'Sardar Patel
The Architect of Unification'

On the occasion of

NATIONAL UNITY DAY

31 OCTOBER 2022

EXHIBITION
SARDAR PATEL
THE ARCHITECT OF UNIFICATION

India was invaded and ruled by the foreigners who tried to divide India in the name of religion, region, language, caste, creed and culture. India’s struggle to retain its united identity has been phenomenal. Our freedom fighters realised the importance of unity during their fight against the colonial imperialism and worked hard to enlighten the masses about the strength of Unity. Being born on this ancient land, we all should remember and cherish the ancient roots of our culture, which says “Ekoham Bahusyam” which means “I am one expressed through many.”

On the occasion of National Unity Day, it’s our solemn duty to remember the important contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel—the Architect of Unification, who played a leading role in India’s freedom struggle, guiding its integration into a united, independent nation. Many thought a diverse country like India can never remain united. It will fall apart. But, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel showed the way how India would remain strong and united. We, as citizens of India should learn how to grow from strength to strength and stay united.

As we all know, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi in his speech on 15th August, 2022 at Red Fort had mentioned about the strength of Unity and Integrity as one of the “Panch Pran”. In the first year of Amrit Kaal, 31st October is being celebrated as National Unity Day to remember the pran of unity and integrity and vow for it.
Introduction

Before independence India was divided into two types of territories: the British India provinces—governed directly by British, and the princely states—who recognized British suzerainty in return for local autonomy. The State were free to accede with whichever dominion they wished keeping the principle of geographical contiguity in consideration or to remain independent. The problem seemed a gigantic one but, as Lord Mountbatten said in his address to the Indian Constituent Assembly on August 15, 1947, “it was tackled successfully by the "far-sighted statesman," Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A separate States Ministry was formed on 5 July 1947 with an objective of political integration of 565 princely states, comprising 2/5th of the territory, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel assumed charge as the States Minister and later as Home Minister of independent India.

Between 1947 and 1950, three princely states—Hyderabad, Kashmir and Junagadh signed Instrument of Accession and their territories were politically integrated into the Indian union. The others which had merged into the existing provinces were organized into new provinces, such as Rajputana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:
31 October 1875–15 December 1950
A brief biography

Born on 31 October 1875 at Karamsad in Kaira district of Gujarat, Vallabhbhai Patel received school education at Karamsad, Petlad and Nadiad. He passed the District Pledger Examination in 1900, started practice at Godhra and became a successful criminal lawyer, later shifted at Borsad in 1902. On return from London in 1913 with a degree of barrister, he shifted to Ahmedabad and established himself as foremost criminal lawyer.
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 31 October 1875–15 December 1950
A brief biography

His political journey started in 1915 by becoming the member of Gujarat Sabha that was later converted into Gujarat Provincial Committee in 1919. Being President of the Gujarat Provincial Conference, Mahatma Gandhi appointed Vallabhbhai Patel as the Secretary of its Executive Committee in 1917. Since then Vallabhbhai Patel remained with Gandhiji in all his agitations and social works. He successfully led the agitations of Ahmedabad Mill workers and the peasants of Kheda in 1918. In 1924, he was elected as President of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. As leader of Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928, Patel’s determination brought the brutal and tyrannical British authorities to their knees. He was given the title of ‘Sardar’ by the local peasants of Bardoli. He spent over 9 years in jail in different terms during the struggle for freedom.

The years 1947 to 1950 when India marched towards freedom and democracy after partition and mass upheavals, Sardar’s brilliance as Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister overcame these troubles. As he said on the eve of the first independence anniversary, ‘In free India there is no room for divided loyalties’, his determination brought 565 princely states under one India and reorganised them into an new administrative set up.
Village school at Karamsad where Sardar Patel took his first lessons

Vallabhbhai Patel as a school boy

Leaving for London to study Barrister of Law, 1910

Patel as District Plaadar

Parental house of Sardar Patel at Karamsad
Two Barrister brothers: Vithalbhai Patel and Vallabhbhai Patel on return from London, 1913

Patel as President of Ahmedabad Municipality leading Gandhiji at a civic reception, 1925

