

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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Why in news?

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan honours Iron Man of India: Sardar Patel on his 150th Birth Anniversary.

About Sardar Patel.

- He was an Indian barrister (type of lawyer who specializes in courtroom advocacy) & statesman.
- He was one of the leaders of the **Indian National Congress** during the struggle for Indian independence.
- He was **India's 1st Deputy Prime Minister & 1st Home Minister**.
- **Birth** - He was born in Nadiad, Gujarat on October 31, 1875.
- **Career** - He completed law studies in England and returned to India as a barrister in 1913.
- **Ideology** - He was strongly influenced by **Mahatma Gandhi's ideas** of nonviolence and peaceful protest.
- **Contributions in freedom struggle** -
 - In 1917, he joined the Congress and became the secretary of the Gujarat Sabha.
 - He actively participated in the **Kheda Satyagraha (1918)** to secure exemption from land revenue payments due to crop failure.
 - **Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928** - He successfully led the landowners resistance against increased taxes, earned the title of 'Sardar' and made him popular throughout the country.
 - He was actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation, Satyagraha and Quit India movements** and was at various points arrested by the British.
 - In **1931 (Karachi session)**, he was appointed as the President of the Indian National Congress.
 - He passed a resolution on Fundamental Rights and the National

Economic Program, and ratified the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

- **Post independence contributions**

- **Constitution Making** - He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bombay, member of the critical Advisory Committee.
- **Integrating Princely states** - Few princely states like Travancore, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Bhopal and Kashmir were averse to joining the state of India.
- Through the States Department, he successfully integrated these states in India, by ensuring the territorial integrity of modern India.
- He also created the **All-India Services** as the “Steel Frame” that would continue to protect the country’s unity and integrity.

- **Death** - He passed away on December 15, 1950.

- **Awards & Titles** -

- He was posthumously honored with the **Bharat Ratna**, the country’s highest civilian award, in 1991.
- He is often referred to as the “**Iron Man of India**”.

- **Legacy** -

- Patel symbolizes strength, unity, and steadfast commitment to the nation.
- His legacy endures through numerous institutions, monuments, and initiatives named in his honor.
- In 2014, his birth anniversary is now observed as **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.
- In 2018, the government has unveiled his statue as **Statue of Unity (world’s tallest statue)** in Gujarat on the bank of River Narmada.

References

1. [PIB | Sardar Patel - 150th Birth Anniversary](#)
2. [Ministry of Culture | Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#)