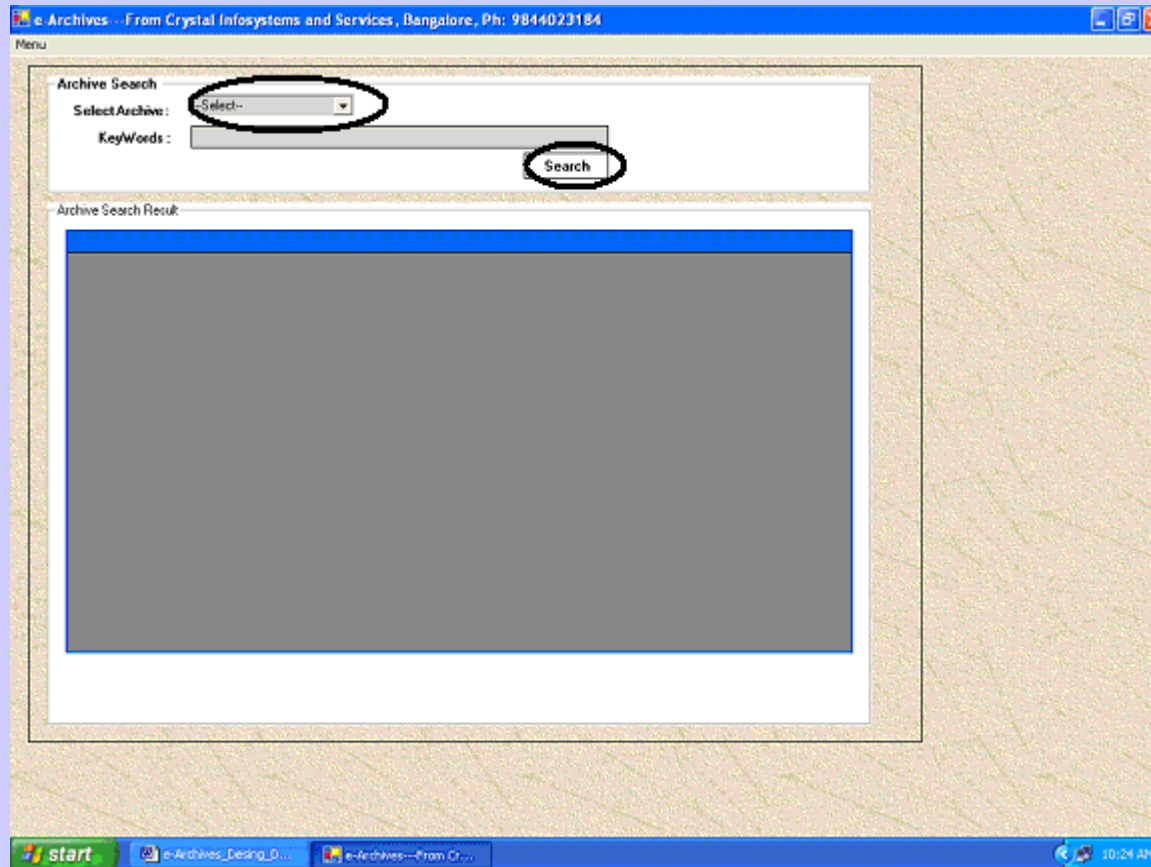
Compact storage can be efficiently managed

Space saved can be better utilised

Search Engine Software



Catalogue searching screen



e Archives --From Crystal Infosystems and Services, Bangalore, Ph: 9844023184

Menu

Archive Search

Select Archive: Mys_Gazette

KeyWords: Mysore

Search

Archive Search Result:

