



## Bhasha Sangam Initiative: Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

---

 [drishtias.com/printpdf/bhasha-sangam-initiative-ek-bharat-shreshtha-bharat](https://drishtias.com/printpdf/bhasha-sangam-initiative-ek-bharat-shreshtha-bharat)

### Why in News

---

Recently, the **Ministry of Education** launched various initiatives under **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB)** to commemorate **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**.

- The **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** was announced by the Prime Minister in 2015 on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of **Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

### Key Points

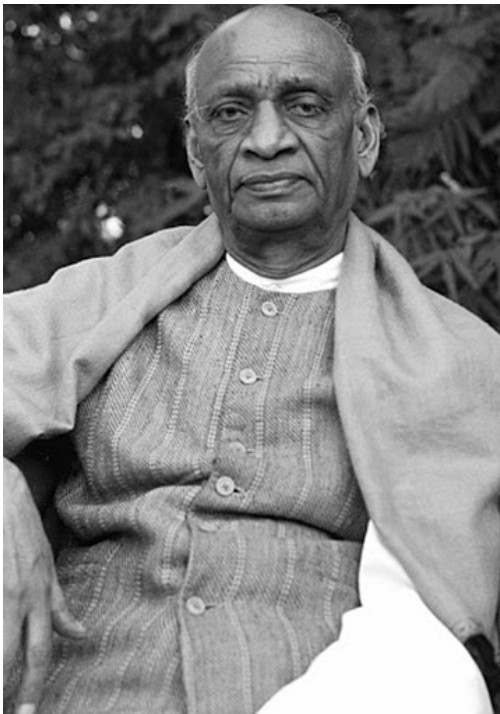
---

- **About the Initiatives:**
  - **Bhasha Sangam:**
    - It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Education** under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, **to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in 22 Indian languages (Eighth Schedule languages)**.
    - It is developed by the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.
    - The idea is that people should **acquire basic conversational skills in an Indian language other than their mother tongue**.  
It is available on **DIKSHA**, **ePathshala** and through 22 booklets.
  - Other initiatives launched include **Bhasha Sangam Mobile App** and the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Quiz App**.

- **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:**

- It was **launched in 2015 to promote engagement amongst the people of different States/UTs** so as to enhance mutual understanding and bonding between people of diverse cultures, thereby securing stronger unity and integrity of India.
- It is **an initiative of the Ministry of Education.**
- **Every State and UT in the country would be paired with another State/UT** for a time period, during which they would carry out a structured engagement with one another in the spheres of language, literature, cuisine, festivals, cultural events, tourism etc.

### **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**



- He was born on **31<sup>st</sup> October 1875** in Nadiad, Gujarat.  
The **National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas)** is celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> October to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
- He was the **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.
- In 2018, the Government unveiled the **Statue of Unity** in Gujarat in Patel’s honour.

**Source: PIB**