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on and about
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

As a mark of honor for his
contributions to India's
Unity, Safety and Security

Observing 31st October as
Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)





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on and about
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
and his contribution to National Unity

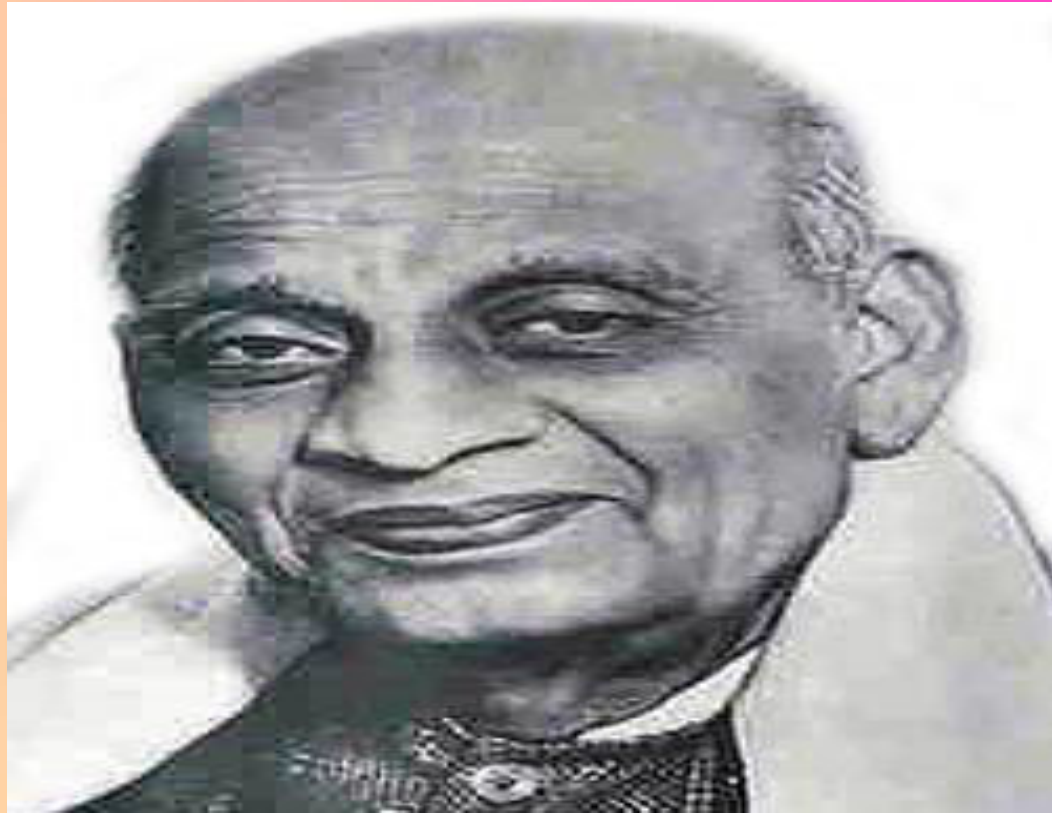
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Vice-Chancellor, JNU
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JNU, New Delhi

The exhibition will be on display from 31st Oct to 15 Nov, 2014

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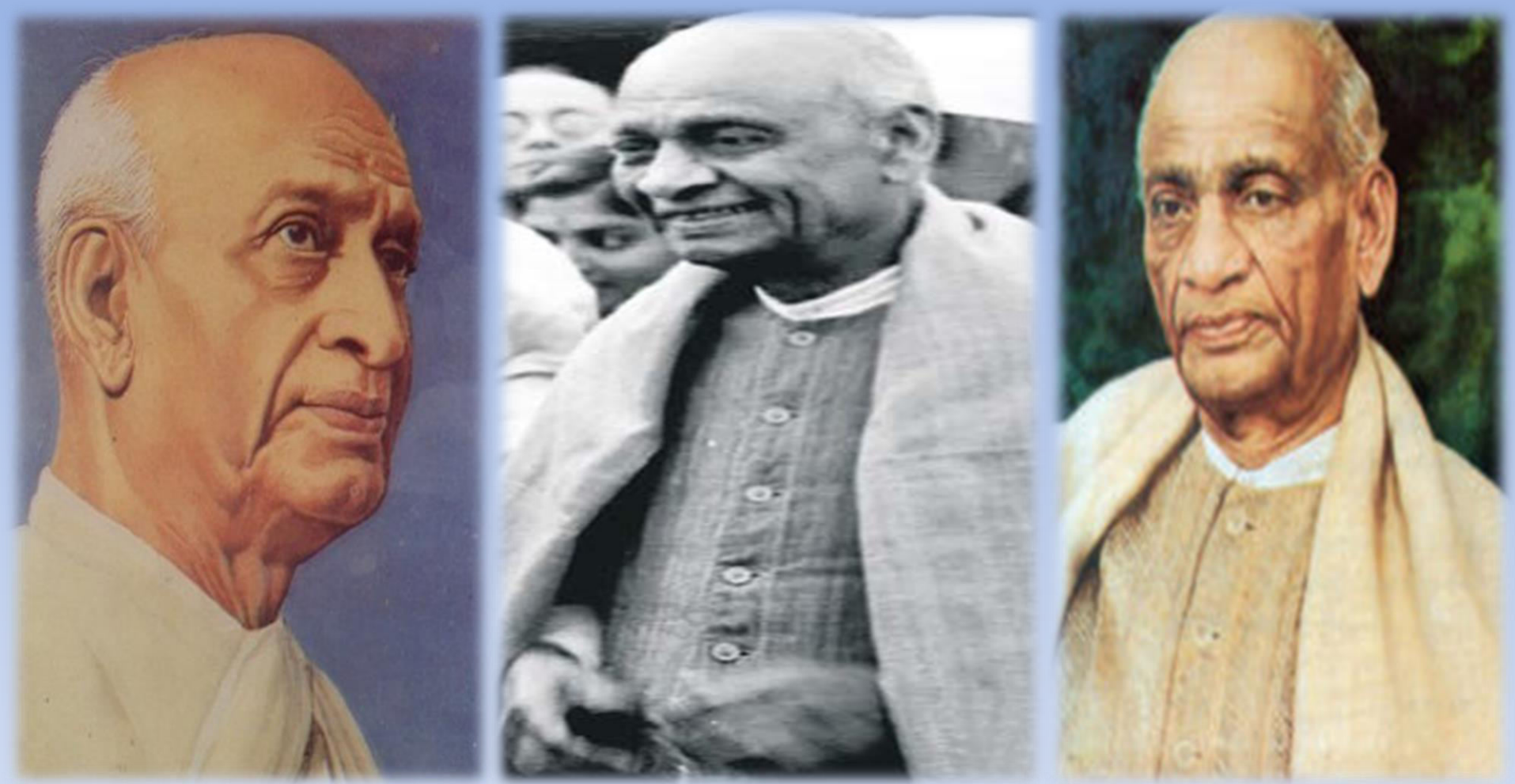
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Celebrating 139th Birth Anniversary



(October 31, 1875 - December 15, 1950)





Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Some Snapshots from Life of Iron Man

Mr. Patel Accepts Terms of Settlement.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT).
(BY TELEPHONE).

The Satyagraha agitation in Bardoli Taluka will be called off either on Monday evening or on Tuesday morning. The last hitch in the negotiations concerning the return of the forfeited lands bought from Government by Mr. Garda and others has now been removed. The purchasers of these lands have not only agreed to give them back at cost price but have actually signed and executed the necessary sale deeds.

The negotiations at Surat which began on Sunday morning with the arrival from Poona of four members of the Council, namely, Rao Bahadur Bhimbhai Naik, the Thakore, Saheb of Kerwada, Mr. K. F. Nariman and Mr. K. M. Munshi, in the company of Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, lasted till 10 o'clock in the night. A large share of the credit for getting over this last obstacle in the way of a settlement is due to Mr. Garrett, the new Collector of the district, and to Rao Bahadur Bhimbhai Naik. Others undoubtedly helped and even Mr. Munshi—who does not represent

SURAT, August 6. (1 a.m.).

they were able to leave only by the Delhi Express at midnight.

