



# PRESS RELEASE

As at 28 June 2023

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## THE GURKHA MUSEUM TRUST IS AWARDED A DEVELOPMENT GRANT BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND TO REDEVELOP AND REINTERPRET THE GURKHA MUSEUM

**Gurkha Museum** को पुनर्विकास र पुनर्व्याख्या गर्नको लागि **Gurkha Museum Trust** लाई **National Lottery Heritage Fund** ले विकास अनुदान उपलब्ध गराएकोछ ।

### Announcement:

The Gurkha Museum has been awarded development funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to commence Project Kaida, the reinterpretation and redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum. Project Kaida will support urgent refurbishment, improve accessibility for all, transform the visitor experience, and reach a wider range of audiences.

Development funding of nearly £300,000 has been awarded by the Heritage Fund to help The Gurkha Museum, based in Winchester, progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant at a later date. The Gurkha Museum has already received a transformational donation from the serving members of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

### The importance of kaida:

The redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum is called Project Kaida. Kaida is the Nepali word for a unique blend of heritage, customs and ethos, and a forward-looking mindset. Kaida has been central to contributions of the British Army Gurkhas for over two hundred years of military service.

Project Kaida is not solely focused on refitting a military museum. Project Kaida provides an outstanding opportunity to celebrate a unique and enduring cultural and historical legacy and military ethos respected across the world. Project Kaida will deliver a world-class visitor experience to the widest audience, both virtual and

physical, by celebrating and explaining the contributions of British Army Gurkhas to the United Kingdom, and to global peace and security.

### **Project Kaida – the initial development phase:**

The Gurkha Museum will start consultation with the community to design the detailed redevelopment of the Museum and begin the process of full digitisation of our archive. In addition, the development grant will create two new roles: a Community Engagement and Partnerships Officer to ensure the needs of the community are represented across all aspects of the project design, and an Archive and Digitalisation Officer who will scope the digitisation and oral history projects fundamental to Project Kaida's success.

The reinterpretation and redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum will also provide a centre for the Gurkha and Nepali community, correctly showcase the military collection amassed over two hundred years, as well as benefiting the Winchester community.

### **The Gurkha Museum - today:**

Since 1991 when Museum opened on its current site in Winchester's Peninsula Barracks, there have been many changes to the British Army, the Brigade of Gurkhas, to Nepal, and in the nature of conflicts in which Gurkhas have served. Technological and societal changes have impacted expectations of museum visitors. Consequently, there is a need to improve accessibility, educational outreach, and the virtual offer. Constrained by current layout and resources the Museum has been unable to adapt appropriately to address and leverage these significant changes.

### **Summary:**

For over two hundred years Gurkhas have served the United Kingdom. The Gurkhas continue to serve today generating new history and stories to be captured. With funding and support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Brigade of Gurkhas and Friends, the redevelopment and reinterpretation of The Gurkha Museum will engage new audiences and ensure The Gurkha Museum has a lasting impact worthy of the Gurkha legacy.

### **Quotes:**

The Gurkha Museum Trust's Director, Dr Daren Bowyer, said:

"We are thrilled and enormously grateful to receive such significant and generous support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for Project Kaida, the redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum.

"This support means the Gurkha Museum can start detailed planning for reimagined public galleries in Winchester and develop an extensive outreach, engagement and partnership programme to take the Museum and its important stories beyond its walls. The third key element to the project will see us undertaking extensive digitisation of our globally important archive, making it available to researchers, veterans, service personnel and their families wherever they may live.

"Undertaking this major redevelopment project is a hugely exciting privilege. This funding underpins a redevelopment to ensure the long-term sustainability of The

Gurkha Museum. It means we can continue to collect, preserve and celebrate the heritage of over two hundred years of Gurkha service to Great Britain and ensure the Museum can take its inspiring stories to an ever-broader range of people.”

The Gurkha Museum Trust का संचालक Dr Daren Bowyer को टिप्पणी:

“Gurkha Museum को पुनर्विकास; “Project Kaida” का लागि National Lottery Heritage Fund ले गर्न लागेको महत्वपूर्ण लगानी, र उसले देखाएको उदारता प्रति हामी अत्यन्त हर्षित छौं।

यसमा हुने लगानी र सहयोगले गर्दा Winchester को Gurkha Museum मा पुनर्-कल्पित सार्वजनिक झ्यालरिहरूको वृहत योजनहरू शुरु हुनेछन । र यहाँका महत्वपूर्ण इतिहास र कथाहरूलाई यसको परिधी भन्दा बाहिर पुर्याउँदै, ब्यापक पहुँच, संलग्नता र साझेदारी कार्यक्रमको समेत विकास गर्न सकिने छ । यस परियोजनको तेस्रो महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष भनेको, विस्वव्यापी रूपमा नै अत्यन्त महत्व राख्ने अभिलेखको ब्यापक डिजीटाइजेसन हो । जस्तै गर्दा हाम्रा अनुसन्धानकर्ताहरू, दिग्गज ब्यक्तित्वहरू, सेवामा आबद्ध कर्मचारीहरू र तिनीहरूका परिवारहरू संसारको जुनसुकै ठाउँमा भए पनि लाभान्दित हुनेछन ।

