# The Government of India

Dear Designers

The Government of India is planning a touring exhibition of major Indian cities concerning India and the First World War. You will be aware that:

* since our country became independent of Britain in 1947 the fact that Indian soldiers fought between 1914 and 1918 has largely been forgotten;
* past Indian governments were rather embarrassed that over one million Indian soldiers fought for the British Empire in what was really just a struggle for world power among Europeans;
* these Indian soldiers have usually been seen as tools of British imperialists;
* past Indian governments have chosen to remember the brave rebels from the Ghadar movement who were fearless in taking up arms against the British oppressors;
* the last Indian government paid for the headquarters of the Ghadar movement in San Francisco to be converted into a library in 2013 to celebrate the founding of the Ghadar Party in 1913.

However, we think that the time **may** have come to educate the Indian public about how Indian soldiers took part in the First World War. The government takes this view because of the following factors:

* A century has passed since the First World War and it is nearly 70 years since independence in 1947. Indian people may be ready to hear the **whole story** of India’s involvement in the First World War, not just part of it.  **Is it possible now to celebrate both the bravery of the Ghadar revolutionaries and the soldiers of the British Indian Army together?**
* Over a million Indian soldiers fought very bravely around the world between 1914 and 1918 alongside soldiers from Britain, Australia, Canada and other Commonwealth countries, not to mention European countries such as France and Belgium. In these countries a lot of money is being spent on commemorating the First World War. **Commemorating this war in India itself will help to build our relations with these important countries. It will be also be good for their people to be reminded how much Indian soldiers helped to defend them.** It also shows that Indians played a major role on the world stage before Independence in 1947.
* Some of the finest regiments of the Indian Army can trace their history back to the First World War. **It will stir the pride of Indian people to hear the stories of bravery from that war, even if it was a war modern Indians disagree with now.** It might also help recruit soldiers for the modern Indian Army.
* Reminding modern Indian Sikhs of the role that Sikhs played between 1914 and 1918, both in the Indian Army and through the Ghadar movement, will help to remind Sikhs of how much they have contributed to recent Indian history.

As a way of testing your design skills we would like you to write and design an exhibition panel dealing with the Sikh soldiers who fought in World War One for the British-Indian Army and Sikhs who bravely tried to launch an armed rebellion against British rule as part of the Ghadar movement.

We would like you to:

* **choose a strongly worded heading;**
* **write three paragraphs** about the bravery of Sikh members of the Ghadar movement and Sikh troops in the British Indian Army;
* **include quotes** in the paragraphs from Sikh soldier’s letters or interviews;
* **include several illustrations** such as photographs or propaganda with captions;
* **ensure that all captions clearly reflect the views of the Government of India.**

We look forward to seeing your draft panel.