REPLY TO GOVERNMENT.

I saw some of them at the railway station and they appeared delighted. When they reach Poona on Monday afternoon on the eve of the expiry of the ultimatum, they will draft a formal letter to Government, asking for the ratification of the settlement.

Mr. Bhimbhai Naik has been authorised by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel to intimate to the Government of Bombay that all the terms for the settlement of the Bardoli dispute have been accepted.

The settlement of the dispute is thus practically complete and the deadlock may be regarded to have terminated, subject, of course, to formal ratification both by Government and by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel. If, by any misfortune, the settlement fails to secure ratification, the lands in question will have to be returned to the present owners, that being one of the conditions under which they have returned the forfeited lands at cost price.

MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S MOVE IN KAIRA TALUKAS: NO-TAX CAMPAIGN MR. ...

OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times of India (1861-current); Jan 13, 1930;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

pg. 9

MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S MOVE IN KAIRA TALUKAS.

NO-TAX CAMPAIGN.

MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S MOVE

Advice to Agriculturists in Kaira Talukas
not to Pay Land Revenue.

GROUND WELL PREPARED?

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, the quondam "Sardar" of Bardoli, is apparently chafing in his retirement, anxious to lead agriculturists, amenable to his influence, into another campaign for non-payment of land revenue. He advised the farmers of Matar and Mehmedabad talukas in Kaira at a meeting on Saturday to stop paying anything in the way of land revenue.

It is considered probable that the ground has been well prepared for such a campaign as several students belonging to Mr. Gandhi's "University" have, under Mr. Patel's leadership, been carrying on an economic inquiry in these two talukas and must have, therefore, acquired a certain amount of influence on the farmers.

The Convocation of the "University" was held on Saturday when Mr. Gandhi in his address referred to his movement for civil disobedience and exhorted all to remain always non-violent.

Replying to those who said that the independence movement would result in bloodshed and anarchy, he declared that he was prepared to have these things as they would lead to



MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL IMPRISONED FOR THREE MONTHS: MAGISTRATE DEFIED ...

OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Times of India (1861-current); Mar 8, 1930;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

g. 13

MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL IMPRISONED FOR THREE MONTHS.

MAGISTRATE DEFIED

PROHIBITED BORSAD SPEECH

"Sardar" Taken to Sabarmati Jail to Serve Sentence.

VICEROY'S REPLY TO MR. GANDHI

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, the right-hand man of Mr. Gandhi, was arrested and sentenced to three months' imprisonment on Friday for addressing a village meeting in Borsad Taluka in defiance of magisterial orders.

When he persisted in addressing the meeting he was taken in custody, escorted to Borsad and tried by the District Magistrate who sentenced him to three months' simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500. He was then conveyed in a motor car to Sabarmati Jail.

The imprisonment of Mr. Patel will be a serious blow to Mr. Gandhi's Satyagraha campaign, of which Mr. Patel is known to have worked out all the details. This is particularly so when it is realised that Mr. Patel has great personal influence in Jalalpur area which adjoins Bardoli, the scene of his recent peasant agitation.

It is interesting to notice, in this connection, that the Legislative Assembly's rejection on Friday of the non-official motion for a cut in the Executive Council grant, which was described by its supporters as a censure motion, amounts to a support of constitutionalism against revolution.

MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL SENT TO JAIL.

DISOBEYING ORDERS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NADIAD, March 7.

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, principal lieutenant of Mr. Gandhi and leader of the recent Bardoli peasant agitation, was arrested this morning, tried for disobedience of magisterial orders, convicted, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500.



He left Ahmedabad this morning by train for Borsad with the object of delivering a speech at Rusa, a village in Borsad Taluka in

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel.

Kajra District. Although he was prohibited from doing so he addressed the meeting and was thereupon arrested and taken to Borsad where the District Magistrate tried him for disobeying magisterial orders. Mr. Patel was convicted and sentenced as above.

Mr. Patel was then taken by motor to Sabarmati Jail under the direct supervision of Mr. Billinoria, Deputy Superintendent of Police. On the way to Ahmedabad the car failed at Nadiad at 6 o'clock this evening. A new car was brought and he was taken to

OUR, O. C. (1930, Mar 08). MR. VALLABHBHAI PATEL IMPRISONED FOR THREE MONTHS

MR. PATEL'S ARREST.

ACTION UNDER BOMBAY DISTRICT POLICE ACT.



In the Bombay Legislative Council on Monday afternoon, Rao Saheb Dadubhai P. Desai (Kaira District), asked the following short notice question regarding the arrest and conviction of Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel:—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state under what Section of the Criminal Law Sardar Vallabhbhai was convicted and sentenced by the District Magistrate; (b) was the order served upon Sardar Vallabhbhai one under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code or one under Section 42 of the District Police Act; (c) was he arrested under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code or under those of the District Police Act; (d) if he was arrested under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, was any complaint made by a public servant; (e) who issued the warrant for the arrest of Sardar Vallabhbhai?

MR. PATEL'S ARREST.

MORE QUESTIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY.

NEW DELHI, March 22.

In the Assembly to-day, Pandit Malaviya asked a question about Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel, to which a written answer was laid on the table.

The question runs: (1) Will the Home Member state if in the information which the Bombay Government sent him in reply to my question they had stated under what section the Sardar had been convicted and imprisoned? And, if so, why the Home Member did not communicate the information to me in the letter which he was good enough to send me? (2) Is it a fact that (a) a notice having been issued to the Sardar under section 42 of the Bombay Police Act, he could only be convicted under section 68 of the said Act and (b) that the maximum punishment provided for disobeying an order under section 42 of the said Act is a fine, which may extend to Rs. 200, and no imprisonment? (3) Is it a fact that **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** has been convicted and imprisoned under section 71 of the said Act? (4) Do Government realise that the conviction of the Sardar under section 71 of the said Act and the sentence passed on him of imprisonment for three months and a fine of Rs. 500 are utterly illegal?"

DESTRUCTION OF BOMBAY.

MR. PATEL'S "THANKS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES OF INDIA."

Sir,—The Indian world of politics is whirling round in a strange unruly way. "Sardar" Vallabhbhai Patel is out with venomous activity against the city of Bombay, if the report of his speech in the Gujerathi papers is to be believed. Bombay the beautiful, Bombay the nerve-centre of trade and the hive of industry, Bombay known for its sober judgment, the city of balanced political outlook, this city is to be razed to the ground to satisfy the malicious vindictiveness of Mr. Vallabhbhai. He forgets that all the *chanda* the Bombay War Council requires comes from the pockets of the trading Buniahs. The rich Marwaree gives his thousands. The Buniah and the Marwaree will be nowhere once

village sowcars' account books and pronotes are also destroyed. The village marwaree is not by himself such an unmitigated nuisance. The sowcar-pleader is the worst offender. This pleader knows how to get round the various restrictions which Government laws have put into force from time to time. My humble request to the non-violent "Sardar" is to have heart-to-heart talks with these pleaders. The land belongs to the ryot. But these ryots are now in no way better than tenants at will. Why should they give their best energies and intelligence to improve the land? There is another thing. We Kunbis have come to love Bombay. We love it with a deep sense of gratefulness.

KEY TO FREEDOM.

MR. V. PATEL ON WOMEN'S AWAKENING.

Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel addressed a very large gathering of ladies, over two thousand strong, at Kanubai's Wadi, Hira Baug, Bombay on Thursday afternoon. From an early hour of the day, a regular concourse of women, dressed in white khaddar, poured at the meeting place, to have "darshan" of the "Sardar of Bardoli" and hear him speak. The entire space around the court yard of the wadi as well as the balconies on the first floor flanking the yard were full long before the arrival of the speaker. The audience was mostly composed of Gujarati Hindu ladies. Loud speakers were installed inside and outside the meeting place to enable the women who had to occupy adjacent buildings for want of accommodation, to hear the message of the Sardar.

Panchayats

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is reported to have threatened to start a "parallel government" in Gujarat by resuscitating the ancient village institution of the Panchayat. As Mr. Gandhi says in an instructive article on the subject, "Panchayat has an ancient flavour; it is a good word." It is a very good word, and has many flavours, some of them very piquant. But Mr. Gandhi betrays a very hazy knowledge of history when he avers that the word "represents the system by which the innumerable village republics of India were governed." But

RAM RAJ

(TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES OF INDIA.")

Sir,—I want to draw attention to a letter by "Historian" in the issue of 23rd June of your paper. He says that the "historical memory" of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is defective. But the fact is that the Sardar's memory of history is not at all defective, but that the knowledge of the "Historian" about the meaning of the word "Ram Raj" is defective.

The Rama in the word "Ram Raj" is not the "Rama Raja" of Vijaynagar, as assumed by the "Historian"—but the Rama of Ayodhya, a popular and noble king in epic India and the hero in the Ramayana. He was very just and kind. The subjects under him were very happy owing to his kind and just rule. Many tales are told about him. And hence whenever one has to speak of a well-conducted and happy regime he says "it is a Ram Raj."

The above will show that Sardar Vallabhbhai was quite right in asking people to prepare to establish Ram Raj.

AN AHMEDABAD LIBRARY

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE TIMES OF INDIA."

Sir,—The resolution passed by the Ahmedabad Municipality to hand over possession of the Gujarat Vidyapith Library to Sardar Vallabh-bhai Patel is more a censure against itself than anything else. Despite the woeful dearth of a really good library in Ahmedabad and the failure of all concerned, including the multi-millionaires of the Manchester of India to make it good, the Ahmedabad Municipality did not go seeking the "gift" of the Gujarat Vidyapith Library. And when it was offered by Kaka Kalekar after mature deliberation and even consultation with Mahatma Gandhi, it was not accept-

REVENUE PAYMENT NO SIN AGAINST CONGRESS

BARDOLI ORGAN PROPAGANDA

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AHMEDABAD, March 21.

The *Bardoli Satyagraha Patrika*, which is a Congress organ, and which until now has spared no pains to incite the peasants of the Taluka to carry on campaign of non-payment of the land revenue, has informed them that by paying the land revenue they do not become traitors to the Congress. Those that paid the land revenue would be blamed neither by the Congress nor by **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, merely on that account.

It may be interesting to note, in this connection, that most of the revenue in the Bardoli Taluka and the Surat District has already been paid up, in some cases even the second instalment.



"Fighting Our Last Battles": MR. PATEL ON STATES MOVEMENT
The Times of India (1862-current); Feb 23, 1939;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2007)
pg. 4

"Fighting Our Last Battles"

MR. PATEL ON STATES MOVEMENT

WARDHA, February 20.

"British Imperialism is on its last legs, having entrenched itself in Indian States where we are fighting our last battles in our fight for independence," declared **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** presiding over a largely attended meeting this evening at Gandhi Chowk organised to give a send-off to seven Jaipur satyagrahis.

Mr. **Patel** declared in emphatic terms that the satyagraha movement, which had been started in various States all over India, was not a fight against Indian Rulers, but against the British Paramount Power, which through its agents "was trying to uphold its power, which it had already lost in British India, where the Congress had begun to govern." He congratulated **Seth Jamnalal Bajaj** on his "determined effort to assert his right as a citizen of Jaipur to enter that State."

"Fighting our last battles". (1939, Feb 23). *The Times of India*



"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" Bridge: R. C. C. STRUCTURES AT AHMEDABAD

The Times of India (1861-current); Feb 15, 1940;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

pg. 14

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" Bridge

R. C. C. STRUCTURES AT AHMEDABAD

TWO reinforced concrete bridges across the river Sabarmati, one at Jamalpur and another at Shapur, were decided by the Ahmedabad Municipality in the early part of 1936. Subsequently, they invited tenders from several firms on their own design. The present bridges designed by the Hindustan Construction Co., Ltd., were finally accepted.

SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S VISIT TO AHMEDABAD



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at left being garlanded after he had laid the foundation stone of the Seth Lallubhai Gordhandas Hospital in Ahmedabad. At right Sardar Patel snapped addressing a meeting on

the grounds of the Ahmedabad Town Hall after unveiling the marble bust of Mr. Ballubhai Thakore.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Times of India (1861-current); Apr 13, 1948;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

pg. 6



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

NEW DELHI, April 12: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Deputy Prime Minister, Government of India, who has been indisposed for some weeks, is now normal, though doctors have imposed restrictions on interviews, which are confined only to essential purposes. Sardar Patel is leaving for Mussoorie during the third week of this month for a change. He is expected to spend a few days at Dehra Dun also.—A.P.I.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Times of India (1861-current); Oct 13, 1948;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

pg. 6



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

NAGPUR, October 12: The syndicate of the Nagpur University has decided to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on India's Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at a special convocation of the Nagpur University to be held here on October 31.

This decision of the Nagpur University is reported to have been conveyed to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel by the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar.

PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

FOR nearly thirty years now **Sardar Patel** has been a name to conjure with when quick decisions have had to be taken and bold plans executed. And the dazzling but lonely eminence that surrounds him today is but a modest reward to India's strong man with an iron will, who has showed himself time and again a past master in political leadership and public administration.

It was along the hedgerows of experience that he picked up his greatness — as a shrewd judge of men and events, a Chief of Staff who inspires confidence and commands loyalty, a strategist and a diplomat. He finds himself at the helm of our affairs after a hard and patient stewardship, firstly in the service of Ahme-

capable of affection. He has regard for strong character and respects others for their convictions, however much he might disagree with them himself.

Years have mellowed him and even his proverbially stern exterior now wears a kindly glow. Since the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, he has had to voyage through strange seas of thought —alone—and his executive ability and power have often found

themselves foiled not so much by his indifferent health as owing to the absence of the Mahatma's moral authority.

During the hard times that have been with us after independence, his accent has been not on change and revolution but on consolidation. Though essentially a



Iron Man with an iron will

Faced with the challenge of integrating more than 500 princely states to form the Union of India, some of them extremely hostile, Sardar Patel rose to the occasion with aplomb. None in history can compare with his feat, not even Bismarck. Without his tireless perseverance there would have been no modern India

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has often been compared with Otto von Bismarck, the unifier of Germany by 1871. Recently, Balraj Krishan wrote a book calling Sardar Patel the Bismarck of India. To describe him thus belittles his achievements. Is it because we suffer from an inferiority complex vis-à-vis Europe? Be that as it may, what follows here would show that, on the contrary, Bismarck can be called the Patel of Germany.

