

Appendix I

Birth-date Controversy About Sayaji Rao

There are divergent views regarding the birth-date of Maharaja Sayaji Rao. The compilers of the Gazetteer of the Baroda State mention the date as March 17, 1863.¹ G. S. Sardesai,² Apte³ and Doctor⁴ have mentioned March 11, 1863. Sampat Rao, the elder brother of the Maharaja, admitted that it was very difficult to tell the exact birth-date of Sayaji Rao. However, he stated it to be February 23, 1863.⁵ Out of these three dates, March 17, 1863, has been accepted by the Birthday Centenary Celebration Committee constituted by the M.S. University of Baroda in 1863. A Commemoration volume was brought out by this Committee on March 17, 1964. It is strange to note that the compilers of the Baroda State Gazetteer,⁶ Apte⁷ and Doctor⁸ should accept March 5 as the birth-date of the Maharaja. Keeping in view of all these conflicting dates, March 17 may be accepted as the correct date of birth of Maharaja Sayaji Rao.

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1. Vol. I, p. 604.
 2. SSGG, Part IV, p. 25.
 3. Shri Sayaji Rao Gaekwad (Tisare) Yanche Charitra, Vol. I, p. 136.
 4. Shrimant Sayajirao Gaekwadnu Jivancharitra Vol. I, p. ~~63~~ 64.
 5. SSGG, Part I, p. 72.
 6. Vol. I, p. 617.
 7. Shri Sayaji Rao Gaekwad (Tisare) Yanche Charitra, Vol. II, p. 741.
 8. Shri Sayajirao Gaekwadnu Jivancharitra, Vol. I, p. 298.