

Embassy of India
Warsaw

Bharat Mitr Samman – Indology conferred on Dr. Joanna Jurewicz
in Warsaw, 12th October 2023



Dr V. Sahasrabuddhe, President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), conferred the Bharat Mitr Samman, also known as the Distinguished Indologist Award 2022, on Dr. Joanna Jurewicz, Chair of South Asia Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw in a ceremony at the Embassy of India in Warsaw that celebrated the Poland-India cultural confluence. Dr. Jurewicz is the ninth scholar on whom this prestigious award has been conferred, with previous awardees being from Germany, US, UK, China, Japan, Korea and Canada. Dr. Jurewicz is a scholar of Sanskrit texts of the period from the 13th century to the 3rd century BC, and has worked extensively on the Vedas. She is the author of five monographs, including *Fire and Cognition in the Rgveda* (2010). She has also worked on the history of philosophical ideas.

2. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe spoke on the importance of the civilisational links between India and Poland and between Indian and European thought. He encouraged Polish participation in a conference that ICCR will host shortly of professors of Indology worldwide. Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick saluted the quality of scholarship among Polish scholars of Indology, viz, the study of the Sanskrit texts of ancient India; she also appreciated the many talented Polish performers in Indian classical dance and music. Dr. Jurewicz spoke movingly on events in her life that had led to her interest in Indology and the many ties of the head and heart that bound her to this discipline.

3. A beautiful cultural performance then followed. The Kathak presentation was by Ms. Magdalena Niernsee, an ICCR scholar and graduate of Kathak Kendra, New Delhi. *Om Namah Shivaya*, an especially-choreographed item in Odissi and Kuchipudi, was performed by Ms. Zofia Lichota, also an ICCR scholar and disciple of Guru Ranjana Gauhar, and Ms. Kornelia Musialowska, a student of Guru Arunima Kumar. Senior academics from the most prestigious universities of Poland, cultural personalities and mediapersons attended the event.





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