



PRESS RELEASE

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The Gurkha Museum Trust awarded grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to secure Gurkha heritage for the future

Today, The Gurkha Museum Trust is excited to announce it has been awarded a grant of £2,681,278 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This grant will transform The Gurkha Museum from a small military museum into the global reference centre for Gurkha heritage. The Gurkha Museum serves as custodian of the British Army's Brigade of Gurkhas' unique legacy and extensive collection dating back over 210 years. Without funding from the Heritage Fund, Gurkhas stories and artefacts would not be accessible for current and future generations. Known by its Nepali name *Project Kaida*, the Museum's redevelopment plan, will enable four ambitious objectives to be achieved for our nation's heritage.

Renovation of the permanent public galleries

स्थायी तथा सार्वजनिक ग्यालरीहरुको नविकरण

With financial support from the Heritage Fund and the Brigade of Gurkhas, The Gurkha Museum will renovate both public galleries to ensure the Gurkha artefacts are accessible to all visitors. This will involve stripping-out the tired thirty-year old displays, and redesigning and refitting the Museum's public galleries to represent the authentic Nepali and Gurkha story through a new dynamic and intuitive layout.

Inspiring educational activity programme

प्रेरणादायक शैक्षिक गतिविधि कार्यक्रम

Over the next three-years, there will be a fully funded educational activities programme to inspire and educate current and future generations about the impact Gurkha service and sacrifice have made to our nation and global security.

Digitalisation of the Museum's archives**संग्रहालयका वृहत अभिलेखहरूको डिजिटलाइजेसन्**

With this funding, The Gurkha Museum Trust will digitalise and catalogue over 30,000 archives to ensure these irreplaceable stories and insights are preserved and protected for future generations. These digitalised archives will be able to be accessed regardless of geographical location.

Transformation of the Museum's library**संग्रहालयको पुस्तकालयमा रुपान्तरण**

In anticipation of this funding, The Gurkha Museum has developed an international research, lecture, and education centre that will remain open when the Museum's public galleries are closed and undergoing renovation.

Be part of this once-in-a-generational transformation**पुस्तान्तरणको यो ऐतिहासिक क्षणको हिस्सा बन्नुहोस्**

Project Kaida is an ambitious and charitable project, marking a unique, globally renowned military relationship and legacy. To receive The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant The Gurkha Museum must fund-match. Our fundraising efforts are being led by the Brigade of Gurkhas; every serving officer and soldier has donated a day's pay in support of their heritage charity. *Project Kaida* will only be realised through support from generous donors and funders. The Gurkha Museum will appreciate and recognise every contribution to this historic redevelopment.

In summary, *Project Kaida* involves the full transformation of The Gurkha Museum and how Gurkha heritage is preserved, protected, and promoted for current and future generations. The new accessible public galleries, facilities and capabilities will serve as a tribute to 210 years of Gurkhas' loyal service to the British Crown and global security. With The National Lottery Heritage Fund's delivery award, The Gurkha Museum Trust will transform from a static collection of military artefacts to the global reference centre for Gurkha heritage and Nepali culture.

Jai The Gurkha Museum Trust!

Director of The Gurkha Museum Trust, Dr Daren Bowyer

"The news of this significant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund was a wonderful end to our 50th anniversary year. The Heritage Fund's support means that the fundraising target is within reach that will allow us to turn The Gurkha Museum into a must-see visitor attraction and the global reference centre for Gurkha Heritage.

“A refreshed, engaging and accessible museum, as the hub for an ambitious programme of public engagement is a fitting way to pay tribute to the Gurkhas for their exceptional service to Britain for more than two centuries.

“The support we continue to receive from the serving and veteran Gurkha communities and from the wider British-Nepali community is hugely uplifting and underlines the value of the project to these key audiences.

“We are enormously grateful to the Heritage Fund and Lottery players for bringing the dream closer to reality.”

गोर्खा संग्रहालय ट्रस्टका निर्देशक - डाक्टर डारेन वीयर

“नेशनल लट्री हेरिटेज फण्डबाट यो महत्वपूर्ण अनुदानको समाचार हाम्रो ५० औं वार्षिकोत्सव वर्षको उत्कृष्ट समाप्ती थियो। हेरिटेज फण्डको सहयोग र समर्थनले हाम्रो कोष सङ्कलनको लक्ष्यलाई अत्यन्त नजिक ल्याई दिएको छ। तसर्थ अब हामीले यस संग्रहालयलाई एउटा हेर्नैपर्ने पर्यटकको आकर्षक केन्द्र बिन्दु र गोर्खा संपदाको बृहत अभिलेखहरूको लागि खोज अनुसन्धान केन्द्रको रूपमा रूपान्तरण गर्नुपर्छ।

