

SHORT LIFE SKETCH.

Lt.Gen. His Highness Maharaja Sir Jiwajirao Scindia, G.C.I.E., G.C.S.I., Alijah Bahadur, present Ruler of Gwalior State, was born on 26th June 1916 and ascended the throne in 1925 on the death of his illustrious father of revered memory, Sir Madhavrao Scindia. He assumed full ruling powers on 2nd Nov. 1936 following an investiture ceremony at the hands of the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow.

Maharaja Scindia was educated privately under the guardianship of his mother. Under the British and Indian tutors, His Highness, whose military training began at the early age of 4 with his enrolment as a private in Maharani's own infantry, received academic training upto Intermediate and this was simultaneously attended by intensive administrative training also. His Highness studied secretarial work in Bombay and Bangalore, was Revenue Minister of the Gwalior Cabinet in 1934 for about a year and in 1935, went to Lyallpur Agricultural College to study settlement work. His military training was completed at Poona.

His Highness married Princess Lekha Divyeshwari Devi on February, 21, 1941 and was blessed with two daughters- Princess Padmavati Raje Scindia and Princess Usha Raje Scindia

and an Heir Apparent Prince Madhav Rao Scindia, born on March 10, 1945.

His Highness conducts the reins of his Government with an Executive Council which has been recently reconstituted to include 11 Ministers. Five Ministers of these are non-officials. There is a bicameral legislature, the Lower House with a majority of elected and the Upper House with half of elected representatives. In the Constituent Assembly of India, Gwalior is represented by four members, three of whom are elected. Since the assumption of the ruling powers by His Highness, Gwalior has made tremendous progress in every field of activity - social, economic, industrial and constitutional.

Amongst the various engaging aspects of the personality of the Ruler of Gwalior, two traits stand out in bold relief - hard work and love of sports. As the incessant hours of work, day in and day out and on working days and holidays - point out to His Highness' labour under which he is straining himself for the good of his State, his interest in equine exercise, polo, motor-driving, racing and big game indicate his love of sports. His Highness was known to be an excellent hockey player once and was an expert hand at Tennis but his days are full with the burden of administration to allow him enough latitude for these games now.

Love of sports is in His Highness' veins and in his day-to-day work, this sportsmanship gets transformed and manifested into his jovial mood, sympathetic and attractive conversation, accessibility to all and sundry and balanced views on all problems he is confronted with. His Highness is lover of drama and swimming and on rare occasions, finds time to visit a theatre and a swimming pool as well.

J. P. H.

R. Kauri
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Tecnológico
de Monterrey