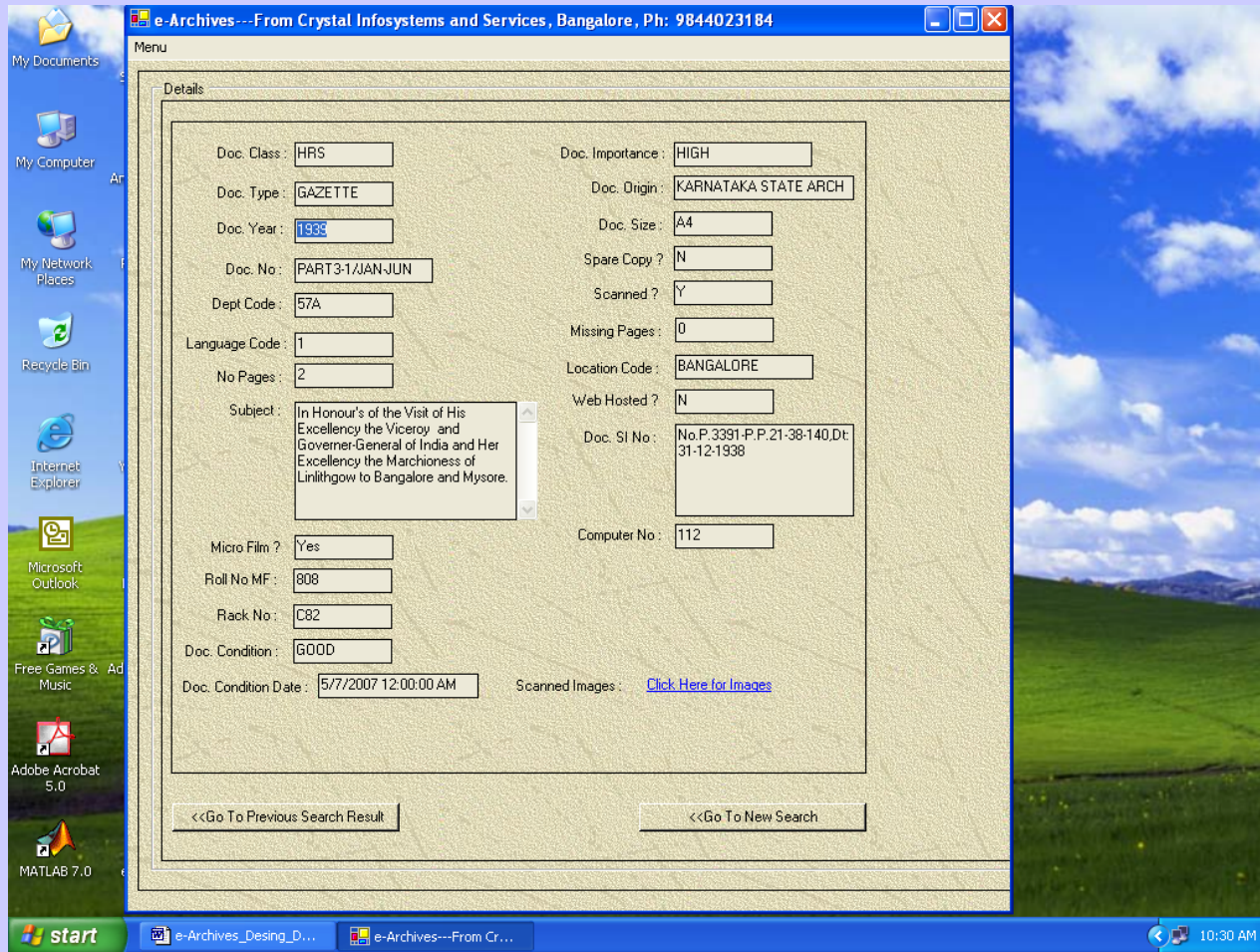
subject
In Honour's of the 36 th Anniversary Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linli
The land Acquisition of mysore lands, are needed for a public purpose, to wit, of 124 contour of K.R Sagara.
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Total Search Result: 5

start e-Archives_Deshig_D... e-Archives--From Cr...

10:24 AM

Catalogue search results screen



The screenshot displays a web browser window titled "e-Archives---From Crystal Infosystems and Services, Bangalore, Ph: 9844023184". The main content area is titled "Details" and contains a form with the following fields:

Doc. Class :	HRS	Doc. Importance :	HIGH
Doc. Type :	GAZETTE	Doc. Origin :	KARNATAKA STATE ARCH
Doc. Year :	1938	Doc. Size :	A4
Doc. No. :	PART 3-1/JAN-JUN	Spare Copy ?	N
Dept Code :	57A	Scanned ?	Y
Language Code :	1	Missing Pages :	0
No Pages :	2	Location Code :	BANGALORE
Subject :	In Honour's of the Visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow to Bangalore and Mysore.	Web Hosted ?	N
Micro Film ?	Yes	Doc. SI No. :	No.P. 3391-P.P.21-38-140.Dt: 31-12-1938
Roll No MF :	808	Computer No. :	112
Rack No. :	C82		
Doc. Condition :	GOOD		
Doc. Condition Date :	5/7/2007 12:00:00 AM	Scanned Images :	Click Here for Images

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "<<Go To Previous Search Result" and "<<Go To New Search".

Catalogue & corresponding image

The screenshot displays a web application interface for e-Archives. The browser title bar reads "e Archives --From Crystal Infosystems and Services, Bangalore, Ph: 9844023184". The page is titled "Menu" and contains a "Details" section with various metadata fields and a "Scanned Images" section showing a document page.

Details:

Doc. Class:	HRS	Doc. Importance:	HIGH
Doc. Type:	GAZETTE	Doc. Digit:	KARNATAKA STATE ARCH
Doc. Year:	1938	Doc. Size:	54
Doc. No.:	PART 3-1/JAN-JUN	Spec. Copy?	N
Dept. Code:	57A	Scanned?	Y
Language Code:	1	Missing Pages:	0
No. Pages:	2	Location Code:	BANGALORE
Subject:	In Honour's of the Visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow to Bangalore and Mysore.	Web Hosted?	N
Doc. SI No.:	No.P.3391-P.P.21-30-140.Dt: 31-12-1938	Computer No.:	112
Micro Film?	Yes		
Roll No MF:	808		
Reel No.:	C82		
Doc. Condition:	GOOD		
Doc. Condition Date:	5/7/2007 12:00:00 AM	Scanned Images:	Click Here for Images

Scanned Images:

The scanned image shows a document page with the following text:

No. P. 3391-P. P. 21-30-140, dated 31st December 1938.

In Honour of the Visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow to Bangalore and Mysore, the Honours and Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow to Bangalore and Mysore, are placed to Order and Effect on 31st January 1939 (and is observed as a General Holiday in all Government Offices, Courts and Educational Institutions in the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore).

By Order,
S. V. Anantharam,
Chief Secretary to Government.

The interface includes navigation buttons at the bottom: "<< Go To Previous Search Result" and "<< Go To New Search". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the start button and open applications: "e-Archives_Desktop_D...", "e-Archives--From Cr...", and the system clock "10:32 AM".

Image zooming

