

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

History :- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October 1875 - 15 December 1950) was a lawyer and influential political leader in the Indian Independence movement. After independence he was important in the integration of over 500 princely states into the Indian Union. He was deeply influenced by Gandhi's ideology and principles, having worked very closely with the leader. Despite being the choice of the people, on the request of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel stepped down from the candidacy of Congress president, which ultimately turned out to be the election to choose the first prime minister of independent India. He was the first Home Minister of Independent India. And his uncompromising efforts towards

Consolidation of the country earned Him the title "Iron Man of India".

Childhood life: Vallabhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875 in Nadiad village of modern day Gujarat to Zaverbhai and Ladbai. Vallabhai's Father had served in the army of the Queen of Jhansi and his mother was a very spiritual woman. Starting his academic career in a Gujarati medium school, Sardar Vallabhai Patel later shifted to an English medium school. In 1897, Vallabhai passed his high school and started preparing for law examination.

National movement: In 1917, Sardar Vallabhai was elected as the Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha, the Gujarat wing of the Indian National Congress. In 1918 He led a massive "No Tax Campaign" that urged the

Farmers not to pay taxes after the British insisted on tax after the floods in Kaira. The peaceful movement forced the British authorities to return the land taken away from the farmers.

Movement launched by Gandhi. Patel toured the nation with him, recruited 300,000 members and helped collect over Rs: 1.5 million. In 1930, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was among the leaders imprisoned for participating in the famous Salt Satyagraha movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi. He led the Satyagrah movement across Gujarat when Gandhi was under imprisonment upon request from the Congress members.

Partition of India: The separatist movement led by Muslim League League leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah led to a series of violent Hindu-Muslim riots across the country just before the independence. In Sardar Patel's opinion, the open communal conflicts incited by the riots had the potential

To establish a weak Government at the centre post-Independence which will be disastrous for consolidating a democratic nation. Patel went on to work on a solution with V. P. Menon, a civil servant during December 1946 and accepted his suggestion of creating a separate dominion based on religious inclination of States.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas: In 2014, The Government of India introduced Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day with an aim to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary. He worked hard in keeping India united. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014. Run for unity was held to spread awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to Indian History.

Death: After suffering a massive heart attack (his second), Patel died on 15 December 1950 at Birla House

In an unprecedented and unrepeated gesture on the day after his death more than 1500 officers of India's civil and police services congregated to mourn at Patel's residence in Delhi and pledged "complete loyalty and unremitting zeal" in Indian Service.

Legacy: British historian Philip Ziegler depicts Patel as: The Tammany Hall boss of the Congress party: tough, unscrupulous knowing a pragmatist concerned with the realities of power. indifferent to abstract theorizing.