

## Embassy of India

### Warsaw

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### Press Release

### Remembering the Good Maharajas, Warsaw, 05<sup>th</sup> July, 2022



The most evocative and historic link between the peoples of India and Poland is the one created by the story of the Polish refugees in India during and after the Second World War. Large numbers of Polish women and children were given refuge by two Royal Families in India: His Highness Maharaja Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji Jadeja, the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar, gave refuge to over a thousand Polish children in the famous Balachadi camp, while the Royal Family of Kolhapur gave refuge to over 5000 Polish women and children in the equally well-known Valivade camp.

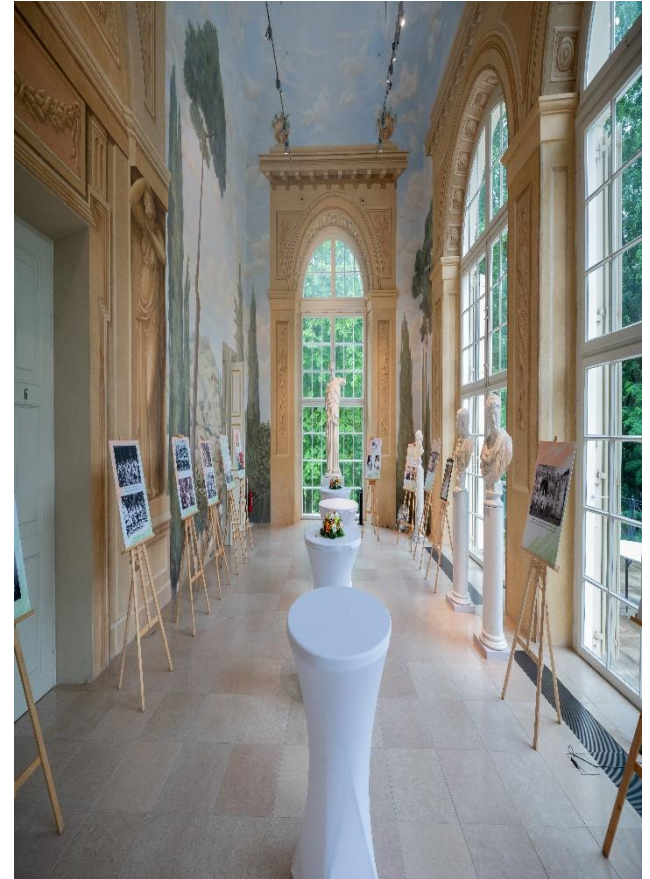
To commemorate this historic link, an event entitled "Remembering the Good Maharajas" (Upamiętnienie Dobrych Maharadzów), was organised in the Old Orangery of the iconic Royal Lazienki park on 5th July 2022. Around 22 photographs from the camps of Valivade and Nawanagar depicting the lives of the Polish children in India during that period were exhibited for the guests.

Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati, the descendant of the Chhatrapati Shivaji and Dr. Piyushkumar Matalia, representative of the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar especially flew from India to attend this event. Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations represented the Government of India at the event besides Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick.

Voivode of the Mozowia Province HE Konstanty Radziwiłł graced the event. The event was also attended by Mr. Marcin Przydacz, Undersecretary of State for Security, the Americas, Asia and the Eastern Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Bogdan Borusewicz, Vice Marshal of the Senate and Ms. Małgorzata Pępek, Chairperson of the Poland-india Parliamentary Friendship Group. Ambassador of Poland to India Mr. Adam Burakowski also attended the event.

Mr. Andrzej Jan Chendynski, President of the Association of Poles and Mr. Wieslaw Stypula who were in the Valivade and Nawanagar Camp respectively as children, recalled their memories of those days. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Polish friends who were in the camps as children.

At the end of the event, polish students from Janusz Kurczak School in Ochota and Warsaw Montessori School recited polish songs.











Warsaw  
12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022

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