यो पुनर्विकास परियोजन शुरु हुनु हाम्रा लागि अति उत्साहपूर्ण क्षण हो । यो कोषले Gurkha Museum को पुनर्विकासका साथ-साथै दीर्घकालीनरूपमा यसको दिगोपनको सुनिश्चिततामा समेत जोड दिन्छ । यसको औचित्य भनेको, आउँदा दिनहरूमा हामीहरू अनवरत रूपमा इतिहासको संकलन र समबर्द्धन गर्नसक्छौं । साथ-साथै गोर्खालीहरूले बेलायतमा सेवा गरेको २०० वर्ष भन्दा पुरानो सम्पदामा गर्व गर्दै उत्सव मनाइ रहनेछौं । र यसले आफ्ना प्रेरणादायी कथाहरू धेरै भन्दा धेरै दर्शक स्रोता माझ पुर्याउने कुराको सुनिश्चितता समेत कायम गर्न सक्नेछ ।

The Gurkha Museum Trust, Trustee, Mrs Sudha Rai:

"The money and support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund are hugely significant for the global Gurkha and Nepali communities. This funding will allow The Gurkha Museum in Winchester to better tell the unique Gurkha story.

“The military ethos is integral to the Gurkhas' 'way of doing things', and our specific 'kaida' is fundamental to our distinct and enduring cultural and historical legacy. We have stories we need to share to a wider audience and the redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum, Project Kaida, will allow us to do this.

“We are extremely grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for enabling us to do so.”

The Gurkha Museum Trust, की Trustee, Mrs Sudha Rai को भनाई:

National Lottery Heritage Fund को रकम र सहयोग विश्वव्यापी रूपमा छरिएका गोर्खालीहरू र नेपाली समुदायका लागि निकै महत्वपूर्ण छ। यसले Winchester को Gurkha Museum भित्र सुरक्षित “अद्वितीय गोर्खालीहरूको इतिहासलाई” अझ बढी उजागर गर्न मद्दत पुऱ्याउनेछ ।

सैन्य गुण गोर्खालीहरूको अभिन्न अंग हो विशेषत हाम्रो काम गर्ने आफ्नै तौर तरिका अनि विशेष खालको काइदा नै, हाम्रो पृथक पहिचान, स्थायी सांस्कृति र ऐतिहासिक विरासतको आधार हो। हामीसँग प्रशस्त कथाहरू छन् जस्ताई हामीले व्यापक श्रोताहरू माझ पुऱ्याउनु आवश्यक छ, अनि Gurkha Museum, “Project KAIDA” को पुनर्विकासले हामीलाई यो गर्न अनुमति प्रदान गर्नेछ ।

Director of England - London and South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Stuart McLeod:

"We're thrilled that we've been able to offer our initial support to help redevelop and reinterpret The Gurkha Museum. Its collection is fascinating with over 15,000 items which help to celebrate 200 years of remarkable Gurkha service to Britain. We look forward to working with the team to develop their application to apply for a full National Lottery grant at a later date."

London and South at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, England का संचालक Mr Stuart McLeod का दुई शब्द:

Gurkha Museum को पुनर्विकास र पुनर्व्याख्याको प्रारम्भिक सहयोग उपलब्ध गराउन सक्षम भएकोमा हामी अत्यन्त हर्षित छौं। १५,००० भन्दा बढी वस्तुहरू संकलित यो संग्रह अत्यन्त आकर्षक छ, जसले बेलायतका लागि गोर्खालीहरूले दिएको वालिदानिपूर्ण सेवाको २०० औं वर्ष मनाउन मद्दत गरेको छ। Gurkha Museum को विकास र सम्बृद्धिका लागि हामीले निकट भविष्यमा नै पूर्ण National Lottery अनुदानको लागि आवेदन पेश गर्दै, तपाईं हरूसँग काम गर्न उत्सुक रहेको कुरा जानकारी गराउन चाहन्छौं।

### Image:



**Caption:** An artist's impression of the redeveloped Gurkha Museum under Project Kaida.

### Notes to editors:

#### About The Gurkha Museum:

The Gurkha Museum's role is to collect, preserve, present, and celebrate the evolution of the unique relationship which unites two countries (United Kingdom and Nepal) and two cultures all sharing one formidable military heritage and ethos.

Follow The Gurkha Museum:  
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#Kaida

### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund:**

\* National Lottery Heritage Fund grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. The Gurkha Museum, Project Kaida, has initially been granted round one development funding of £291,580 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £2,681,278.

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

Follow the National Lottery Heritage Fund:  
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Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £46billion for projects and more than 670,000 grants have been awarded across the UK - the equivalent of more than 240 lottery grants in every UK postcode district. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.

### **Further information:**

For further information and images please contact:  
Director at the Gurkha Museum Trust on [Admin@TheGurkhaMuseum.co.uk](mailto:Admin@TheGurkhaMuseum.co.uk);  
(01962)842832. The Gurkha Museum located in the former Peninsula Barracks,  
Romsey Road, Winchester SO23 8TS.

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