Sardar Patel’s mother Ladba with her five sons: Vithalbhai, Samabhai, Kashibhai (Standing), Narsingh and Vallabhbhai, 1927

Patel with members of his family, 31 October 1948
During Kheda Agitation, 1918

Sardar Patel with Gandhiji during Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kheda Satyagraha with his colleagues Hariprasad, Jivan Lal Dlwan, Indulal Yagnik, Ganesh Malvankar, Mohanlal Pandya and others, 1918
Patel during Jubilant Procession at Ahmedabad for celebrating the victory of Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928

Sardar Patel as President of Karachi Congress Session, 1931

Sardar Patel with Gandhiji visiting Borsad during plague in 1935
Sardar being arrested on 9 August 1942 during the Quit India Movement

Sardar Patel walking out of the prison with Azad, Nehru, Shankar Rao Deo, Kriplani, Rajendra Prasad. 16 June 1945

Sardar engaged in thoughtful discussion with Gandhiji during Simla Conference, 1945

Sardar Patel’s speech on first anniversary of independence. The Statesman, 15.08.1948
Accession, Integration and Reorganization of States

“The masterly handling of the rulers (Princes) by Sardar was the foremost factor in the success of the accession policy. The rulers soon came to recognize him as a stable force in Indian politics and as one who would give them a fair deal. Added to this, his unfailing politeness, the rulers viewed against his reputation as the ‘Iron Man of India’, endeared him to them and created such confidence that all accepted his advice without demur.’

V.P. Menon

With Rajendra Prasad, Jagjivan Ram, Sardar Patel receiving the auspicious coconut prior to proceeding to Viceroyal Lodge for the swearing in ceremony of Interim Government, 2 September 1946.

Sardar busy at work in Home Ministry, 1947.

July 25, 1947; When Mountbatten addressed The Chamber of Princes to choose either of the 2 dominions; India or Pakistan, there was no third option.

Sardar Patel- The Architect of Unification
Sardar Patel addressing a conference of representatives of states and provinces called to discuss the refugee problem, from left to right: Maharajas of Alwar, Bharatpur & Patiala, Sardar Patel, V.P. Menon, Premier G.B. Pant of U.P., Premier Bhargava & Minister Swaran Singh of East Punjab.

Saurashtra/Kathiawar

Unification of Saurashtra: the dream of the Mahatama & Sardar fulfilled; Standing ovation to Sardar at Saurashtra Union Legislative Assembly, 1948; In picture Pushpabehn Mehta, Speaker in front and

Letter from Sardar Patel to Lala Shri Ram 9 Feb 1948

Sardar Patel administering the oath of office to the Jamsaheb of Nawangan as the Rajpramukh of the new Saurashtra State in Jamnagar, February 15, 1948.

The Rajpramukh of Saurashtra, The Jamsaheb of Nawangan, Administers the oath of office to Premier U.N. Dhebar. The Sardar is seated on the left.
Little pools of water tend to become stagnant and useless, but that if they are joined together to form a big lake, the atmosphere is cooled and there is universal benefit.

- Patel, addressing a public meeting at Bhavnagar on 15 January 1948.

Surging jubilant crowds in Rajkot—Welcome to magician SARDAR who wielded a bewildering conglomeration of Saurashtra States into a homogeneous State of Saurashtra (1948).


United Saurashtra (Kathiawar) State, 1948-56.
Deccan

Letter to Patel from Deccan States

Baroda

V.P. Menon's letter to Major General Maharaja Pratap Singh Gaekwad

Instrument of Accession

Prior to historic merger of Baroda into Bombay, Patel being received by Dr. Jivraj Mehta and Maharaja Pratap Singh

Sardar Patel and Maniben (right) with the Maharaja of Baroda (centre) and his Chief Minister, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, (left) at Baroda aerodrome before departure for New Delhi.
Rajasthan

...Many are amazed that Vallabhbhai Patel was able to sweep them away in so short a time. The Puranas say that Parasuram fought twenty-one battles before he could exterminate the Kshatriya princes, but the new Parasurama needed no battle to make a clean sweep of kings in India...

-KM Panikkar

“What we have achieved today is merely the fulfilment of the aspirations of Mahatma Pratap.”

