

Sanskarnagari sees with Sayajirao's vision again

Erstwhile Ruler's 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations Begin



Chief minister Narendra Modi all praises for Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III when he visited the city to flag off the grand procession organized to celebrate the king's 150th birth anniversary. Modi said that Sayajirao was a true visionary and that he had experienced the effect of the king's compulsory education rule for females. Modi said when he was moving around Dwarka that was under erstwhile Baroda state for spreading awareness about his government's Kanya Kelavani scheme, he met a group of females.

"I asked them how many from the group are educated. To my surprise, the women over 80 years of age raised their hands while their daughters-in-law didn't. I asked them the reason for such contradiction. The older women said that they came from erstwhile Baroda state where primary education was compulsory for women," Modi told a cheering crowd.

"I am fortunate to have come from Vadnagar that was a part of

erstwhile Baroda state. Till date, we remember Sayajirao before starting every auspicious event in Vadnagar. To be a source of inspiration for such a long period is a big thing and it speaks volumes about his personality," added Modi.

He also said the British painted false images of Indian kings to retain their power. "English writers only wrote about the lavish lifestyles of the rulers. But, there was little mention about the good work they did," Modi pointed out.

"Whenever any new IAS officer is posted in Gujarat by Centre, I make it a point to give him/her a book Minor Hints that has lectures delivered to Sayajirao by his dewan Sir T Madhavrao

It teaches a lot about quality administration and how to get best output from people," Modi said. **TM**



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Pics: Bhavani Pathak & Ashwin Rajput



Sea of crowd watches grand Shri Sayaji Savari

Tushar Tere | TNN

Vadodara: On Sunday evening, the city was caught in a time warp. Old timers, who had witnessed the grand processions that used to be organized during the royal Gaekwad rule in the city, travelled down the memory lanes as Shri Sayaji Savari took off from Navlakhi Grounds at 5 pm. The procession was organized by the royal Gaekwad family along with Maharaja Sayaji Smarak Trust to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. Thousands of people from all walks of society participated in the procession that passed through old city areas.

Right from the royal families of central Gujarat to cricketers, body builders and artists, everyone lined up at the venue to participate in the procession and greet the royal Gaekwad family members. Despite his ailing health, Maharaja Ranjitsinh Gaekwad, scion of royal Gaekwad family turned up at the venue along



with Shubhanginiraje Gaekwad, Mrunalinidevi Puar, Samarjitsinh Gaekwad and Radhikaraje Gaekwad. Those participating in the procession and onlookers waved to the royal family members, who stayed back till the last vehicle of the procession left the venue.

A sea of crowd erupted at places like Kothi, Raopura, Khanderao Market and Rajmabel Road to watch the procession that has been organized at a massive scale. Residents of old city areas perched on their roof tops and balconies to watch the majestic procession. Decorated elephants, luxurious buggies, royal families dressed up in traditional attire, vintage cars and youngsters showing their talent in lezim, sword fight and lathi. It was a visual treat for Barodians who were eagerly waiting for the day. Samarjitsinh, too, sat on an elephant and joined the procession for a short while.