“यो एक नयाँ, आकर्षक र पहुँचयोग्य संग्रहालय बन्दै गर्दा, इतिहास प्रति चासो राख्नेहरूका लागि यो अत्यन्त महत्वकांक्षी कार्यक्रमको रूपमा देखापर्नेछ। त्यसकारण पनि हामीले यसलाई गोर्खालीहरूले विगत दुई शताब्दी भन्दा बढी बेलायतलाई दिएको असाधारण सेवाको सम्मानका रूपमा लिएका छौं। हामीलाई हालसम्म पनि सेवारत र अवकाश प्राप्त गोर्खाली समुदायहरूबाट साथै ब्रिटिश नेपाली समुदायबाट प्राप्त भैराखेको सहयोग र समर्थन अत्यन्त प्रेरणादायक छ र यस परियोजनाले ती मुख्य समुदायहरूसँग जोडिनुको महत्वलाई उजागर गर्दछ।

“यो बृहत स्वप्नलाई वास्तविकताको नजिक ल्याउने काममा ठूलो भूमिका निर्वाह गरिदिएकोमा हामी हेरिटेज फण्ड र लट्री प्लेयरहरू प्रति अत्यन्त आभारी छौं। “

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

"We're proud to support the redevelopment and reinterpretation of The Gurkha Museum through Project Kaida. It is fantastic news that thanks to the National Lottery players, The Gurkha Museum will be able to fulfil long-held ambitions to collect and preserve more Gurkha heritage and celebrate these inspiring stories with an ever-broader range of people. Inspired by the Gurkhas' unique way of doing things, this project will ensure the museum can engage new audiences far into the future."

लण्डन एण्ड साउथ एट द नेशनल लट्री हेरिटेज फण्डका डाइरेक्टर - स्टुअर्ट म्याक्लियोड

“हामी “परियोजना काईदा” मार्फत गोर्खा संग्रहालयको पुनर्निर्माण र पुनर्ब्यख्यामा आफुलाई समाहित गर्न पाउँदा अत्यन्त गौरवान्दित छौं। साथै, यो भन्दा खुशीको खबर गोर्खालीहरूका लागि पनि अर्को नहुन सक्ला, किनकि नेशनल लट्री प्लेयरहरूका कारण गोर्खा संग्रहालयले, गोर्खा संपदाको संकलन र संरक्षण गर्ने पुरानो चाहनाहरू पुरा हुनेछ र साथै, ती प्रेरणादायी कथाहरूलाई भन्नु फराकिलो रूपमा जनसमुदायहरूका बीचमा पुग्नेछन्। त्यसका अलवा, गोर्खालीहरूको अद्वितीय कार्यशैलीबाट प्रेरित यस

परियोजनाले संग्रहालयलाई नयाँ दर्शकहरूसँग पनि अनन्त भविष्य सम्म जोडिराख्ने सुनिश्चितता प्रदान गर्नेछ ।”

Trustee of The Gurkha Museum Trust, 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."

गोर्खा संग्रहालय ट्रस्टकी ट्रस्टी - श्रीमती सुधा राइ

“नेशनल लट्री हेरिटेज फन्डको रकम र सहयोग विश्वव्यापी रूपमा छरिएका गोर्खालीहरु र नेपाली समुदायका लागि निकै महत्वपूर्ण छ । यसले विनचेष्टरको गोर्खा संग्रहालय भित्र सुरक्षित ‘गोर्खालीहरुको अद्वितीय इतिहासलाई’ अझ बढी उजागर गर्न मद्दत पुऱ्याउनेछ । सैन्य गुण गोर्खालीहरुको अभिन्न अंग हो, विशेषत हाम्रो काम गर्ने आफ्नै तौर तरिका अनि विशेष किसिमको काइदा नै, हाम्रो पृथक पहिचान, स्थायी सांस्कृतिक र ऐतिहासिक विरसताको आधार हो । हामीसँग प्रशस्त कथाहरु छन्, जसलाई हामीले व्यापक स्रोतहरु माझ पुऱ्याउन आवश्यक छ, अनि गोर्खा संग्रहालय ‘परियोजना काइदा’ को पुर्नविकासले हामीलाई यो गर्न अनुमती प्रदान गर्नेछ । “

Vice Patron of The Gurkha Museum Trust Appeal, Dame Joanna Lumley DBE

"My support for the Gurkhas is well-documented but worth highlighting here. My father served with the 6th Gurkha Rifles for eighteen years. Indeed, my father owes his life to a Gurkha soldier, Tul Bahadur Pun who was subsequently awarded a Victoria Cross for his heroic actions in Burma in 1944.

"I, like many others hold the Gurkhas in the highest esteem for their bravery, loyalty, and friendship. The Gurkhas have served alongside the British with distinction for over two hundred years and they have proved themselves again and again.

"It is this illustrious service that The Gurkha Museum Trust protects and preserves. I ask you today, to support the Gurkhas and their heritage to demonstrate your gratitude."

