



# National Unity Day 2022

## Why in News?

On [National Unity Day 2022](#), the Union Home Minister of India remembered [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#) on his 147th birth anniversary saying that the latter realised the dream of a strong and united India with his farsightedness.

## Why is National Unity Day Celebrated?

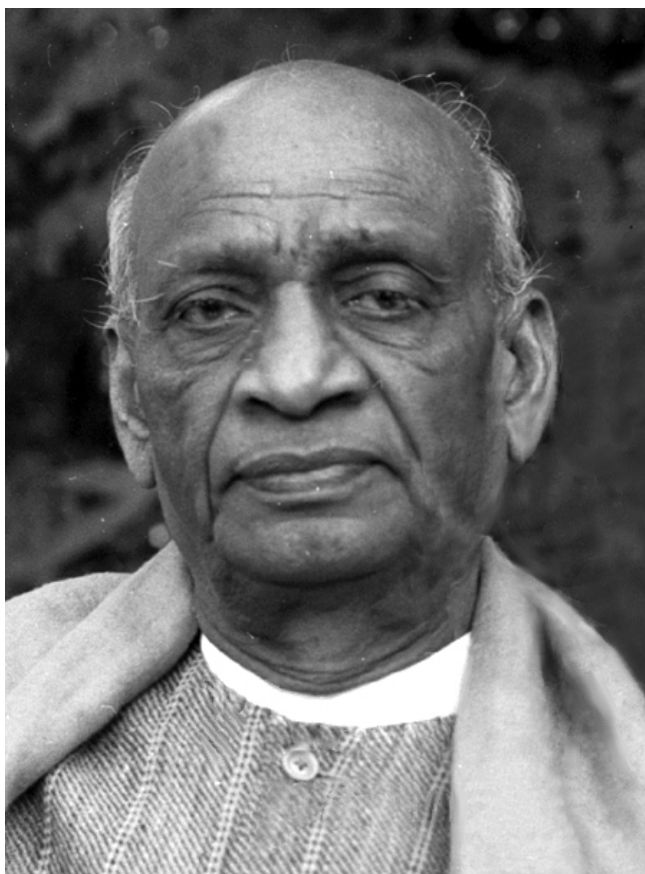
- National Unity Day is celebrated every year on 31st October to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**. It is also known as **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.
  - The reason behind the celebration of this day is to **make people aware of the ideas of staying together and uplifting society**.
  - It was celebrated for the **first time in 2014**.
- Several events are organised on this day like '**Run For Unity**' - a nationwide **marathon** to increase awareness about the contribution of Sardar Patel to national integrity, **National Unity pledge**, etc.
- In 2018, the Government of India unveiled the '**Statue of Unity**' in Gujarat to mark the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

What is the Statue of Unity?

- 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)**.

## Who was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel?

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#### ▪ **About:**

- He was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- Sardar Patel was the **first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India**.
- He is recognized as the **real unifier of India** for his colossal contribution to integrate and make India a united (Ek Bharat) and an independent nation.
  - He requested the people of India to live together by uniting in order to create **Shresth Bharat** (Foremost India).
  - This ideology is still reflected in the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative** which seeks to **make India Self-Reliant**.
- He is also remembered as the **'Patron saint of India's civil servants'** as he established the modern all-India services system.

#### ▪ **Role in Framing Constitution:**

- He 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.

#### ▪ **Major Contributions:**

- He **worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, caste discrimination** and for **women emancipation** in Gujarat and outside.
- He 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'.
- During the 1930 **Salt Satyagraha** (prayer and fasting movement), Sardar Patel served three months imprisonment.
- In March 1931 Patel presided over the **Karachi session (46th session) of the Indian National Congress** which was called upon to ratify the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**.

#### ▪ **Integration of the Princely States:**

- 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.**
    - He is 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.

### Infographic

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims:

**Q. Who among the following were official Congress negotiators with Cripps Mission? (2010)**

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel
- (b) Acharya J. B. Kripalani and C. Rajagopalachari
- (c) Pandit Nehru and Maulana Azad
- (d) Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai

**Ans: (c)**

**Q. For the Karachi Session of Indian National Congress in 1931 presided over by Sardar Patel, who drafted the Resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme? (2010)**

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (d) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

**Ans: (b)**

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