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MESSAGE

As a nation grows and finds its own strengths and weaknesses, it is a process of self-discovery. Independent India is 65 years young and taking its rightful place as a strong nation with old civilizational values in the global community. More and more Indians are coming to the forefront showcasing the myriad strengths of this country. Historians- trained and otherwise, are rediscovering Indian history, and this time from a global Indian perspective.

The episode of the composite Polish refugee community finding hospitality in India is new to most of us. The discourse in Poland too is quite recent, as they embark on their journey of self discovery , growing as a nation and taking their rightful place in the European community since 1989. Recently a town square in Warsaw has been named after the late Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji as the " Square of the Good Maharaja."

I am happy to introduce this account "The Second Homeland" by Anuradha Bhattacharjee, which chronicles the generosity of not just one, but several Maharajas of India and common people alike towards the Polish children and adults who managed to reach India after their ordeals in the midst of World War II.

The invitation to the Polish people extended by Maharaja Yadvinder Singhji of Patiala interested me particularly. It is another matter that the Polish people missed out on the highly acclaimed Patiala hospitality.

Well, it took a grand-daughter of a former Patiala State official to bring back memories of a good deed done in the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" a traditional Indian philosophy.

Good Luck to this book "The Second Homeland" and Good Luck to Anuradha- may you write more such books !!

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(Preneet Kaur)