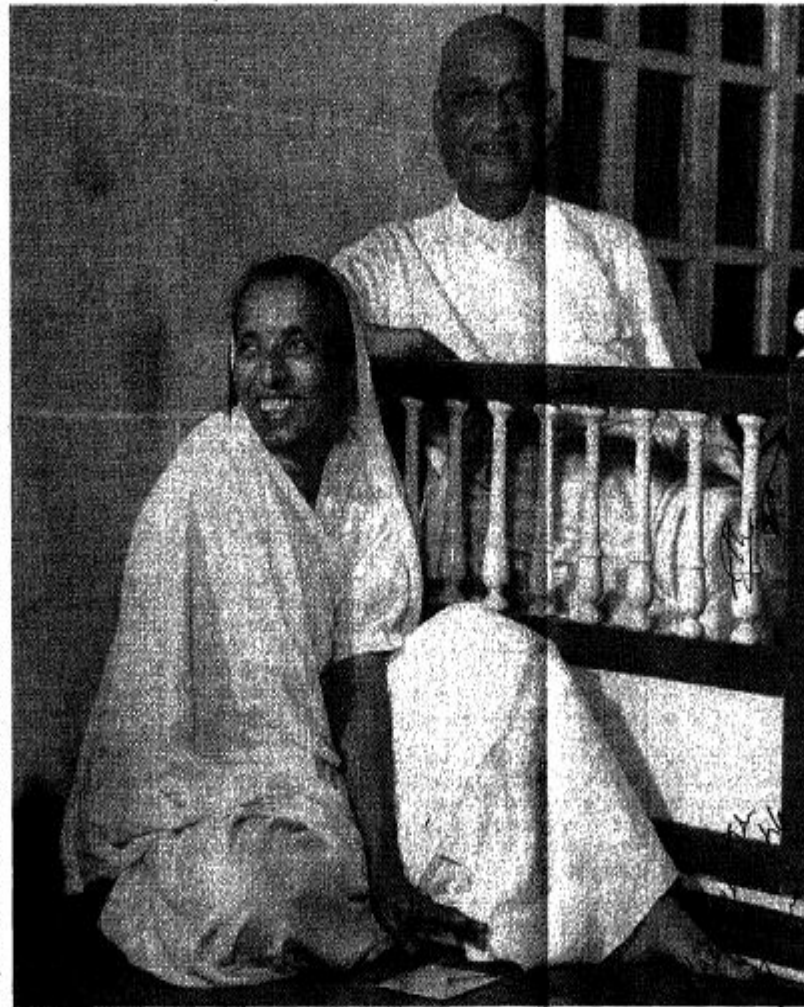
Bismarck came into national prominence after he was appointed the Chancellor of Prussia in 1861 by Kaiser Wilhelm I. He soon resorted to an expansionist policy by going to war with Denmark in alliance with Austria and taking over the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. The latter was initially allotted to Austria. A year later, as a result of a war with Austria, Prussia took it away after signing the Peace of Prague, 1866. In this Austro-Prussian war, four principalities of northern Germany namely Hanover, Hesse-Kassel, Nassau and Frankfurt were annexed by Prussia.

Then remained four major states of southern Germany. This annexation would not have been easily possible without going to war with King Napoleon III of France. Bismarck managed to provoke him into attacking Germany and getting defeated at the battle of Sedan. The French aggression induced the southern principalities of Bavaria, Baden, Hesse and Wurttemberg to join the rest of Kaiser Wilhelm's empire resulting in the unification of Germany by 1871. It was a union of Prussia plus 21 smaller and tiny principalities, comprising a total of

3,25,000 square kilometres and a population of 4 crore. The merging small states were half of Prussia and a third of the united country.

In contrast, Sardar Patel's challenge was far greater. After he completed his mission of integration the Union of India consisted of 33 lakh square kilometres populated then by 40 crore people. There were 560 princely states, large, small and tiny to bring in. On the borders was MA Jinnah, who was doing his best to entice as many princes as possible to join Pakistan on their terms. Inside the country, Lord Mountbatten was sometimes unsupportive while Jawaharlal Nehru was perpetually vacillating, afraid lest Patel's attempts provoke communal conflict. By contrast, Bismarck had no domestic opposition; he had a monarch who gave him every support and an army which obeyed him implicitly.

The Indian army was loyal but its top commanders were still British and they were anxious to avoid any clash with Pakistan. For instance, General Roy Bucher discouraged Patel until the last minute on police action against Hyderabad in November 1948. The British political agents as well as advisors in the states headed by Muslim rulers worked in opposition to India. The Indian Independence Act passed by the British Parliament in July 1947 provided for a Princeton as a third dominion which led many a prince to believe that he need not join either India or Pakistan when the British left and their paramountcy lapsed. The then foreign secretary KPS Menon feared that India was going



Sardar Patel with his daughter Maniben. Picture courtesy: UPI archives

to be balkanised. Fortunately, in return for Patel accepting that India join the Commonwealth, Mountbatten conceded that regardless of official policy he would leave the princely states to be dealt with by the iron man.

Probably because the Nehru family was Kashmiri and Sheikh Abdullah was his friend, Nehru kept the dealings with that princely state to himself. The Valley, even today, is an unsolved problem. Patel's toughest challenge was Hyderabad, and its Nizam who was a virtual prisoner of the Pakistan agents called Razakars. Moreover, his British advisor Sir Alexander Monckton was a friend of Lord Mountbatten but distinctly pro-Pakistan. Patel had to wait until September 1948 before sending in the Army.

The Nawab of Bhopal, Hamidullah Khan, was Jinnah's most active emissary for luring the princes to link up with Pakistan. He was the Chancellor, Chamber of Princes, he worked day and night to cause a split among the princes, as Balraj Krishan has put it. The all out attempt was to build the third dominion to be called Princistan. Indore, Baroda and as well as Jodhpur were links in a potential chain of this grand design.

The Divan of Travancore, Sir CP Ramaswami Aiyar had proved to be an eminent example for many a prince to stay away from joining the Indian Union. He had on May 9, 1947, declared his State to be independent immediately on the end of British paramountcy; Jinnah was quick to support the declaration. The Divan was so overbearing that the Maharajah

could not differ from him; it was only when the Sardar phoned him directly that he was rattled enough to give in.

Under the leadership of the Jamsaheb, who succeeded Bhopal as the chancellor that a meeting of Kathiawar states was induced to resolve that they would not join either dominion. With the appointment of Shah Nawaz Bhutto, Jinnah's ally, as the new divan of Junagarh in late July, it was evident that his game plan would be to accede to Pakistan. This was formally announced on August 15. It was not until November that Patel could move troops into Junagarh and that too by leaving Mountbatten in the dark until the action began, Balraj Krishan has recorded.

The trickiest problem was Jodhpur, a Hindu ruler, Hindu populace but its territory bordered Sindh and the Maharajah was immature, just crowned. Jinnah made several tempting offers including a signed blank paper on which the Maharajah could write any terms. Lord Mountbatten admitted his failure to change the prince's mind. Only Patel's direct intervention turned the tide and Jodhpur joined Hindustan.

The integration of 560 princely states with India was a mammoth operation. It is difficult to portray all its dimensions in such a short space. It was made all the more difficult by Gandhiji's obsession with non-violence, the British military reluctance to allow the use of force and Jawaharlal Nehru's Hamlet like vacillation. Bismarck had none of these handicaps and his challenges were far smaller.



PRAFULL GORADIA

LAST MOMENTS OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Sudden Change In Condition

The shock of the news of Sardar Patel's death was all the greater, as reports after his arrival in Bombay from the capital three days earlier had indicated that the change from Delhi had benefited him.

The recovery, however, proved temporary and the Deputy Prime Minister was seized by a heart attack at 3-30 a.m. on Friday. He became unconscious, but hopes of his survival revived at 8-30 a.m. when he regained consciousness and his pulse improved. He sipped water two or three times at short intervals, but did not appear to recognise those around him. He was obviously in acute pain. And then he fell into a coma and died at 9-37 a.m.

His son and daughter, his daughter-in-law, his grand-children and his Private Secretary, Mr. V. Shankar, were present at the death-bed.

Keeping vigil at his bedside also were Mr. B. G. Kher (Chief Minister of Bombay), Mr. Morarji Desai (Home Minister), Mr. S. K. Patil (Mayor of Bombay), Mr. R. D. Birla (his host in Bombay), Mr. Nagindas T. Master, and Mr. Mathuradas Trikamji.

Dr. M. D. D. Gilder, Health Minister of Bombay, and Dr. Nathubhai Patel, the Sardar's family doctor, were in attendance all night.

The Governor of Bombay, Raja Maharaj Singh, and Rani Maharaj Singh, were among the early callers at Birla House.

