



CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MRS PUPUL JAYAKAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, FESTIVAL OF INDIA, TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER AT 11.15 AM.

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Delighted with the success of the Festival. Grateful to Mrs Gandhi for her joint patronage. Also to the Indian Government for their commitment and to the Indian Advisory Committee and organisers concerned for the energy and care they have devoted to the Festival.
2. Grateful to all the artists for the spirit with which they have entered into events; and the interest and pleasure they have given to thousands in Britain.
3. Very pleased to have been present with Mrs Gandhi at the Inaugural Concert and the opening of the Hayward Gallery and Science Museum exhibitions. Sorry to have been unable to attend the closing concert but understand this was another splendid and joyful occasion. Delighted that Mr and Mrs Rajiv Gandhi were able to come to Britain for the Finale.
4. The Festival has been an event of great significance to Indo-British relations. Already expressed the belief that it would lead to a new awareness in Britain of the spirit and meaning of India. Sure it has done so and that it will enrich our relations for years to come.
5. The Festival has succeeded in presenting a positive image of India in the UK, reminding us that India is a modern nation, a considerable economic power possessing advanced technology, as well as a country of enormous artistic talent and diversity.
6. Impressed by the way the Festival has reached out to the people of Britain, not only to art lovers and scholars but to  
/ordinary



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ordinary people from all walks of life including numbers of children.

7. Through the Festival the Indian community have regained contact with their cultural roots. This experience has been particularly valuable for community relations and understanding.



## ESSENTIAL FACTS

8. Mrs Jayakar, Chairman of the Indian Advisory Committee, (personality note attached) is in Britain for several days for the close of the Festival. She attended the Festival Finale at the London Coliseum on the evening of 14 November.

9. Mrs Jayakar has closely followed preparations for and progress of the Festival and has made several visits to Britain in this connection. She called on the Prime Minister on 19 June, 1981. She is close to Mrs Gandhi, whom she accompanied to London last March for the Inaugural events of the Festival.

10. The call on 16 November is likely to be a courtesy call to thank the Prime Minister for her patronage of the Festival. At a press conference on 11 November she paid tribute to the unwavering assistance and interest of the Prime Minister and Mrs Gandhi as joint patrons, and spoke warmly of the British people's contribution and response to the Festival and of its achievements. She is clearly delighted by its success.

11. Although the Prime Minister with Mrs Gandhi attended the Festival's Inaugural Concert on 22 March she was prevented by pressure of work from attending the Finale. This was a concert of folk and tribal music, sponsored by Mr Swraj Paul, Chairman of the Indo-British Association and was attended by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, by Mr and Mrs Rajiv Gandhi representing the Indian Prime Minister and by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, representing the Prime Minister. It was a colourful presentation, and played to a packed house. Mrs Jayakar was noticeably delighted by the success of the evening.

12. When Mrs Jayakar called on the Prime Minister in June 1981 the Festival was still short on funds and organisation. The Prime Minister's fund raising reception on 17 July, 1981 and the appointment in August of Mr Stanley Hodgson as Festival Director, gave the necessary impetus. The Festival Trust have been able to meet some unforeseen expenses and may now finish with a surplus.



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13. In her message in the programme for the Inaugural Concert the Prime Minister expressed the belief that the Festival would lead to a new awareness in the United Kingdom of the spirit and meaning of India. The enormous and sustained interest that the Festival has commanded in people from all walks of life, as well as in the media, leaves no doubt that this belief has been fulfilled. According to attendance figures (which are still not complete) the main exhibitions in London alone have attracted well over half a million visitors, while in the country as a whole the total is more than double that figure.

14. A further indication of success must be that the Americans are said to be thinking of mounting a similar Indian Festival in 1985. We understand that Mrs Jayakar has been asked to advise on this event.



MRS PUPUL JAYAKAR

Chairman, Indian Advisory Committee, Festival of India

Born 11 September 1915, Mrs Pupul Jayakar has been closely associated with the development of handlooms and handicrafts of India since Independence. A pioneer in the field of rural art and design, she was the Chairman of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited (Government of India) from 1968 to 1977, Chairman of the All-India Handicrafts Board (Government of India) from July 1974 to 1977, Chairman of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation from 1975 to 1977, Chairman of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, from 1974 to 1978.

President of Krishnamurti Foundation India from 1968 to 1978, Chairman of Calico Museum of Textiles from 1979. Adviser (Handlooms and Handicrafts), Government of India since 1980.

Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Festival of India in Britain set up by the Department of Culture, Government of India in 1980.

She is on the Editorial Board of the Lalit Kala Journal and the Journal of Indian Textile History.

