



Statue of Unity

Why in News

Recently, the '**Statue of Unity**' at Kevadia in Gujarat's Narmada district has crossed the mark of **50 lakh visitors** since its inauguration in **2018**.

- India's [**first seaplane service**](#) in Gujarat started **from 31st October, 2020**. It **connects Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia**.

Key Points

▪ About:

- The **Statue of Unity** is built in honour of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. Sardar Patel is credited with **uniting 560 princely states** in pre-independent India hence the name of the **statue is christened as 'Statue of Unity'**.
- 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 metres**, it is 23 metres taller than China's Spring Temple Buddha statue and almost double the height of the Statue of Liberty (93 metres tall) in the US.
- In January 2020, it was added in the '**Eight Wonders**' of the [**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)**](#).

▪ Location:

- It is located on the **Sadhu Bet island on the Narmada river**, which flows **between the Satpura and the Vindhya mountain ranges**.

▪ Designed:

- The Statue of Unity was **designed by Padma Bhushan recipient sculptor Ram V Sutar** and intricate **bronze cladding work** was **done by a Chinese foundry**, the **Jiangxi Toqine Company (JTQ)**.

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

▪ Born:

- 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.

▪ Achievements:

- First Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- 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**.
- 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’.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Remembered as the ‘**Patron Saint of India’s Civil Servants**’ as he established the modern all-India services system.

▪ **Death:**

- 15th December 1950 in Bombay.

Source -IE

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