



Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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Why in News?

Recently, the President of India commemorated [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 149th birth anniversary](#), observed as [National Unity Day \(31st October\)](#), honouring the legacy of **India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister**.

What is National Unity Day?

▪ About:

- National Unity Day serves as a reminder of the values Patel embodied—**unity, integrity, and inclusiveness**.
 - In a country characterized by its vast diversity in cultures, languages, and religions, National Unity Day emphasizes the importance of fostering a sense of **solidarity among the Indian populace**.
- The day encourages citizens to reflect on the necessity of coming together to overcome challenges, celebrate diversity, and promote **harmony** within the nation.

▪ Statue of Unity:

- On 31st October 2018, the [Statue of Unity](#), the world's tallest statue at 182 meters (600 feet), was inaugurated at **Kevadia, Gujarat**, honouring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
 - Overlooking the [Narmada River and the Sardar Sarovar Dam](#) (the second largest gravity dam worldwide by concrete volume), the statue is situated on **Sadhu Bet hillock**.
- In 2020 India's Statue of Unity was included in the **list of eight wonders of the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#)**.

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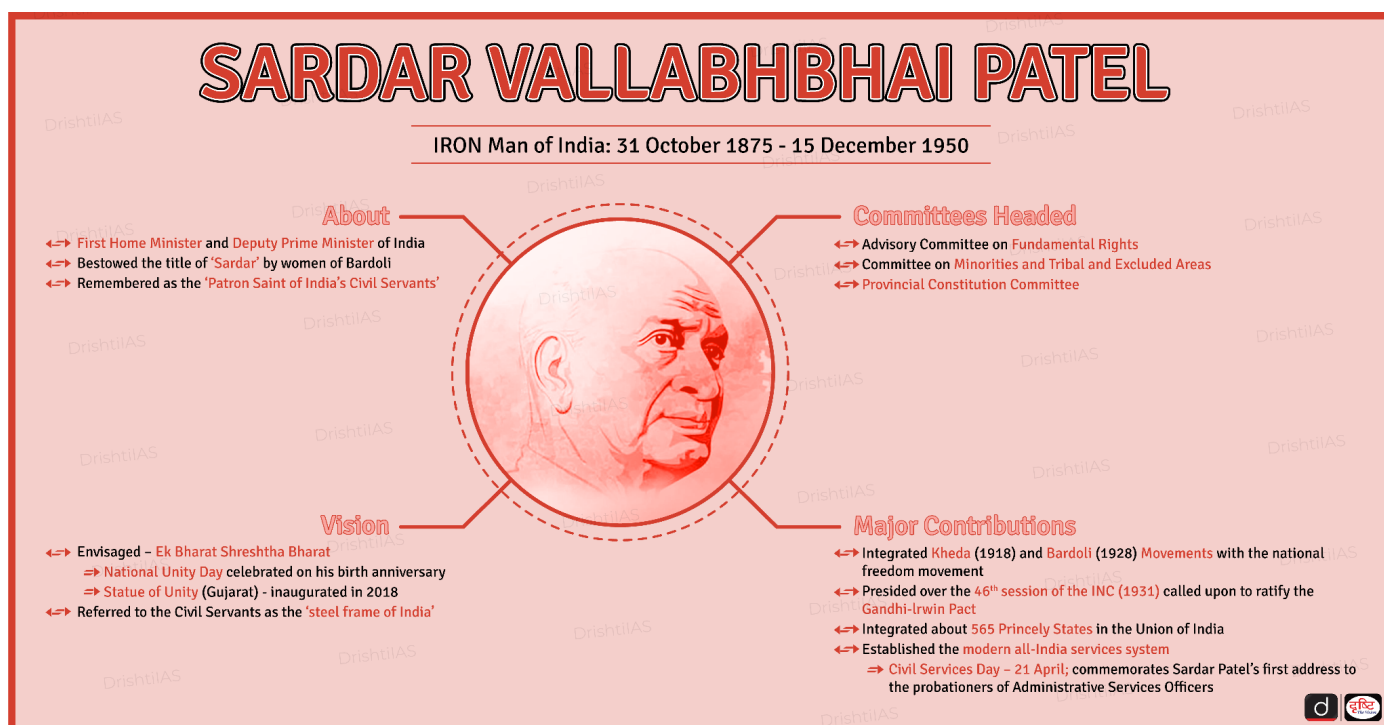


Who was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel?

- **Birth:** Born on **31st October 1875**, in **Nadiad, Gujarat**.
 - His family belonged to the Lewa Patidar community.
- **Career:** Completed law studies in England, earning a prize in **Roman Law**, and returned to India as a barrister in 1913.
- **Title and Legacy:** Popularly known as the "**Iron Man of India**" for his determination and firm approach. He is revered as a **symbol of national unity and resilience**.
- **Political Rise:**
 - **Joining the National Movement:** Patel was inspired by [Mahatma Gandhi](#) and joined the freedom struggle.
 - **Kheda Satyagraha (1918):** He played a pivotal role in [Kheda Satyagraha](#) demanding tax exemptions for farmers affected by **crop failure due to drought**.
 - **Bardoli Satyagraha (1928):** Led the resistance during the [Bardoli Satyagraha](#) against an unjust tax increase, earning him the title "Sardar" for his leadership.
- **Role in the Indian National Movement:**
 - **Non-Cooperation and Civil Disobedience:** Embraced Gandhi's vision, leading actions like the [Salt Satyagraha in 1930](#) and facing multiple imprisonments for his involvement.
 - **Presiding Over the Congress:** Chaired the **46th session of the Congress in 1931**, navigating through the [Gandhi-Irwin Pact discussions](#).
 - **Quit India Movement (1942):** Patel was arrested and imprisoned during this major phase of India's freedom struggle.
- **Contributions Post-Independence:**
 - **Integration of Princely States:** Spearheaded the integration of **562 princely states into the Indian Union**, securing stability and democracy for millions.
 - The [Indian Independence Act of 1947](#) allowed princely states to declare independence.
 - **Reinforcing India's Civil Services:** Patel was instrumental in establishing the modern **All India Services**, strengthening the administrative framework of the country.
 - Remembered as the "**patron saint of India's civil servants**" for his contribution to reinforcing the bureaucratic system.
 - [National Civil Services Day \(21st April\)](#) honors Sardar Patel's 1947 speech,

calling **civil servants "the steel frame of India"** and reinforcing their dedication to public service.

- **Chairmanship and Committee Work:** Led the Advisory Committee on **Fundamental Rights, Minorities, and Tribal and Excluded Areas** in the Constituent Assembly.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. What was the reason for Mahatma Gandhi to organize a satyagraha on behalf of the peasants of Kheda? (2011)

1. The Administration did not suspend the land revenue collection in spite of a drought.
2. The Administration proposed to introduce Permanent Settlement in Gujarat.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Q. For the Karachi Session of Indian National Congress in 1931 presided over by Sardar Patel, who drafted the Resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme? (2010)

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

(d) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

Ans: (b)

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