

To

Student Samachar



Gurujī's presence has always showered blessings that have worked wonders in every venture undertaken. So is Student Samachar.

From : **Urmi School & Hostel**
Sama-Savli Road, Nr. Flyover, Sama,
Vadodara-390024 Ph. 0265-2712611, 2710291
E-mail : studentssamachar77@gmail.com

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Email : studentssamachar77@gmail.com
Ph. (0265) 2712611

His Royal Highness Samarjitsinh Gaekwad "The Crowning Glory"



Blessings towards a Royal Walk



When the new 'ruler' of Baroda dynasty, Samarjitsinh Gaekwad went to the Jain temple in Kothipur after his coronation on Friday, he had a stated agenda in mind - to fulfill the promise of a visit that his late father Ranjitsinh Gaekwad had made to the temple authorities when they invited him for a visit. But, if his associates are to be believed, Gaekwad also had an unspoken agenda during the visit - to present his secular credentials to the people of the erstwhile Baroda Estate. This agenda is going to be reinforced next month when the royal family will arrange a 'Sarv dharma prarthna sabha' (multi-faith prayer session) on July 22 which would be attended by religious preachers of all main religions of India. This is the first time in independent India that the Gaekwad dynasty would be arranging such an event. "In fact, the event was to be organized before the

coronation ceremony, but due to some reasons, we decided to postpone it and hold it after completion of exactly one month of Maharaja taking over the 'gaadi'," says Dhruv Dutt Vyas, the Raj Purohit of the royal family. The invites have already been sent to the religious heads of various faiths in Vadodara. "On March 14, the late Maharaja had promised to visit the Jain temple, but could not do so due to his failing health. Samarjitsinhji fulfilled his father's promise, by visiting the temple with his wife, Radhikaji, immediately after the coronation. But, otherwise, too, the new ruler is made in his great-great-grandfather's mould and is very secular in nature," says the family priest, invoking the name of the most illustrious Gaekwad king Sayajirao Gaekwad, and apparently mindful of the turbulent environment that the city has witnessed several times in the past over communal clashes. The Raj Purohit recalls his elders' descriptions of how

the 'Sarkarwada' (the first palace of Gaekwads) used to have a 'tazia' along with Ganpati during Sayajirao's times. "The great singer, Ustaad Faiyaz Khan, used to sing the Mangla aarti for Sayajirao Maharaj," says the priest impressing on the secular leanings of the ruling family. "Sayajirao Sarkar was a great reformer, and following his line of thinking, the palace invited all the womenfolk of the family to witness the coronation ceremony for the first time on Friday. During his father Ranjitsinh's coronation, only a few women had a chance to witness the event," he added. Family sources, however, scotch any rumours of the new king nursing a political ambition, even though, his father remained in politics for a long time. "Traditionally, the royals have played the role of kingmakers, they are not interested in getting into political camps anymore," reveal sources.

Nanubhai Amin Award for Innovative Science Exhibit



Mr. Rahul Nanubhai Amin, B.E. (Elect.) M. Engg. (Cornell-U.S.A.) serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Jem Industries Ltd. who presided over the function as a chief Guest.

Maitreya Shah The Star of Urmi School Sama who won a cash prize of Rs. 7,500.



Winners of the Exhibition : Bright Day School CBSE, DPS Vadodara, Urmi School Sama



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Nr Kalali Atladara Rly. Crossing,
Off Old Padra Rd, Atladara Vadodara
Ph:- 0265-2680215, 9375128770
e: gps.admission@gmail.com

Nr Flyover brigde, Amitnagar
Sama -Savli Road, Sama, Vadodara
Ph:- 0265-2712611, 9327363018
e: urmishool@gmail.com

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