



V&A signs Memorandum of Understanding with Maharashtra Government for loan of Tiger Claws

London, 3 October 2023: Director Dr Tristram Hunt welcomed representatives of the Maharashtra Government at V&A South Kensington today, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the details of a three-year loan agreement for a unique pair of Tiger Claws in the V&A collection.

The Tiger Claws are an example of a weapon that was popular in the 17th century. This particular set has long drawn interest from scholars due to the leather case which was made for them in the 19th century by their owner at the time, which claims that they are the same Tiger Claws used by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj during the Maratha leader's historic battle and triumph over Azfal Khan in 1659.

The signing of the agreement today is the first step in the process which, following a formal loan agreement being finalised later this year, will enable the Tiger Claws to travel to multiple destinations across India to feature in commemorative events planned next year to mark the 350th anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's coronation.

Dr Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A said: *'It was an honour to host the delegation today as we work together to establish this historic partnership between the V&A, the Government of Maharashtra and our colleagues in the CSMVS museum - which will enable this unique object to be enjoyed as part of celebrations in India next year. Given their fascinating heritage, I hope that the displays across Maharashtra and the accompanying events will help support new research into the Tiger Claws' history and provenance. We look forward to working with colleagues to finalise plans in the months ahead.'*

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A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk.

About the V&A

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity— its power to entertain and move, to enrich our lives, open our minds and change the world. We celebrate and share that power through a programme of exhibitions, events, educational and digital experiences, a collection of 2.8 million objects, and through our support for new works and commitment to conservation, research and sustainable design. Together, our work tells a 5,000-year-old story of creativity, helping to advance cultural knowledge everywhere, and inspiring the makers, creators and innovators of today and tomorrow. We are always working to broaden

our audiences so that everyone can be part of the V&A – because the V&A and the power of creativity belong to us all.