Chief of the R.S.S., and Lieut.-Gen. Rajendrasinhji, G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command.

After they had paid homage, the bier was placed on a gun carriage and the funeral procession started at 5-15 p.m. As the Service bands struck the opening strains of the Funeral March, the crowds outside Birla House surged forward impeding the progress of the procession. One hundred and fifty men drawn from the three armed services pulled the gun carriage, while 1,000 other Army, Navy and Air Force personnel formed the vanguard and the rear-guard to the hearse with "arms reverse."

The Prime Minister at first drove in a jeep behind the cortege, but when the procession had reached the end of Nepean Sea Road, he decided to walk at the head of the procession. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Ravishankar Shukla, walked with him. Behind them was Mr. Golwalkar.

MILE-LONG PROCESSION

The entire six-mile route from Birla House to Sonapur was thronged by people, while thousands watched the procession from roof-tops and by perching themselves on trees and even on lamp-posts. When the procession reached Nana Chowk, it was more than a mile long, but there thousands took a shorter route to the cremation ground in the hope of being able to witness the last rites.

From Nana Chowk the procession went at a quicker pace and, wending its way past the level-crossing at Gamdevi and Congress House, marched along Vithalbai Patel

lancholy privilege of saying a few words to you has been given to me tonight. Thirty-two years ago, when Gandhiji was in Madras with me, one morning he asked me: 'Have you seen Vallabhbhai Patel? Do you know that I have found in him a most trustworthy man, staunch and brave. You should see him.' And I did see him some days thereafter. All these 32 years I have been seeing him almost without break. What was Vallabhbhai, who departed from us early this morning? We have only his body before us, and it is soon to disappear into the air, into the water and into the earth. That is how and where we all came from and to where we must all go back. But it was the inspiration, the courage and the confidence incarnate that we called Vallabhbhai. Let us all imagine that the real Vallabhbhai survives after his last breath left him this morning.

"We are here assembled to give vent to our grief and to take courage and confidence out of his ashes. We shall not find the like of him again, but let us not think that he lived in vain. He has left large fruits of work, honest, brave, consistent work, which we can enjoy and share in, provided we have the character. Let us not give way to fear and depression.

"I am an old man and I am given this privilege of speaking to you first because I am his oldest friend, left behind. I have seen many people go away, and this one is the most illustrious of them all. May his spirit bless us and our friends assembled here.

"My brother who is standing beside me (Mr. Nehru) will now guide the country all alone. It is difficult for me to say anything. I was asked to say something and I have said. It is not possible to say anything wise in our grief. May God help us all."

Glowing tributes to Sardar Patel

A Staff Reporter

The Times of India (1861-current); Nov 1, 1971;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

pg. 5

Glowing tributes to Sardar Patel

By A Staff Reporter

Glowing tributes were paid to the life and work of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at meetings organised by different parties and institutions in Bombay on Sunday, it being the birth anniversary of the sardar.

Workers of the new congress gathered at Congress Sadan, Azad Maidan, the headquarters of the new BPCC, to pay homage to the Sardar's memory. Mr. A. N. Namjoshi, president of the PCC, presided.

Addressing a public meeting under the auspices of the old BPCC, Mr. S. K. Patil said that one of the decisions taken by the Sardar Memorial Committee was to name the Town Hall in Bombay after Sardar Patel.

He said that textbooks should include the accounts of life and work of the great leaders of the freedom movement. "This will also help bridge the generation gap," he added.

Mr. Mukundrao Bhujbal Patil, president of the old BPCC, presided.

SARDAR'S SERVICES TO INDIA: Tributes At Bombay Meeting

The Times of India (1861-current); Nov 1, 1950;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Times of India (1838-2005)

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SARDAR'S SERVICES TO INDIA

Tributes At Bombay Meeting

Bombay celebrated the 75th birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Tuesday, his political associates and boyhood friends joining in acclaiming him as one of the ablest leaders the country ever produced.

Presiding over a public meeting at Madhav Baug, the Chief Minister of Bombay, Mr. B. G. Kher, said the contribution of the Sardar towards unifying India, by eliminating the numerous States sprinkled all over the country would go down in history as an unparalleled feat of statesmanship. Mr. Kher recalled his 30 years' association with Sardar Patel in political life and described him as the man who showed the greatest understanding in the use of the weapon of satyagraha during India's struggle for freedom.

Resolute and firm in decisions, the Sardar in spite of his rough exterior was the gentlest at heart, Mr. Kher said.

SARDAR'S ASHES IMMERSSED

Allahabad Ceremony

From Our Own Correspondent
ALLAHABAD, December 29.

The last remains of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were immersed into the Triveni, at 1.5 p.m. today.

The urn was brought by a special plane from Delhi by Mr. Dahyabha Patel and Miss Maniben Patel.

It was placed in an open car be decked with flowers and as it went past, the crowd waiting outside surged forward to touch the vessel containing the ashes of the departed leader.

The car with the urn was followed by that of the President.

The procession of cars halted at the clock tower, eight miles from the aerodrome. Here the urn was transferred to a white-painted "duck" carrying the national flag and decorated with flowers. A unit of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Force (Home Guards) reversed arms as a sign of mourning.



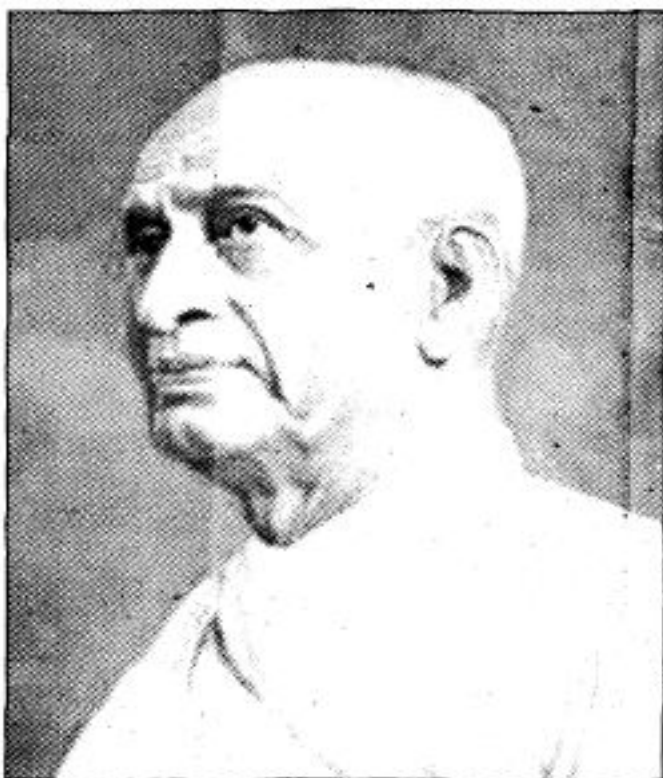
The Iron Man Of India

On October 31, 1950 a respectfully affectionate group had assembled at a private guest house in Ahmedabad to felicitate the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhai Patel on his Platinum Jubilee birthday. The group comprised colleagues from political life and some from the world of commerce besides the family members. Folks from his home village Karamsad had come to wish a long life for the valiant son of the soil.

Sardar had combined his visit with a helping hand for some of his favourite projects like the milk scheme of Anand. He even collected funds for the general elections-India's first to be based on adult franchise to launch the world's largest democracy in a year's time. The money was handed over to Morarji Desai.

The biggest surprise was the arrival of three Rajpramukhs, the Maharajas of Patiala, Gwalior and Jaipur representing the newly formed union of PEPSU, Madhya Bharat and Rajasthan. They presented him an inscribed volume of the White Paper on Indian States - a narration of Vallabhai's miracle of bringing some 562 Princes into the national democratic mainstream ending their feudatory rule, after accession to the Republic of India.

