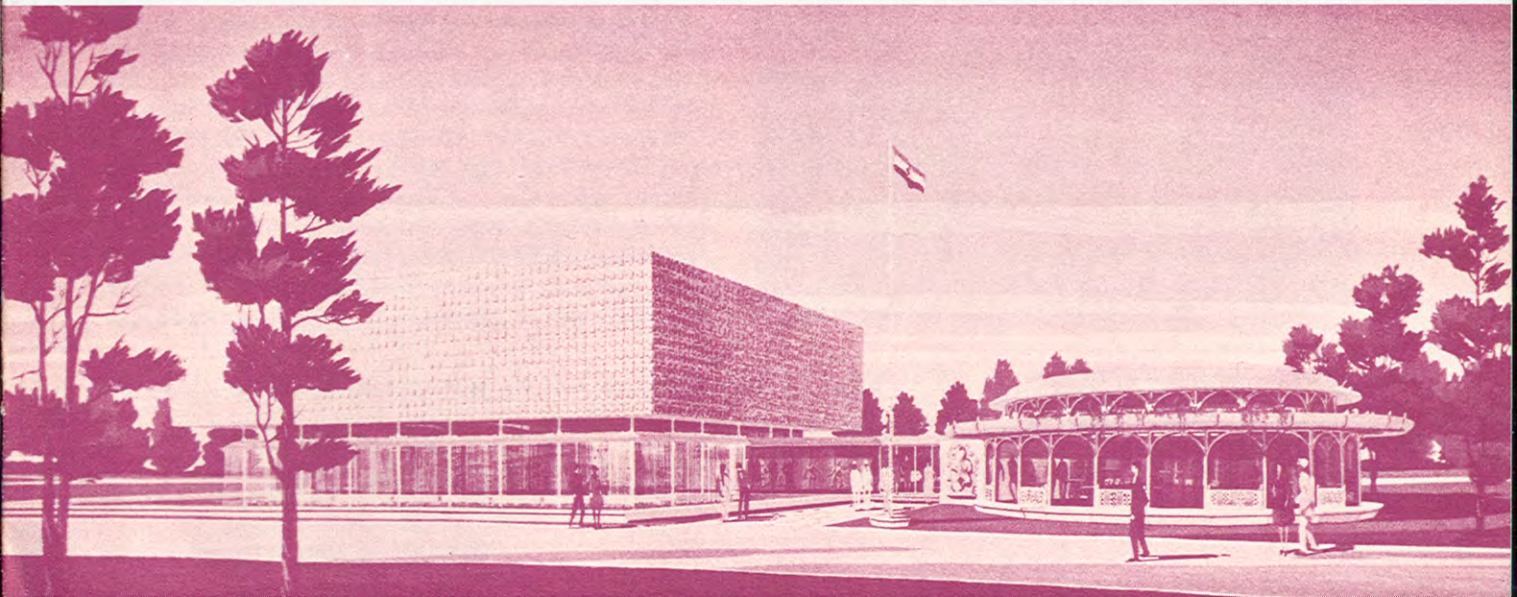
PAVILION OF

India

APRIL 8, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING
AT THE
NEW YORK
WORLD'S FAIR
1964–1965



Remarks by Indian and World's Fair officials at the Pavilion of India groundbreaking ceremonies, New York World's Fair, Monday, April 8, 1963.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Mrs. Gandhi, Consul General Roy, President Moses, ladies and gentlemen. It is a pleasure to welcome you here on this auspicious occasion. I would like to introduce as our first speaker, Consul General Sunil K. Roy.

CONSUL GENERAL SUNIL K. ROY: Distinguished guests, friends. An occasion like this is one which gives special satisfaction to a country's representative when he has the opportunity to partake in it. Particularly significant for me is the spirit of cooperation in which all of us have worked from the outset. Indeed it is in the true spirit of Indo-American relations.

A happy set of circumstances has brought Mrs. Indira Gandhi to America to perform the ceremony. We could not have a more happy augury with which to begin our work. The theme of our pavilion is to be "Progress in Democracy." Very few people realize that our dedication to the ideals of democracy in modern times stems from the history of our country and the very roots of Indian tradition.

