



National Unity Day

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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**.
- It was celebrated for the **first time in 2014** with the aim to pay tribute to the '**Iron man of India**' by remembering his extraordinary works for the country.
- Several events are organized 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 in the honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

It is the **tallest statue** in the world.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Sardar Patel was born on 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- He was the **first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister** of India.
- He played an important role in the **integration of many Indian princely states** to make an **Indian federation**.
 - At the time of independence, Sardar Patel played a key role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.
 - He also worked hard as a social leader for the Independence of India.
- Women of Bardoli bestowed the title '**Sardar**' on Vallabhbhai Patel, which means 'a Chief or a Leader'.
- 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).
- He is also remembered as the '**Patron saint of India's civil servants**' as he established the modern all-India services system.

Source: IE