—Sardar Patel

Sardar swearing-in Maharaja of Jaipur as Raj Pramukh of The United State of Rajasthan [30-3-1949]

Sardar leaving the Durbar Hall after inaugurating the Rajasthan Union. On the right is the Maharaja of Jaipur, on the left the Maharaja of Kotah

Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, Former Chief Minister, Jaipur, Maniben Patel and V. Shankar at a gathering on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the Great Rajasthan Union March, 1949
Sardar Patel at the inauguration of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) 15 July 1948.
The Union consists of the States of Patiala, Kapurthala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, Malerkotla, Kalsia
and Nalagarh.

Sardar Patel with leading rulers of PEPSU in 1948

The Rulers of Patiala and East Punjab States with V.P. Memon

Sardar Patel addressing a meeting of representatives of Eastern Punjab convened by the Ministry of States in September 1947 to consider problems connected with evacuation of population from west Punjab [left to right]
H. R. Sharma Foreign Minister, Patiala; Maharaja of Patiala; General Russell; Maj. Gen. Farquhar; on Sardar’s left is V.P. Memon, Secretary, Ministry of States
Chhattisgarh

Taking a salute at a police parade at Nagpur in November 1948. Behind the Sardar is Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, Premier of CP.

Arriving at Nagpur Aerodrome for merger of Chhattisgarh States on 15-12-47. R.S. Shukla, Premier, G.P & Berar on right and Dr. Barling on left.

Bihar

The merger of Eastern States, ‘electrified the whole atmosphere…The Indian States could not long remain citadels of autocracy.’ The bastions gradually began to give way. -Sardar Patel

With Bihar Governor M.S. Aney (extreme left) And Premier S.K. Sinha -third from right.

Manipur

Photograph of instrument of Accession of the princely state of Manipur which was published by the orders of the Maharaja of Manipur in the Manipur State Gazette.

Assam

The Sardar, on a visit to Gauhati (Assam), Seen with Premier Bardoloi. Governor Hydari is behind them in felt hat.
The process of integration was threefold and known as “Patel Scheme”.
The Constitution of 1950 accordingly distinguished between three main types of states and territories:
1. A total 216 princely states were merged into the respective provinces (British provinces) contiguous to them. These merged states were included in the territories of the states in Part A.
2. Sixty-one princely states were converted and merged into centrally administered areas and included in Part C of the First Schedule of the Constitution of India.
3. The sole Part D territory was the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
4. The third form of assimilation was the states included in Part B of the Constitution of India; these numbered eight in all.
Italian response to SOS from Kashmir on the night of 24 October, 1947. Indian Union Troops landing at Srinagar aerodrome are being rushed to forward areas, 5.11.1947.

Sardar Patel meeting Hari Singh (Maharaja of Jammu Kashmir) and Rulers of Other Princely States

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with Maharaja Hari Singh, 1948

Sardar Patel in Kashmir in 1949 with Sheikh Abdulla Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad and others

Patel discussing with Sir Owen Dixon, United Nation's mediator on Kashmir issue, May 1950
HYDERABAD

The Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan Bahadur of Hyderabad signed a standstill agreement (agreements which existed between the Crown and the Nizam before 15 August, 1947) for one year on 29 November 1947 to buy time for independence which was expected to create an atmosphere of goodwill. The Nizam violated several ordinances and also people were continued to be subjected to the tyranny of the organization called Majlis i Itthad Musalmann with its military volunteer corps of Razakars. The Government of India made several attempts to settle the matter amicably but failed, finally a military operation named ‘Operation Polo’ against Nizam was initiated on 13 September 1948, lasted barely 108 hours, resulting in accession of the State into the Indian Union.

The British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, General Bucher writes K.M. Munshi-

‘was hesitant throughout. He overestimated the capability of the Hyderabad army, underestimated that of his own troops, and knew not the ability of Sardar... to deal with the problems of internal law and order. Like most Englishmen, he was unable to realise that no price was too high to be paid for eliminating the razakar menace which threatened the very existence of India’.

