

**Consulate General of India  
Istanbul  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Consulate General of India in Istanbul organized a special event titled **‘India in the WWI Gallipoli Campaign: a closer look’** in partnership with the Pera Museum on Thursday, 25 July 2024. This was the first such event organised in Istanbul to take a deep dive on the role played by Indian soldiers in the Gallipoli campaign of WWI. The event was attended by a host of diplomats, academia, historians, media, and members of the Indian community.

2. Consul General of India Mijito Vinito welcomed the gathering and gave an overview of the programme, focusing on India’s role in WWI, and the Gallipoli campaign in particular where over 2000 Indian soldiers died. India’s Defence Attache Col. Manuj Garg described India’s historical account of the war in greater detail, underlining that the Indian troops which fought in the campaign included the 29 Indian Infantry Brigade, 7<sup>th</sup> Indian Mountain Artillery Brigade, Indian Mule Transport Corps and Medical teams. Although Indian soldiers fought with valour and bravery, he stated that their account was largely forgotten. A video message was also given by Sq Ldr (Rtd) Rana Chinna MBE, Director, Centre for Military History and Conflict Studies, United Service Institution of India.

3. The main speaker of the event was Gallipoli historian Kenan Celik OAM, who gave a detailed presentation of the role and movement of Indian soldiers in the Gallipoli peninsula, particularly by the Punjab and Gorkha Regiments. Of particular interest was that fact that Indian forces viz. Gurkha regiment had captured the highest point of the battlefield. Mr.Celik also took a Q&A session from the diverse audience. Mr.Burak Gundogan, Country Manager of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission delivered the closing remarks at the event.

4. Over 1.3 million Indian soldiers served overseas at the cost of some 74000 casualties. They earned over 9200 decorations of gallantry, including 11 Victoria Crosses. It is estimated that some 15,000 Indian soldiers participated in Gallipoli as part of the British forces, out of which over 2000 made the supreme sacrifice. They fought with extreme courage and valour, and many are now buried at Canakkale, commemorated at the Commonwealth Memorial, and at Haider Pasha Cemetery in Istanbul.

26 July  
Istanbul