His gentle but firm approach culminated in the grouping of several hundred States into 26 administrative units with the merger of a large number of tiny princedoms with adjoining Provinces in a matter of weeks. Thus he created a colourful mosaic out of widely diverse principalities to mould a united Indian State a feat unparalleled in the annals of the world. To take a look at his formative years one of the six children of a middle class Gujarati farmer, Jhaverbhai Patel, Vallabhai was born on the 31st October 1875 in Nadiad. His early days were spent caring for the family fields and he could com-



Kheda in 1917 and the second in Bardoli in 1928 to achieve reduction or waiver of revenue when crops had suffered excessive damage through vagaries of weather.

As Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of Ahmedabad Municipality, Vallabhai refused to leave the city when plague broke out towards the end of 1917 in the area and people were rushing away from the city. He stuck to his job getting places cleaned and organizing anti-disease squads, without regard for his personal safety.

Vallabhai gave up his practice in protest against the introduction of the infamous Rowlatt Act and the Jalianwala Bagh killings. Thereafter he devoted all his time and energy for the emancipation of the suffering class and political

structure approach throughout the proceedings. In his very first Cabinet, Jawaharlal Nehru made Patel the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home, States and Information and Broadcasting.

At the time of independence, the entire Government machinery both at the Centre and in the States was manned by the steel frame of the Indian Civil Service (ICS). In transition from the 'Police State', Vallabhai treated the officers as instruments of stability. With shrewdness, tact and generosity Vallabhai earned their respect and confidence to make them partners in the new welfare regime. As ICS was fading out he created the IAS and its allied services as the new all India service cadre. His basic advice to new young recruits was

Growing In Stature

Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee's just concluded visit to Chile has taken relations between New Delhi and Santiago to a new height. During his sojourn in the Latin American nation, Mukherjee called on Chilean President Richardo Lagos Escobar and agreed with him that in addition to their partial trade agreement negotiations, India and Chile should work towards bilateral and production investment and avoidance of double taxation. In his talks with his Chilean counterpart Jamie Ravinet, the two identified several areas of cooperation for mutual benefit. These include training programmes, stepped up exchanges between the armed forces, sharing of technical knowledge as well as research and development. Chile showed interest in India's Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), ordnance products and weapon systems.

With a view to raising their defence relationship to a new level, the two Defence Ministers agreed to explore the possibility of posting Defence Attaches in New Delhi and Santiago respectively. The proposed attaché in Santiago will be the first ever in Latin America. Currently, this whole region is being covered from Washington. During his Chilean tour,

visited Eduardo George's Island in discussions with artists over there areas of coopera-

Chilean base and India's Antarctica base located some distance away. In Chile Mukherjee also witnessed the signing of a contract between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and M/s. Enaer, Santiago regarding the manufacture of aircraft parts and assemblies.

Notepad
Jagdish N. Singh

Mukherjee also Frei Base on King Antarctica, he'd officials and sci- and explored the tion between the

Expanding the scope of Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint IAF-USAF exercise has been planned at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda from November 7 to November 19. Last year a similar exercise was held at AF Station Gwalior. Involving larger force levels, the exercise would include a squadron of F-16 from a USAF base in Japan and various types of IAF fighter aircraft like the SU-30K, Mirage-2000, BISON and MiG-27.

Defence sources say that it is for the first time that the AWACS aircraft will participate in an air exercise in India. This experience will go a long way in preparing the IAF aircrew in operating in an AWACS environment before the induction of the IAF AWACS into the service. The tanker fleet will participate during the induction and de-induction of forces for the exercise. The practice missions will include Dissimilar Air Combat Manoeuvring (ACM) and Large Force Engagement (LFE) in the Beyond Visual Range (BVR) regime.

The aim of the joint exercise is to enhance mutual operational understanding and refine procedures for future joint exercises. For the first time, IAF deployed some of its fighters for multinational exercises in Alaska, South Africa and France during the past year. The IAF transport and helicopter fleets have also been deployed on foreign shores on UN missions earlier. The IAF is growing in stature indeed. Many friendly nations are currently showing keen interest in exercising with it.

over a stretch of 100 kilometres of the route of history's biggest mi-

Vallabhai's loyalty to his mentor, Mahatma Gandhi and his leader

SARDAR PATEL'S BIOGRAPHY

English Volume Out

NEW DELHI, October 4: The first volume of the biography of the late **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** in English was published by the Navjivan Trust, Ahmedabad, on October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.

This part of the biography covers the period from his birth to the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress in 1929.

It is proposed to publish two other volumes, one covering the period 1929 to the summer of 1945 when he was released from the Ahmednagar fort, where he was detained, and the other covering his activities in connection with the negotiations for the transfer of power and the four years that he was in office as Deputy Prime Minister of India.

The Gujarati edition of the first volume was published some time ago by Mr. Narhari Parikh, of Sabarmati Ashram, an old associate of **Sardar Patel**.

FOUNDING FATHERS

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

(1875-1950)

A GREAT nationalist, patriot, indomitable in spirit and dynamic in action, hard as thunder but soft as flower, the Sardar of the Indian masses, as popularly called, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, was born in 1875 in Karamsad in the Nadiad district of Gujarat, in an agriculturist family with marshal traditions. His father alongwith some other members of the family marched to Delhi to fight against the British during the sepoy mutiny.

He passed the district pleaders examination in 1900 and started practice at Godhra. He went to England for law study and became a barrister from the middle temple. Back to India, he established legal practice at Ahmedabad. Soon he became popular and distinguished himself as an outstanding criminal lawyer. He joined the Gujarat Sabha in 1915 and occupied a prominent position in the national freedom movement. As a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi, he dedicated himself to the cause of India's Independence, taking up active leadership in Gujarat during the non-violent non-cooperation movement and various civil disobedience and satyagraha programmes. As a member of the Ahmed-

also held important ministerial portfolios like Home, States and Information and Broadcasting.

His greatest contribution to the gigantic task of nation building was the integration of the Princely states of India into the Union of India. His indomitable spirit and undaunted fearlessness, tact and firmness made it possible in the face of various odds and obstacles. His dealing with the Hyderabad State is a landmark in the history of

His greatest contribution to the gigantic task of nation building was the integration of the princely states into the Union of India.

Sardar Patel's legacy

The Statesman of Nov 2013

PATEL ALONG WITH NEHRU AND GANDHI DIVIDED INDIA AND UNIFIED BHARAT. BY BECOMING COMPLICIT IN THIS SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL OF NATIONAL IDENTITY HE LOST ALL CLAIMS TO BE TERMED AS A NATIONAL UNIFIER

At a function to inaugurate a museum dedicated to the life of India's first Home Minister and freedom fighter, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi while welcoming Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was present on the dais with him, said that if Patel had become the first PM of India, the face of the country would have been different. "I wish Patel had become the first PM of India. Patel was a visionary." Modi could be right. Patel undoubtedly was a very able administrator with keen awareness of national security and political ground realities. His proposal early on to define the border with China, which Nehru ignored, was just one of his sensible moves that could have altered history. His actions to virtually coerce the princely states to merge with India are considered his greatest achievement. His resolve to achieve this became evident from the ruthless army action in Hyderabad State where thousands were killed to bring the Nizam of Hyderabad to heel. It was Patel's abilities as an administrator and a practical politician that

which Muslim majority provinces could exercise autonomous legislative powers that would have curbed the powers of the Congress government at the Centre. Both the Congress and the League were adamant about their respective stands. Mountbatten met Jinnah and Patel separately on the same days to sort out differences, but without success. This is what the minutes of the meeting between Mountbatten and Patel discussing the Cabinet Mission Plan on 25-26 April 1947 said ~ "Sardar Patel then made the following statements: (a) Congress would not accept any suggestion for a further degree of parity (between Congress and Muslim League) in the present Central Government; (b) If the Muslim League did not accept the Cabinet Mission's plan, Congress desired partition; (c) Congress had reached the maximum limit of their concessions."

