



Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

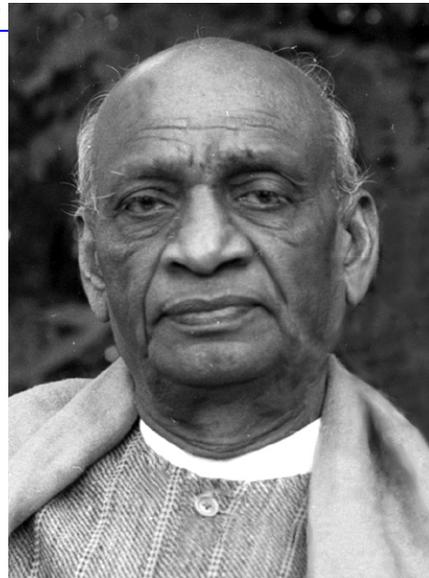
Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to India's first home minister, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, on his 71st death anniversary on 15th December.

Key Points

- **Born:**

- **31st October 1875** in Nadiad, Gujarat. [//](#)



- **First Home Minister** and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He always requested the people of India to live together by **uniting (Ek Bharat)** in order to create a **foremost India (Shresth Bharat)**.

- This ideology still reflects in the [Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative](#) which seeks to make India [Self-Reliant](#).

- **Headed various Committees** of the Constituent Assembly of India, namely:

- Advisory Committee on [Fundamental Rights](#).
- Committee on Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas.
- Provincial Constitution Committee.

- **Reforms:**

- **He worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, caste discrimination and for women emancipation in Gujarat and outside.**
- **Integrated the farmer's cause** in [Kheda Satyagraha](#) (1918) and [Bardoli Satyagraha \(1928\)](#) with the national freedom movement.

- Women of Bardoli bestowed the title '**Sardar**' on **Vallabhbhai Patel**, which

means 'a Chief or a Leader'.

- Remembered as the '**Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants**' as he **established the modern all-India services system.**

▪ **Integration of the Princely States:**

- As India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Patel played a key role in the integration of about 565 princely states into the Indian Union.
- Few princely states like **Travancore, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Bhopal and Kashmir were averse** to joining the state of India.
- **Sardar Patel worked tirelessly to build a consensus** with the princely states but did not hesitate in **employing methods of Sama, Dama, Dand and Bhed** wherever necessary.
- He had used force **to annex princely states of Junagadh ruled by Nawab and Hyderabad ruled by Nizam**, both of whom had wished not to merge their respective states with the Union of India.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel **stitched the princely states along with British Indian territory and prevented the balkanization** of India.
- Known as the "**Iron Man of India**" for playing an important role in unification and integration of Indian princely states into the Indian federation and for convincing princely states to align with the Indian Union.

▪ **Death:**

- **15th December 1950** in Bombay.

Statue of Unity

- The Statue of Unity is built in **honor of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
- It was inaugurated on **31st October, 2018 to mark the 143rd birth anniversary** of Sardar Patel.
- The Statue of Unity is **the tallest statue in the world.** At 182 meters, it is 23 meters taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue and almost double the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 meters tall) in the US.
- In January 2020, it was added to the 'Eight Wonders' of the **[Shanghai Cooperation Organization \(SCO\).](#)**

[Source: PIB](#)

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