



National Unity Day 2020

Why in News

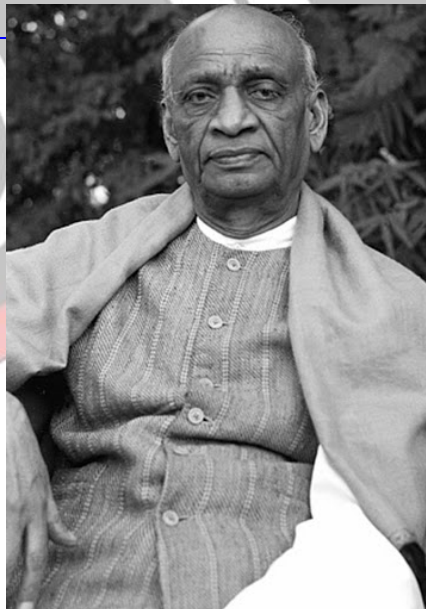
Every year, the [National Unity Day](#) (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) is celebrated on **31st October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.

- The Prime Minister launched the **seaplane service** from Ahmedabad to the [Statue of Unity](#), Kevadia.

Key Points

- The day was **celebrated for the first time in 2014**, when the Government of India decided to celebrate Patel's birthday as the National Unity Day to recognise his monumental contribution and service to the nation.
- On this day, several events like Run For Unity, a nationwide marathon to increase awareness about Patel's contributions, National Unity pledge, Ekta Parade, etc. are organised.
- In **2018**, the Government unveiled the **Statue of Unity** in Gujarat in Patel's honour.
 - It is the **tallest statue** (182-meter) **in the world**.
 - In January 2020, it was added in the '**Eight Wonders**' of the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](#) (SCO).

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel //



- **Born:** 31st October 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- **Achievements:**
 - 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**.
- **Death:** 15th December 1950 in Bombay.

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