This, then, was the real reason why the Congress accepted Partition. It could not achieve agreement with the leaders of the Muslim League on the sharing of power in government, and on the relationship between the central government and the provincial governments to be governed by the League. The decision was totally divorced from ground realities and the wishes of the people of India. Could opportunism and betrayal have been more scandalous? The Congress opportunism and lust for power resulted not only in one of the worst holocausts of recorded history, but also in tearing apart the most secular region of that time in the whole of India, which has now



RAJINDER PURI

Steel of the Iron Man

Sardar Patel and Indian Integration

By JAGMOHAN

THERE are many "ifs" of history. No one can say with certainty what would have happened if a particular "if" had materialised. Hard evidence with regard to integration of 561 states indicates that Sardar Patel's approach would not have allowed the Kashmir problem to arise, and even if any problem had arisen, it would have been nipped in the bud.

Nehru was certainly a great leader, but in "resolute practicality" he was nowhere near Sardar Patel. Hudson, the author of *Great Divide* quotes Lord Mountbatten as saying that "I am glad Nehru has not been put in charge of the new States' department, which would have wrecked everything". Gandhiji, also shared this view, when he remarked that "the task of dealing with the princes was truly formidable, but I am convinced that the Sardar was the only person who

common endeavour, we can raise the country to new greatness, while lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities."

While Sardar Patel provided an honourable alternative to all the princes, he made it clear to all concerned that he would not allow India's hard-earned freedom to be jeopardised by the numerous opt-out plans of the princely states. He scotched Bhopal's game of grouping the states and acquiring a separate dominion status. He dealt firmly with Junagadh and called off the bluff of the Nizam of Hyderabad and his advisors like Sir Monckton and Laik Ali.

When die-hard Conservative members of British Parliament like R A Butler and Churchill tried to browbeat India by espousing the cause of the Nizam, he firmly told them not to stand by the 'old world'. He made it clear that it is

events in Kashmir, his contribution was fruitful. The raiders were on the outskirts of Srinagar. Lt.-Col. Ranjit Rai and Major Som Nath Sharma of the Indian Army had been killed, being heavily outnumbered. Sardar Patel, accompanied by Defence Minister Baldev Singh flew to the state capital, assessed the situation on the ground, returned to New Delhi and ordered stoppage of all airline services, while diverting all these aircraft for flying troops to Srinagar. The timely arrival of reinforcements enabled Brigadier Sen to lure the raiders in the net of Indian forces near Shaltang and attack them on November 5 from three sides. The raiders were routed. Three hundred of them were killed. The battle of Shaltang on November 7 proved decisive. Three days later, the advancing Indian troops recaptured Baramullah.

The iron in the man

Gujarat's plan to build the tallest statue of Sardar Patel is a fitting tribute

VR Krishna Iyer

Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi met me on recently in Kochi. He was on his way to Trichur to attend the wedding of his secretary's daughter. I was the only person he met in Kochi. Why? I am neither a politician nor do I have any judicial power. He came out of respect for me. I told him we won't talk about politics and that there will be no closed-door discussions — everything will be in the public domain. He agreed. We talked about a range of public issues.

I appreciate Modi's prohibition policy. I spoke to him about Gandhiji, who was born in Gujarat and made its soil sacred. He responded warmly and welcomed my idea of Gram Swaraj and village growth. I was impressed by his enthusiasm on the development of villages in his state. In Gujarat,



SOURCE: HISTORY IN THE MAKING: THE VISUAL ARCHIVES OF KULWANT ROY (COLLINS)

PATEL (LEFT) WAS A GREAT STATESMAN AND A POLITICAL STRATEGIST. NEHRU WAS ALSO A STATESMAN AND INSPIRED MANY WITH HIS SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY AND VISION OF DEMOCRACY. THIS

India Of Patel's Dreams

By B. Krishna

TALKING of the India of his dreams, Sardar Patel once said: "I want the whole of India to be moulded in one pattern." Such a pattern to be whole and lasting required fourfold integration: territorial, political, economic and social. Life permitted him to achieve the first two; the others have remained incomplete.

Territorial integration was, no doubt, the most fundamental, as the other three had to rest on it. It was, however, made highly complex and difficult by the manner of Britain's transference of power: on the arbitrary condition of the creation of Pakistan and return of hypothetical sovereignty to the princes. If the former was to appease the Muslims, the latter was an attempt to cover up their guilt at leaving some of their old and trusted allies among the princes in the lurch.

tion of the country is not a minority at all. Why do you think that you are a minority? If you are a strong, well-knit and well-organised minority, why do you want to claim safeguards, why do you want to claim privileges?"

He advised them to "make friends with others and create a change in the atmosphere. You will then have more than your quota, if you really feel for the country in the same manner as the other people." And his assurance to them was: "We wish to take you with us, so that you may march with the rest of India and share the burden which others bear." Dr Ansari's advice to the Muslims was almost identical: "The true safeguard of a minority is the goodwill of the majority."

As "a true friend of the Muslims", Sardar Patel preferred "plain-speaking" when he told them: "It is your duty to sail in

Mahatma Gandhi." Under such a truce, labour's legitimate grievances have been settled through negotiation and arbitration, without resort to strikes.

With a view to saving the country from chaos and industry from ruin, Sardar Patel introduced a Bill in the Constituent Assembly which provided for "the prevention of strikes in certain essential services." Strong opposition came from pro-left quarters, especially the socialists. Yielding to their pressure, Nehru withdrew the Bill in the Sardar's absence. "Obviously, the withdrawal was against his wishes.

Sardar Patel claimed "longer association with organised labour than probably many labour leaders." He was Chairman of the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workers' Union in 1920. From the mid-thirties, the Sardar had assumed the chairmanship of the Labour Sub-Committee of the

theory of Trusteeship.

Whereas the Sardar told the industrialists that "labour is a driving force for the stabilisation of our freedom", his advice to labour was: "Strikes are a strategy of the Communists to catch votes in their favour to ascend to power." He even regretted that "labour is out to have its demands fulfilled at the point of a bayonet", and considered at the same time the cry, "raised in season and out of season", for nationalisation as being "uttered merely to cause panic." He argued: "Nationalisation is worthwhile only if we can manage to run the industries. We have neither men nor the resources even to run our administration . . . You should yourself realise that industry is to be established before it can be nationalised. India, industrially, is yet in an infant stage."

For such utterances, Sardar Patel was accused of being a

The Sardar—A Hero Among Heroes

By Prabhudas Balubhai Patwari
Governor of Tamil Nadu

October 31 is the anniversary of the Sardar's birthday. He was born this day a century and three years ago. What is the meaning of this celebration to us? Let us pause and reflect upon his life of rare dedication and self-effacement for the country; on his splendid achievements, as also on those manly qualities in the Sardar that make him adorable — a hero among heroes and a humanitarian, though with a rugged exterior of deep compassion and feeling. His life ever beckons us to a call of duty and service to the country.

The Sardar belonged to peasant stock; his father and mother practically unlettered; he too remained untutored till the age of 12 and was betrothed about that time. The opening of a primary school in his village Karamsad lends a turn to his life and though haunted by the poverty of the family, he waded his way till matriculation when he was 22; at times changing his schools not by choice but of necessity. A teacher's life had no attraction to him. What then must he do? The family had to be saved from the pangs of poverty.

He chose the career of a district pleader and he appeared for the examination studying privately with borrowed books, and set up practice at a small taluka place, Godhra (1900), equipping his office with a chair or two and a writing table bought second-hand. And yet mark his dedication to the family. In his first letter from Godhra to his two elder brothers — Somabhai and Narainbhai — he implored them not to toil any more in the fields and allow the fullest rest to their tired limbs, and month after month, he would meet all expenses of the family. Truly the Sardar was a tower of strength to the family as he proved later to the country. He was a devoted son, a devoted brother and an affectionate elder with real warmth for the children of the parental family. The Sardar's attachment to his illustrious brother Vithalbhaji is well-

known. The incidents of his school life that are available, one can unmistakably judge that the Sardar at that age had shown such distinct traits in his nature as mark one out for especial things in life. Fear he knew not; he could not be awed even by the sternest of teachers; his talents as organiser worked wonders even at that age. It was this rebellious spirit in the Sardar that turned him in life to the path of Gandhi, in whom he found the greatest rebel of his time.