‘Patel was the man who by his decisiveness resolved the great Hyderabad crisis. Hyderabad, a State covering 80,000 square miles in the heart of peninsular India, was at that time in the grip of an unscrupulous minority which aimed at secession from India. If this bid succeeded, India might not have survived as a political unit. This situation needed a man of iron who would not balk at coercive action, and in Sardar, India had, at the vital moment, just the man.’

-W Gordon Garham
My dear Jawaharlal,

Please see the enclosed extract from a letter which has been received from England. Reports like this have been coming to me from various sources. You will recall the Nizam’s desperate attempts to get arms from Czechoslovakia.

2. I feel it is time we told the British Government unreservedly that any supply of arms to the Nizam from Britain would be regarded as a most serious affair by us and that they should use their utmost efforts to see that no such supply of arms is made to the Nizam’s Government without our concurrence.

Yours sincerely,
Vallabhbhai Patel

The Hon’ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Prime Minister
New Delhi

Sardar Patel discussing the Hyderabad problem with his advisors [L to R]
A group photograph of K. M. Munshi and Swami Ramand Tirth with Indian Union officers immediately after their arrival in Secunderabad on September 21, 1948.

Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos (at right) offers his surrender of the Hyderabad State Forces to Major General (later General and Army Chief) Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri at Secunderabad.

Sardar Patel with Major General J.N. Chaudhury, Nizam of Hyderabad and V. Shankar

Sardar Patel with Nizam of Hyderabad
At a Tea party during a visit to Hyderabad in February 1949. The Sardar is seen with Maj. Gen. Chaudhuri, Military Governor, Mrs. Chaudhary, Mr. V. P. Menon and the Prince of Berar.

National Call, 31 August 1948

"ACTION" AGAINST HYDERABAD imminent

Hindustan Times, 26 June 1948

"GOVT. FULLY ALIVE TO HYDERABAD SITUATION
PATEL EXPLAINS INDIA'S STAND MESSAGE TO A.I.G.C.

now a part of India—in fact, the heart of India...India has become two. Those who were responsible for starting the agitation for the two-nation theory have got what they wanted. But there are still some in the country who cherish the same ideals. To them I will say that their rightful place is in the other country. It is better for such people to go to Pakistan, for their God is there... I warn such people that if they ever dreamt that they can get any assistance from outside, or that others outside can interfere in the affairs of Hyderabad, they are insane. The affairs of Hyderabad are an internal problem for the people themselves to decide.

Patel told the people of Hyderabad while addressing the public at Fateh Maidan, 1949.
Last Journey

Sardar Patel passed away on 15 December (Friday) at 9:37 am at Birla House, Bombay. A tidal of grief-stricken humanity swept through West and Central Bombay, as the funeral procession was on its way to reach the cremation ground. The historic funeral procession reached at 7:20 Sonapur Crematorium.

Sardar Patel in Eternal Sleep

The mammoth funeral procession in Bombay at which hundreds of thousands of mourners bid their Sardar tearful farewell.

Funeral Procession: Aerial view
Deeply grieved at sudden passing away of pujya Sardar Saheb, who has been our beacon-light all these years. Gujarat and Saurashtra will feel the loss irreparably.

U.N. Dhebar & his colleagues in Saurashtra Ministry, 15.12.1950

Sardar's tragic demise robs India of a great stabilizing and consolidating factor his achievements are part of history.

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar
15.12.1950

India has lost a great leader and the United Nations a powerful friend who always stood for its ideal and purposes.

Trygve Lie
Secretary-General, UNG, 15.12.1950

Whole country mourns with you.
Narendra Dev, 15.12.1950

National loss of incalculable magnitude
MS Golwalkar, 15.12.1950

In his demise Kashmir has lost and indomitable friend.
Bakshi gulam Mohammed, 15.12.1950

May I on behalf of myself and all ranks of the Indian force send you our deep felt sympathies in your irreparable loss! Your father’s active interest in our wellbeings as a service was always a matter of great pride and inspiration. To us and his passing away at this untimely hour, therefore, leaves void which few shall feel.

C-in-C, Indian Air Force, 15.12.1950

Greatest loss to India since Raja’s death
Jay Prakash, Prabhavati, 15.12.1950

President Dr. Rajendra Prasad receiving Sardar’s ashes at Prayag, G.B. Pant on right