

# Royal family takes out procession in Vadodara

## Communal clash at Devgad Baria town

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DAHOD, MARCH 11

A COMMUNAL clash broke out between two communities at Devgad Baria town of the district with both the groups pelting stones at each other causing tension in the neighbourhood, police said.

The police resorted to lathi charge and also fired a few tear gas shells to disperse the mob, they said.

According to police, it all started after some verbal exchanges over a petty matter which ended up in stone pelting between the two groups.

Several persons have been detained and a case of rioting has been registered against people from both the groups, police said, adding that further investigation was on.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

VADODARA, MARCH 11

PUBLIC enthusiasm was palpable as royal family of Baroda rode back of elephants and joined more than 70 floats at a grand, long procession to kick off year-long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad-III (1863-1839), the erstwhile ruler of Vadodara state.

The city came almost to a standstill as Samarjitsingh Gaekwad, great grandson of Gaekwad-III and other members of the royal family moved on city roads on elephant backs and in chariots after Chief Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the procession from Navalakhi Ground near Laxamivilas Palace at 5 pm.

The procession passed by Kothi crossroads, Raopura, Jubilee Baug, Nyay Mandir, Khanderao Market and Kirti Stumbh and were to culminate

ing at the ground late in the evening. People lined the way the procession all along and showered flowers on the royals.

A tableau of Lord Swaminaray lead the procession and was followed by floats representing monumental achievements of the Maharaja. There were tableau on the concept of mobile library, education of women, Bank of Barad which he had founded in 1908 and Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI), an industry body which the Maharaja had formed in 1918.

One of the tableau represented the Laxamivilas Palace, the residence of the royal family, while another one was a replica of Mandvi gate in the city. Two vintage cars, including a Rolls-Royce, two cannons, guns and other weapons of the royal army were also displayed on floats.

However, Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, the present maharaja,



could not join the procession due to ill health, sources in Vadodara Nagrik Samiti, the organiser of the event said.

The procession was three kilometres long and was going

on till the time of going to the press.

In his inaugural speech, Chief Minister Modi said that Gaekwad-III was an ideal and inspirational ruler and that

was the reason why spiritualist like Maharshi Aurobindo and modernist like Dr BR Ambedkar were attracted towards him and served the kingdom.



Royal family members at a procession in Vadodara on Sunday; (right) a cannon at the procession.

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