

**Embassy of India
Warsaw**

Press Release

**20th meeting of the Association of Poles in India 1942-1948,
4th September, 2023, Gdansk**



The Association of Poles in India reunites all the Polish who lived in India between 1942 and 1948 in the Balachadi and Valivade camps set up by the Maharajas of Jamnagar and Kolhapur respectively. It meets once in two years: it met for the first time after the pandemic on 4th September, 2023 in Gdansk. Ambassador Nagma Mallick attended the meeting as a special invitee. Jan Chendynski, President of the Association, reiterated the gratitude and affection that all 'Indian Poles' felt for the two royal families and the people of India for the refuge they generously offered to the Polish women and children fleeing the Second World War; he also recounted some of the happy childhood memories that most of them had of the camps. He informed the gathering that since their last meeting, 58 Indian Poles had passed away. Around 30 Indian Poles attended the meeting, many accompanied by family members and friends.

Ambassador Mallick began with expressing her deep sense of honour at being invited to the distinguished gathering. Noting that the story of the Polish refugees in India was not as well-known in India as it deserved to be, she commended the Indian Poles for keeping this memory alive in Poland, for building beautiful memorials to the two royal families in Warsaw and for organising annual events to commemorate this romantic facet of India-Poland relations. She described the Indian Poles as forming the bedrock of the people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The meeting was held at the Convent of St. Bridget in Gdansk which has four Indian nuns resident in it since many years, all of whom met with Ambassador Mallick and the Indian Poles.







13th September, 2023
Warsaw