



# 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](#).

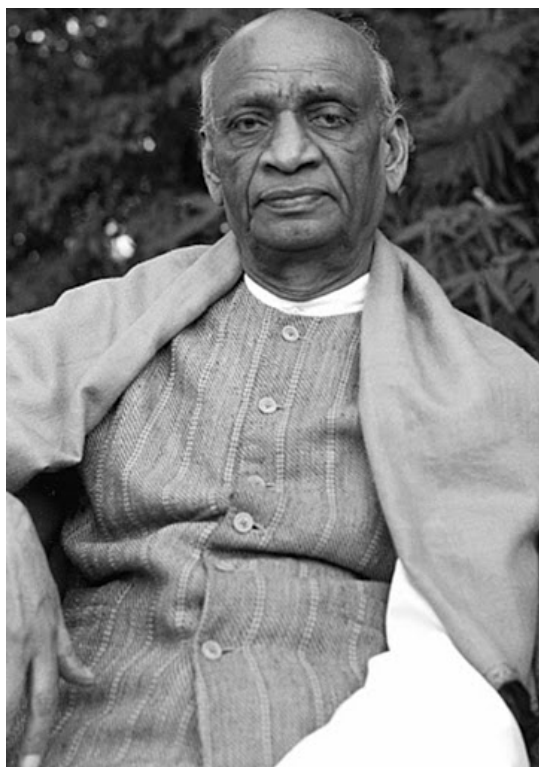
- The **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** was announced by the Prime Minister in 2015 on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of [Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#).

## 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**

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- 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](#)**

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