‘गोर्खा संग्रहालय ट्रस्ट अपिलकी उप-संरक्षक - डेम जुवाना लुम्ले (DBE)

“गोर्खालीहरुलाई मैले दिएको माया र समर्थन दिउँसोको घाम जत्तिकै छर्लङ्ग छ, तथापी म यहाँ सारांशमा उल्लेख गर्नु बढी सान्दर्भिक ठान्छु ।

“मेरो बाबाले १८ वर्ष ६ गोर्खा राइफल्समा सेवा गर्नुभयो । वास्तवमा मेरो बाबाको जीवन एक गोर्खाली सैनिक तुलबहादुर पुनको कारणले बचेको थियो र वहाँले सन् १९४४ सालमा बर्माको आफ्नो विरतापूर्ण कार्यका कारण ‘भिक्टोरिया क्रस’ भन्ने उपाधीबाट स-सम्मानित हुनुभएको थियो ।

“म पनि, अन्य धेरै व्यक्तिहरु जस्तै गोर्खालीहरुलाई वहाँहरुको बहादुरी, बफादारी र मित्रवत व्यवहारलाई उच्च सम्मानका दृष्टिले हेर्ने गर्छु । गोर्खालीहरुले दुई शताब्दी भन्दा लामो इतिहासमा बेलायतलाई विशिष्टका साथ सेवा गर्दै आएका छन् र उनीहरुले आफूलाई बारम्बार प्रमाणित गरिसकेका छन् ।

“मलाई विश्वास छ, गोर्खालीहरुको यो गौरवशाली सेवालाले गोर्खा संग्रहालय टूटले उच्च रूपमा संरक्षण र सुरक्षित गर्नेछ । म आज तपाईंहरुलाई गोर्खालीहरु र वहाँहरुको यो सम्पदालाई सगौरव संरक्षण गर्दै आफ्नो कृतज्ञता प्रकट गर्न विनम्र आग्रह गर्दछु । “

Images to use:



The Gurkha Museum Trust logo



National Lottery Heritage Fund logo



The photograph features a young Nepali man at three distinct phases of his career as a Gurkha soldier. On the right, he is captured during the doko race during selection (in Nepal); the middle image shows the soldier in combats (multi-terrain pattern uniform); while the left image depicts the soldier in his Number 2 dress.

Brigade of Gurkha official photograph competition 2023 second place - Corporal Raju Tamang RGR.



The photograph features four Gurkha soldiers pledging their oath symbolising the union of tradition and military discipline. Gurkha Attestation Parade in Nepal.



The photograph features fundraiser Rifleman Subash Gurung handing a cheque to the Director, Dr Daren Bowyer. Rifleman Subash Gurung with Rifleman Mahesh Limbu raised £1,627 for The Gurkha Museum Trust's redevelopment by running 400 miles in four months.



Conceptual representation of the future Gurkha Museum entrance. The open plan design features a central ceiling installation with interactive screens to depict ‘messaging’, a communal cooking fire utilised by Gurkha soldiers.

Notes to editors

About The Gurkha Museum Trust:

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

The Gurkha Museum Trust is a registered UK charity – it is the Gurkhas’ heritage charity. It serves as the nation’s custodians of the Gurkhas’ rich heritage spanning over 210 years.

The Gurkhas are renowned for their bravery in battle, their loyalty to the UK, their irrepressible humour, their resilience in adversity and their ruthless efficiency as soldiers.

The Brigade of Gurkhas, with a strength of over 5,000 soldiers across six capbadges, continues to play a vital role in the British Army today.

The Gurkha Museum is based in Winchester and has international reach and support. Over two floors, the public galleries showcase the Gurkhas' history and culture through unique objects. In addition to its impressive collection, library, and research facilities, the Museum boasts a spacious gallery with catering services.

About *Project Kaida*, the future redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum Trust:

The redevelopment of The Gurkha Museum is taking place under *Project Kaida*. *Kaida* is a Nepali word (**काइदा**) meaning the ethos and customs usually associated with the Brigade of Gurkhas. *Kaida* is the 'Gurkha way' and has been central to the successful contributions of the Gurkhas for over two hundred years of military service.

The purpose of The Gurkha Museum Trust's redevelopment is enshrined in four ambitious objectives:

- Reinterpretation, re-designing and modernisation of the permanent public galleries and physical displays over two-floors at The Gurkha Museum to make the Museum a must-visit attraction;
- Outreach and education activity programme to take the Gurkha stories into the community in innovative and engaging ways;
- Digitalisation of the archive and related digital projects (including oral history gathering) so the Gurkha story is accessible regardless of your geographic location;
- Refurbishment of the old library into a multi-purpose functional research/education centre holding the Gurkhas' library to enable the Museum to become an international research and education hub on Gurkha heritage.

Project Kaida is supported by serving Gurkha soldiers (via the One Day Pay Scheme), the National Lottery Heritage Fund, other trusts and foundations, and the generosity of individuals. Short films in Nepali ([here](#)) and English ([here](#)) outline the fundraising appeal. Further information on *Project Kaida* can be found:

www.TheGurkhaMuseum.co.uk/Project-Kaida

Follow The Gurkha Museum Trust (#GurkhaMuseum #Gurkhas #Kaida):

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- **On YouTube:** [@TheGurkhaMuseumTrust](#)

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund:

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That is why, as the largest funder for the UK's heritage, we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033. Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6 billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places, and communities.

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Further information:

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