The man who laid the foundations for our freedom in modern times was Mohandas Gandhi. The people say he was a saint turned politician, when in fact he was a politician trying to be saintly. In this sense, he was reflecting the intrinsic truth that political force is an integral part of Indian philosophy and that there are no separate divisions of religious, social and political thought.

Indeed, throughout our history there is this basic concept that the rulers take their power from the people and have the right, nay, the duty to remove unjust rulers. The very theme, "Progress in Democracy," is linked with our modern ideals and stems from our ancient tradition. This enables us to show the whole growth of modern India and, in this process, it is perhaps symbolic that

Cover: Progress in Democracy will be the theme of the Indian Pavilion at the World's Fair, as shown in architect Mansinh M. Rana's rendering.

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Mrs. Gandhi should be here for the ceremony.

Mrs. Gandhi symbolizes modern India because women in India have always taken an important part in our life by fighting side by side with their men. They have today by natural right, an equal place with men. They are exercising this right throughout the nation by holding positions of leadership in village councils and throughout our political and social structure including leadership of our main political body, the Congress Party, of which Mrs. Gandhi was president in 1959-1960. Thank you for your attention and I hope that you will see the spirit of our country through our pavilion.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mrs. Gandhi, this vast and complex Fair project requires a man of extraordinary skill and experience as its director of International Exhibits. We are fortunate in having such a man who has worked on Fairs such as this practically all of his life. I have pleasure in presenting to all of you Mr. Allen Beach.

MR. ALLEN BEACH [Director, International Ex-

Fair President, Robert Moses, accepts a memento of Indian handicraft from Mrs. Indira Gandhi. At right is Mr. K. N. Wahal, Commercial Consul of India.

hibits]: Thank you Ambassador Patterson. Mrs. Gandhi, President Moses, Consul General Roy, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am sorry that Governor Poletti cannot be here today. Our much-traveled vice president and ambassador for the Fair is today in Turkey. He asked me before he departed, however, to relay his congratulations to you at this ceremony.

In the early part of February 1961, Governor and Mrs. Poletti headed the committee that visited India to present the formal invitation to participate in the New York World's Fair. Members of that committee were Judge and Mrs. Samuel Rosenman, Mr. Oswald B. Ward and Mr. William Berns, vice president for Communications.

Since then, with efficiency, the plans for India's Pavilion have progressed to realization under the guidance of a special committee led by Mrs. Indira Gandhi. India's two-story pavilion on this excellent 25,000 sq. ft. site, across from the Federal Pavilion, will be organized under the theme "Progress in Democracy." We know it will be a charming exhibit with an important story to tell to the world.

Besides the fine work of Mrs. Gandhi, no small part of the success of India's participation is due to the wonderful cooperation we have enjoyed from Consul General Sunil K. Roy and Commercial Consul K. N. Wahal. They have worked closely with us and with Mr. Douglas Beaton of our International Division, who has coordinated our mutual efforts.

We congratulate Mr. Mansinh M. Rana, and his associates Mr. Stonorov and Mr. Haws of Philadelphia, on the excellent design of India's Pavilion. Of course we are delighted to welcome to the Fair for the second time, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

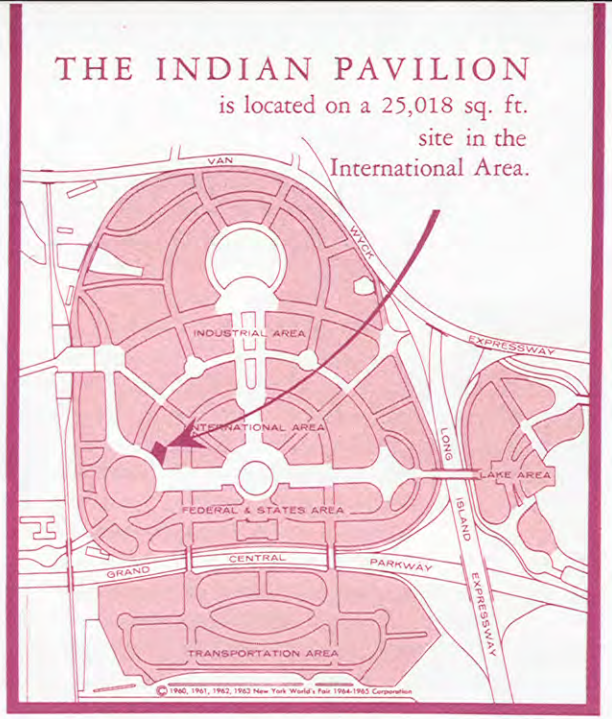
AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you Mr. Beach. There is no question that since the passing of the great Mahatma Gandhi one name which we accept as the voice of India reverberates throughout the world. That name is Prime Minister Nehru, the illustrious father of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Mrs. Gandhi is skilled in diplomacy and politics and like him, she too is a voice of India. It is a proud moment for me to present to you the brilliant daughter of an eminent father, Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

