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Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

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Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to India's first home minister, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, on his 71st death anniversary on 15th December.

Key Points

- **Born:**
 - **31st 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.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel **stitched the princely states along with British Indian territory and prevented the balkanization** 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.

Death:

- **15th December 1950** in Bombay.

