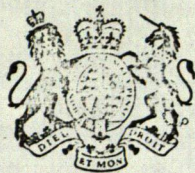


Original on

India: May 1980



OPS  
PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T226/80

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 November 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

I was very interested to receive your letter of 29 October. It was good of you to write so fully and frankly about both international and Indian problems. You have given me a good deal to think about. I should like to reflect and write to you in more detail later.

I am glad you enjoyed meeting Lord Greenhill. I attach the greatest importance to the strengthening of our links and am glad that you share this view. We shall, as you suggest, continue to work closely with your High Commissioner here. Sir John Thomson is, of course, always at your disposal. I hope you will not hesitate to let me know about any problem which concerns you. Meanwhile, the imminent visit of the Prince of Wales will mark another important step forward in British-Indian relations.

I was delighted to hear from Sir John Thomson recently that you were prepared to be a joint sponsor, together with me, of the Festival of Indian Arts of 1982. This will be another valuable opportunity to strengthen the ties between our two countries, particularly in the eyes of the press and of the public.

Thank you too for inviting me to visit India. I very much want to come and to have the opportunity of meeting you again. I shall look into the question of dates (on which I was most grateful for your advice) and be in touch with you again, perhaps after Prince Charles' visit. Thereafter our officials could, as you say, discuss the details.

Warm good wishes.

Yours sincerely  
Rajiv Gandhi

Her Excellency Shrimati Indira Gandhi