She is also the author of 'God is not a Fullstop' - a volume of short stories and was co-author of 'Textile and Ornamental Arts of India' by the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

She has contributed a number of articles to Marg, Lalit Kala and the Journal of Indian Textile Industry.

Her latest book 'The Earthen Drum - An Introduction to the Ritual Art of Rural India' was published by the National Museum in October 1980.

/She



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She was awarded 'Padma Bhushan' as a social worker in 1967 for her achievements in the field of handloom development. During the same year, she also received 'Watumull Award' for her distinguished achievement in the field of Indian handicrafts.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

15 November 1982

Dear John,

Call on the Prime Minister by Mrs  
Pupul Jayakar

I understand that Mrs Pupul Jayakar, Chairman of the Indian Advisory Committee, Festival of India, will be calling on the Prime Minister at 11.45 am on Tuesday 16 November.

/ I attach a brief containing Points to Make and Essential Facts for use by the Prime Minister.

Yours ever

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street



# Festival of India

Government of India

Patrons

Smt. Indira Gandhi  
Prime Minister of India  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister of U.K.

Chairman

Indian Advisory Committee  
Smt. Pupul Jayakar

November 15, 1982.

Dear Mr. Coles,

The Festival of India in Britain concluded on the 14th of November, 1982. For eight months India and Britain have come together through a series of exhibitions, performing arts, theatre, films and seminars. To sustain a Festival for eight months, to emphasize quality and to cover a vast canvas has demanded high endeavour from the many people who have contributed towards its success. The Festival has received wide acclaim amongst all sections of people and has been extremely well received by the media. The warmth and goodwill generated will I hope, leave a major impact on the minds and hearts of the peoples of Britain and India.

The Indian Advisory Committee for the Festival of India in Britain wishes to express its deep gratitude for the cooperation and assistance it received from those associated with it and as a token of their appreciation, would like to present a small souvenir to commemorate the Festival.

May I thank you all that you have done to make the Festival possible.

Yours sincerely

*Pupul Jayakar*  
(Pupul Jayakar)

Mr. A.J. Coles  
Private Secretary to Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1



INDIA

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17 November 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 15 November, reporting on the Finale Concert of the Festival of India.

Mrs. Thatcher was naturally disappointed that she could not attend this event herself, but she has heard many favourable comments on it during the last few days and congratulates the Festival Trust on a successful conclusion to a most successful Festival.

AJC

Sir Michael Walker, GCMG.

R

**Trustees**

Sir Michael Walker GCMG *Chairman*  
The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG CBE DSO  
Mr John Burgh CB  
Mr RP Chandaria  
The Lord Chitnis  
Sir John Cuckney  
Mr Maneck Dalal  
The Earl of Harewood  
Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB  
Mr Swraj Paul  
The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson  
HE Dr V A Seyid Muhammad  
Dr K S Shelvankar  
Mr A J Shepperd



# Festival of India

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The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Festival of India Office,  
Room 64/G Government Offices,  
Great George Street,  
London SW1A 1AA.  
Telephones: 01 233 5986 and 233 3606

15 November 1982

The Right Honourable Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Prime Minister*

*You may like to read*

*before Mr. Jayakar comes*

*tomorrow.*

*A.J.C. 11*

*Dear Prime Minister,*

I thought you might like to have a short report on the Finale Concert yesterday evening of the Festival of India. We were, of course, disappointed that owing to the pressure of your other work you could not be with us, but we were honoured to have HRH The Duke of Gloucester and Mr Nott, and in the audience there were Mr Speaker and various Ministers. So the British presence was very well represented, which I am sure that the Indians noted with appreciation. I enclose a copy of the programme of the Concert which, as you will see, was largely made up of tribal dances and singing. It was all very cheerful and colourful, and I think the audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening, while the Indians were obviously delighted that the Concert was given such a very warm reception from a full house.

The Concert is the last item in our eight months long programme and it is very satisfactory that the enthusiasm for the Festival should have been so well sustained throughout this long period. Here in Britain, I suppose that perhaps the best criterion of public response is the attendance at the main exhibitions which in London alone have attracted well over half a million visitors and in the country as a whole the total is much more than double that figure. This is very rewarding, and of course we have also been delighted that the Indians themselves have obviously been so pleased about the Festival, as has been shown by Mrs Gandhi's particularly warm remarks.

We have now got a certain amount of tidying up to do before we can finally close the books on the Festival. One of the main items is that, largely owing to the generosity of the sponser for the Festival Finale, Mr Swraj Paul, who shouldered all of the costs involved, we are left with quite a substantial

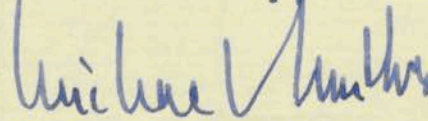
/financial surplus.

financial surplus. The Trustees will be meeting to consider how this should be disposed of to best advantage, consonant with the objectives of the original Trust.

