

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

I greatly welcome the holding of this exhibition. During 1982 the Festival of India has revealed to many in the United Kingdom the richness of India's cultural heritage. The Trade Exhibition will similarly demonstrate India's striking industrial and technological achievements, and the opportunities for continued Indo/British economic co-operation to the benefit of both countries. I wish the exhibition well.

Margaret Thatcher

cc 720 JF  
India

15 October 1982

INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION

Thank you for your letter of 11 October suggesting that the Prime Minister should send a short message which would appear in the catalogue of the Indian Trade Exhibition, together with one from Mrs. Gandhi.

The Prime Minister has approved the message enclosed with this letter.

I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to John Holmes (FCO).

(A J COLES)

Jonathan Rees, Esq.,  
Department of Trade.

PRIME MINISTER

INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION

The Indian Government are mounting a substantial trade exhibition at Olympia from 10 - 20 November. The Indian High Commission have asked whether you would be willing to send a short message which would appear in the exhibition catalogue along with one from Mrs. Gandhi.

I do not much like the text contained in the attached letter from the Department of Trade. Would you be prepared to send the message at Flag 'A'?

A.J.C.

12 October, 1982



From the  
Minister for Trade

John Coles Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1A 0AA

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE  
1 VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01 215 5144  
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11th October 1982

Dear John,

#### INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION

The Indian government's Trade Fair Authority is holding from 10-20 November at Olympia a substantial trade exhibition. The object is "to project India's emerging industrial and technological capabilities and pave the way for identifying further opportunities for trade promotion and technological collaboration either bilaterally or with third parties." The Indians' idea is both to complement the Festival of India and to draw some useful publicity for the exhibition from the Festival's closing stages in November.

The Indian High Commission has just approached the Department of Trade to ask if the Prime Minister would be willing to send a short message to appear in the exhibition catalogue along with one from Mrs Gandhi. The latter will be to the effect that the exhibition should lead to the widening of India's contacts with the United Kingdom as well as the European Economic Community. In view of the continuing importance of our links, economic and otherwise with India, we recommend that Mrs Thatcher meets the Indian request. The text we suggest is as follows:-

"I greatly welcome the holding of this exhibition Just as the Festival of India has shown the richness of India's culture so the exhibition should reaffirm her industrial and technological prowess and contribute to the strengthening of Indo-British trading links."



Since the Indians have unfortunately left this approach rather late and need to know our reaction soon for printing purposes, I should be most grateful if you can give me as quick a reply as possible.

*Yours ever,*

*Jonathan Rees*

JONATHAN REES  
Private Secretary to the  
Minister for Trade (PETER REES)



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