

MR. TRUDEAU IN INDIA

9-13 JANUARY, 1971

The Greeks have a word for it: "Only the mountains never meet." When Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau came back to India as Prime Minister of Canada he could not, of course, have quite the same kind of contacts with the people of India that he had had on his previous visits more than twenty years ago, but, as the following pages of this record of the visit attest, he did meet people of all ages and stations not only in Delhi but outside. He saw something of village India. He made his bow at shrines and monuments close to the hearts of each of the main traditions of India. He met one of India's great teachers in her ashram. He revisited a Canadian Christian mission and met again some of the Fathers who had befriended him in 1949. And at the Diesel Locomotive Works in Varanasi (Benares) he saw something of the contribution Canada has been making to the most modern Indian achievements in industrial technology.

Whether with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, or with her Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh and their senior officials, or with the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, or with the press, there was a dialogue, an exchange, a real relationship. In the transcript of the main speeches and interviews of the visit which are here presented for the record, something of Prime Minister Trudeau's own spontaneity and of the warmth with which he was everywhere received comes through on these pages. Even the camel in Umraha Village, near Varanasi seemed happy to carry him though not to let him go.

History will judge the importance of Mr. Trudeau's visit to India as a preliminary to the Singapore Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers where the Commonwealth survived one of its most severe tests. The visit was also an opportunity of clearing away any possible misunderstandings between two countries that, although far away geographically, have been close together on many world issues of the past 24 years and in economic terms have been important partners in development. It is not too soon, however, to say that whatever else the visit may have achieved it has certainly brought India and Canada closer together. It was garlands, garlands, all the way.

Highlights of Mr. Trudeau's Program

Saturday, 9 January	5.45 p.m. Arrival at Agra. Briefings and staff consultations over dinner at the hotel followed by a visit to the Taj Mahal by moonlight.
Sunday, 10 January	A.M. Visited the Mathura Museum and temples in the Mathura/Vrindavan area returning via Akbar's Tomb, Agra. Lunch on the plane to Varanasi. P.M. In the surroundings of Varanasi-Sarnath Museum and Stupa; Mahabodhi Society Temple, Canadian Catholic Mission.

Monday, 11 January

Evening. Exhibition of brocades and other handicrafts; music and dance recital after dinner.

A.M. Visited Umraha Village; then up the Ganges by boat to visit Anandamayee Ma's Ashram. Stopped at St. John's School before visiting Diesel Locomotive Works.

Departure after lunch for Agra. 4.30 p.m. Arrived Delhi; to Rashtrapathi Bhavan. Mr. Trudeau called on Mrs. Gandhi and Sardar Swaran Singh then called on Mr. Trudeau.

Mrs. Gandhi presented a gala concert of music and dance at the Fine Arts Theatre in honour of Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Heath.

Mr. Trudeau and Mr. Heath then dined privately at the British High Commissioner's residence.

Tuesday, 12 January

After laying a wreath at the Gandhi Memorial, Raj Ghat, Mr. Trudeau returned to Rashtrapathi Bhavan for the main session of official talks, first privately with Mrs. Gandhi and later with officials.

After calling on President V. V. Giri, Mr. Trudeau attended a luncheon in the gardens of Rashtrapathi Bhavan given by Mrs. Gandhi and then went to the Canadian High Commissioner's residence to meet the Canadian community. He then visited the new Canadian Chancery which is under construction.

He then held a lively dialogue with the students at Nehru University followed by a press conference and an All India Radio TV interview.

In the evening Mr. Trudeau gave a dinner for Mrs. Gandhi at the Canadian High Commissioner's residence. Ustad Vilayat Khan and Pandit Samta Prasad gave a recital (sitar and tabla) after dinner.

Wednesday, 13 January

Mr. Trudeau left for Singapore at 9.20 a.m.