You may, I think, be interested to know that we are told that the Americans are now thinking of following our example, by mounting an Indian Festival in 1985. Their intention is to have similar exhibitions to those in our own Festival, and they have had a team over here to see how it has all been done. So we may have really started something, and the Indians are obviously delighted at the ~~pro~~ject of a Festival in America.

I should like to take this opportunity of renewing to you on behalf of all the Trustees our warm thanks for having honoured us by being a Patron of the Festival and our gratitude for the close interest you have taken in it and for all the help you have given us.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Michael Walker  
Chairman  
Festival of India Trust

HL

14 October 1982

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 11 October. Mrs. Thatcher is grateful to you for sending her back copies of the Festival Review.

With best wishes and thank you for this kind thought.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

Trevor Rawlins, Esq.

**Trustees**

Sir Michael Walker GCMG *Chairman*  
The Rt Hon Lord Aldington KCMG CBE DSO  
Mr John Burgh CB  
The Lord Chitnis  
Sir John Cuckney  
The Earl of Harewood  
Sir Ronald McIntosh, KCB  
H E Dr V A Seyid Muhammad  
The Rt Hon Kenneth Robinson  
Dr K S Shelvankar  
Mr A J Shepperd



# Festival of India

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Shrimati Indira Gandhi

Festival of India Office,  
Room 64/G Government Offices,  
Great George Street,  
London SW1A 1AA.  
Telephones: 01 233 5986 and 233 3606

11.10.82

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Dear Prime Minister

I have taken the liberty  
of forwarding to you back copies of  
the 'Festival Review'. I hope that you  
will find them of interest, and that they  
will give some indication of the  
success and scope of events national

Yours faithfully

Trevor Rawlinson  
(Editor)



Caparo Group Limited

Caparo House, 103 Baker Street  
London W1M 1FD

Telephone: 01-486 1417

Telex: 8811343

*cf*  
*no reply*

15th September 1982

*R18*

Re: FESTIVAL FINALE

*Dear Ronnie Munshi,*

My Group of Companies is sponsoring the special performance that is being arranged for the evening of Sunday 14th November at the London Coliseum in order to mark the end of the eight months of the Festival of India in Great Britain 1982. I am consequently much hoping that you will be my guest on that occasion.

The purpose of this letter is merely to let you know, before the Advance Box Office for the event opens on 27th September, that a formal invitation to attend will be reaching you in two or three weeks time. No reply is therefore needed to this letter, but I do hope you will pencil the date in your diary meanwhile.

Kind regards,

~~Yours sincerely~~

Swraj Paul  
Chairman

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, MP, and Mr Denis Thatcher

Directors:  
S Paul (Chairman)  
A J Cavendish  
Eldon Griffiths MP  
J A Leek

Registered Office:  
103 Baker Street, London W1M 1FD  
Registered in England No. 1387694



File

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 March 1982

Dear Sir Michael,

Thank you very much for your letter of 2 March. I am delighted that your fund raising activities have been so successful and that the reception I gave last July was of some help in this respect. I am sure that the Trustees must feel pleased at the result of all the hard work they have devoted to the Festival and I congratulate them.

Naturally, I share your aim that the Festival itself should be an outstanding success. I much look forward to participating in some of the opening events later this month and I shall follow the Festival's fortunes closely thereafter. Best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) MT

Sir Michael Walker, G.C.M.G.

File

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2 March 1982

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
London

*Dear Prime Minister,*

Now that we are getting close to the start of the Festival of India I thought you might like to know how our fund raising campaign has been going since you gave your Reception for us last July. I am glad to say that our appeal has been notably successful and that we are well on our way to topping the £400,000 mark which is a good deal more than our original target. Even though costs have also gone up, our financial requirements are well assured. But what I think will be of particular interest to you is that out of this comparatively large sum of money over a quarter has come from companies who were invited to your Reception. In very large measure therefore our fund raising success has been directly attributable to your personal influence in giving our appeal such an effective send off and on behalf of all the Trustees I should like to renew to you my most grateful thanks for your splendid support.

After achieving our financial target our main concern is of course to translate this into a really successful

/Festival.



Festival. We are now in the midst of the busy - and rather anxious - run-up stage to the opening week towards the end of this month. At present our plans seem to be quite well on course and we greatly look forward to the honour of your presence at the three main events during that week which should ensure that we get away to a flying start.

Yours sincerely  
Michael Walker

Michael Walker  
Chairman  
Festival of India Office



3 MAR 1982