MRS. GANDHI: Ambassador Patterson, President Moses and distinguished guests. It is indeed a very great pleasure for me to be here this afternoon to break ground for the Indian Pavilion. I was here a few months ago and I did not know then of the many difficulties we would encounter in order to participate in the New York World's Fair. As you know, India been the victim of aggression since then. Therefore, we are facing tremendous financial, and other difficulties, in order to maintain our freedom, our democracy, our sense of values. Thus, we did not know whether, in these circumstances, we could still participate in this Fair. It will give you some idea of the great importance we attach to the Fair and to friendship with this great country and its people, that despite these difficulties, our government finally made the decision to take part.

The theme of the Fair, "Peace Through Understanding," is one which is dear to the heart of India and the interdependence of nations. In my own country, a recurrent theme in domestic matters is Unity in Diversity. You all know that India is a country of very large size, of enormous differences of structure, of language, of faith and of customs. But we are trying — all of these different peoples still have a basic underlying unity. That is what has given strength to our young democracy. We believe that it is only through the understanding of each other's cultures and ways of life that friendship can be achieved, and it is only through friendship that peace can be achieved. In the Moslem world perhaps peace is of the utmost importance because it is only through peace that the world can go forward to prosperity and to using the world's knowledge of science and technology, now within our grasp, for the benefit of all mankind.

It gives me pleasure to be here, and I certainly hope that here in this Meadow, many seeds of friendship will be sown, during the period that this Fair will be held, which will be of lasting benefit to all those who participate. I want to thank all those who have helped us in this venture, and I wish the Fair every success.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you very much Mrs. Gandhi. Every great enterprise in this world is fundamentally the dream of one great man. This truism



may well be accepted at our World's Fair here today. This great American is a field marshal of this monumental project for peace and progress. Mrs. Gandhi, ladies and gentlemen, I give you the Honorable Robert Moses.

ROBERT MOSES: Mrs. Gandhi, Ambassador Patterson, friends. I am one of those ancients who in early youth saw the Indian Raj through a romantic veil. My generation was brought up on Kipling and the Barrack Room Ballads. In the words of our own divine Daniel Webster, we beat time to the morning drum, which followed the rising sun, kept company with the hours and circled the earth with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England.

We sang the Kashmiri song about the pale hands beside the Shalimar, heard the echoes of voices in the bazaars and swallowed tales of monsoons, rains and racial tensions, nabobs, howdahs, viceroys, sahibs, rajahs, rubies, curries and whatnot. We were puzzled however by the ominous note of the Recessional at the Diamond Jubilee, after accepting the Suez Canal as the lifeline of Empire.

We have lived to see the veil of romance rent, an ancient civilization revived, independence established and a new nation like our own, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, rise and command the attention of the world. We have come to realize that there is more than a passing resemblance between Abraham Lincoln and Mahatma Gandhi.

In projecting the image of India, you will find that Flushing Meadow is a better medium than Hollywood. We welcome you to the Olympics of Progress at the World's Fair. We assume that you will invite your most ingenious administrators, architects, and artists to fashion your exhibits; those who can best revive the past, mirror the present, invoke the shape of the future, and reconcile and integrate the claims of religion, tradition, beauty, utility, industry and democracy.

We ask that you, Madame Gandhi, convey to your distinguished father the respect and admiration of our people for his part in bringing the East and West together, and in furthering the cause of international peace through friendship and understanding.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi graciously accepts the World's Fair medal from Robert Moses, president of the Fair, at the conclusion of the speeches.

PAVILION OF INDIA

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Hon. Sunil K. Roy, Consul General of India, New York City
Mr. P. K. Panikkar, Director of Exhibitions, Government of India
Mr. K. N. Wahal, Consul

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