As a mofussil pleader, the Sardar was immensely successful; he would argue briefly, but to the point. His defence always proved unassailable; but his forte was the cross-examination of witnesses. His shrewd judgment of men, robust common sense and capacity to grasp the essentials and the weaker spots of the matter, always brought him laurels. He practised on the criminal side and even Magistracy at times found itself at its wits end to prove its mettle before this rural pleader.

The Sardar's practice at Godhra and Borsad (1900 to 1910) as mofussil pleader gave him the confidence that he could shine at the High Court too. But he had no qualifications, and so, at the age of 33, leaving his two children to the care of Vithalbhaji, he sailed for England to qualify himself as barrister. (His wife had passed away just then and for the sake of the children, he had resolutely brushed aside all matrimonial proposals).

In England, the Sardar lived as a real and typical Indian. He lived a simple life and poured all his attention on studies. From morn to dusk, he remained engaged in the library. It was an eight-mile walk from his residence to the library. But he preferred walking to and fro every day, essentially perhaps from the health point of view. In England, during holidays, he made a few excursions into the countryside. At the barrister's examination, the Sardar stood first class first. But his purpose over, he did

not assess the inner working of his mind in those days. His resolution to lead the life of a liberator when he was in the prime of youth and his zeal to set up a decent practice as barrister look paradoxical. But such had been the Sardar's nature: his composition of mind complex and unique; his qualities of head and heart twofolded — one fabulous, the other restraining. His generosity and seeming indifference, his idealism and pragmatism, his fearlessness and humility, his stubbornness and unassumingness, his extreme patience and courtesy, his chivalry and foresight, his wit, humour and laughter and serenity; and lastly his love and affection and his rigidity — all these finer and



restraining attributes of his nature reveal the Sardar as a man of rare maturity and wisdom. This beauty of his character is a master clue to his great success in public life.

The Sardar was gifted with a rare and extraordinary quality to understand men and matters. He could judge correctly any person at first sight from his gait and talk. He was unerring in assigning the right type of work to every worker. His guidance was a source of great inspiration

and his only concern was to work for its achievement. That a constructive programme was a means to achieve Swaraj, was his firm view. His anathema to the Indian socialist forum that made its debut within the Congress in 1934-35 was not so much on the theoretical aspects of it, but for the fear he entertained that it would jeopardise the positive strength of the Congress based on Gandhiji's constructive programme for the achievement of Swaraj for practically nothing substantial in return. Indeed, he was opposed to class conflict and violent means.

It was in 1917 that he entered the field of labour by associating himself with Gandhiji in the labour dispute of Ahmedabad. From 1920, he was the Chairman of B.B. & C.I. Railway Workers Union. The Sardar was the guiding spirit of the Hindustani Mazdoor Sangh and he was instrumental in forming and securing signal success for the INTUC—for orienting Indian labour on nationalist lines. His services to the working class were constructive. He was President of the Municipal Workers' Union till 1940. The Gandhian concept of labour service in consonance with the interests of the nation as a whole was his line of action. It is worth record that he began to serve the peasantry from 1917, when he cast his lot with Gandhiji and his championship of the Kheda and Bardoli movements are the most thrilling pages in Indian history. His service in the cause of the peasantry is an amazing story of courage and sacrifice.

The Sardar, by his personal life, presented an example of true socialism that even the tallest of socialists look pale before him by that standard. He neither owned a house, nor had his personal investment, even a bank balance worth the count.

As President of the Municipal Committee of Ahmedabad in the early years of his public life, he rose to the highest pitch as an excellent Municipal administrator. To-day's Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation had firm

his mind was to push the drive of production both in the field and the factory and to counter inflationary trends by reducing government expenditure. By a stroke or two, he was able to slash government expenditure to the tune of Rs. 100 crores which, at to-day's valuation, might approximate to ten times more and a part of it came voluntarily from the higher officials of the Central machine. Plentiful production of food and cloth and other essential consumers' goods was his main concern during 1949-52. He tried to bring about truce between industry and labour and tried to evolve a conciliatory machinery to give a just deal to all concerned. In the sphere of planning, in addition to large-scale projects, he preferred small-scale irrigation projects for bringing quick results to the producer and the country without large capital expenditure.

In all planning, he was keen to preserve the self-employed structure of the society and help it widen and strengthen than to dilute it. In nationalisation and in its right sense, bureaucratisation, he wanted caution and a realistic approach. At the same time, he tried to curb the profit motive of industry through administrative checks and legislative action. It was for this economic and national view of the Sardar that he was hit below the belt by the totalitarians and the reactionaries.

The Sardar was a man of few words. Though he was known as a "man of steel", he was very gentle. His rare quality was the absence of anger. He was always calm but determined, cool but calculating, and never lost his temper.

This is only a cursory analysis of some of the fundamentals of the Sardar's approach to the basic realities of the time—which has no small relation to the present situation in India. Through the turmoil of those days, the Sardar brought unity and peace to India and set it on the path of progress. A similar challenge faces us to-day. It is, therefore, that the Sardar's image becomes more

Country needs more Sardar Patels today

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct. 31 — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was described as a symbol of unity of the country on the occasion of the 113th birth anniversary here today.

At a function organised by Citizens Council Delhi, a leading non-political organisation, BJP vice-president Sikander Bakht said the country needed not one but twenty Sardar Patels today to preserve the unity and integrity of the country.

Mr Bakht lamented the fact that today we had to resort to slogans like "Hindu, Muslim bhai bhai" when both were sons of the same soil. He warned that the national fabric of the country should not be weakened in the name of

come slaves of English," Mr Dandavate said.

At another function Surface Transport Minister Rajesh Pilot today announced that a 'Kisan Bhavan' would be constructed in Delhi and kisans could stay there for a nominal fee. Mr Pilot was addressing a meeting arranged by Bharatiya Gujjar Parishad.

AICC-I general-secretary Oscar Fernandes described Sardar as a symbol of 'unity' of the country.

Mr Vithalbai Patel, MP, said that Sardar was a symbol of secularism and those who alleged that Sardar was a Hindu communalist — were misleading the people.

Integration and unity

The tributes paid to Sardar Patel, on the occasion of his one hundredth and second birthday, are well deserved but incomplete. When he died in 1950, we wrote: "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a great captain of India's destiny, a figure cast in marble, like a Hercules of Greece sculpture. He died at the age of seventy-five, after an intermittent and cruel illness, when a nation still in the making needed his political genius, which was comparable to Akbar's. To a people accustomed to the augustness of his presence, the country looked like a stage without a proscenium. He represented strength. Whatever he said and did, he was the strong

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Mahatma Gandhi himself and a number of other leaders in the states contributed so much. But the privy purses, many palaces and hidden treasures remained, and the princes lost nothing by being asked to accept in effect the Butler Committee's dictum that "Paramountcy must remain paramount." When the British left, declaring the states to decide their future by joining either India or Pakistan, it was clear, as Lord Mountbatten advised, that Paramountcy would assert itself. When C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar or Bhopal tried to play the politics of independence or of brokers between India and Pakistan, India asserted her-



Pledge

We pledge that we dedicate over self to preserve the ***Unity, Integrity and Security*** of the Nation and also strive hard to spread this message among our fellow countrymen. We take this pledge in the ***spirit of unification*** of our country which has made possible by the vision and actions of late ***Sardar Vallabhai Patel***. We also solemnly resolve to make our contribution to ensure internal security of our contry

