

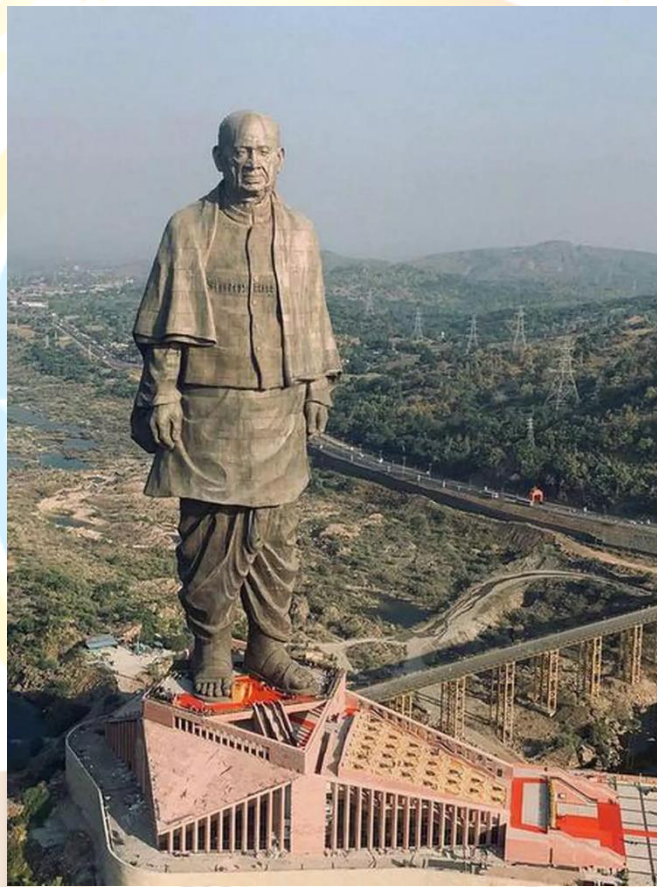


## RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS – EVENT / HISTORY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered a floral tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his 149th birth anniversary and participated in the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat.

### Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

- Since 2014, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, also known as **National Unity Day**, has been celebrated every year on **October 31** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- It serves as a reminder of his efforts to unite the diverse princely states into a single nation and fosters a spirit of solidarity among the people of the country.



### Born:

- **31<sup>st</sup> October 1875** in Nadiad, Gujarat.
- **First Home Minister** and Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He always 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**.



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.

## Reforms:

- **He worked extensively against alcohol consumption, untouchability, caste discrimination and for women emancipation in Gujarat and outside.**
- **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'.
- Remembered as the '**Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants**' as he **established the modern all-India services system.**

## Integration of the Princely States:

- As India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Patel played a key role in the integration of about 565 princely states into the Indian Union.
- Few princely states like **Travancore, Hyderabad, Junagadh, Bhopal and Kashmir were averse** to joining the state of India.
- **Sardar Patel worked tirelessly to build a consensus** with the princely states but did not hesitate in **employing methods of Sama, Dama, Dand and Bhed** wherever necessary.
- He had used force **to annex princely states of Junagadh ruled by Nawab and Hyderabad ruled by Nizam**, both of whom had wished not to merge their respective states with the Union of India.
- 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.

**Source:** <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/new-model-of-urban-naxalism-emerged-pm-narendra-modi-on-rashtriya-ekta-diwasi-in-gujarat-sardar-vallabhbhai-patel-101730349208038.html>