

National Unity Day, 2021

November 1, 2021

In news-Every year, 31st October is celebrated as National Unity Day to pay tributes to veteran freedom fighter Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

About National Unity Day-

- To honour his contribution to India's independence and unity, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 2014 declared that National Unity Day** will be celebrated on Sardar Vallabhai Patel's birth anniversary, every year.
- On Patel's birth anniversary in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **182m-tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel called 'Statue of Unity'**.
- **Tallest statue in the world**, it is located on the banks of the Narmada river in Kevadia, facing the Sardar Sarovar Dam near the city of Vadodara, Gujarat.
- The day is observed to ponder upon ways to maintain the nation's unity.

About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel-

- He was born on 31st October 1875 in **Nadiad, Gujarat**.
- He served as the **first Deputy Prime Minister of India** from 1947 to 1950.
- He was a barrister, statesman, and one of the leaders of the Indian National Congress during the struggle for Indian independence.
- In 1910, in order to enhance his career in the legal profession, Patel traveled to London and in 1913 returned to India and practiced law in Ahmedabad.
- In 1917 Patel found the course of his life changed after having been influenced by Mohandas K. Gandhi.
- In 1918, when he planned mass campaigns of peasants, farmers, and landowners of Kaira, Gujarat.
- From 1917 to 1924 he served as the **first Indian**

municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad and was its elected municipal president from 1924 to 1928.

- In 1928 he successfully led the landowners of Bardoli in their resistance against increased taxes.
- His efficient leadership of the **Bardoli campaign earned him the title Sardar** (“leader”), and henceforth he was acknowledged as a nationalist leader throughout India.
- In March 1931, he presided over the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress.
- During 1932 to 1933, he was lodged with Gandhi in Yerwada Jail.
- His contribution was notable during the integration of the princely states and the India-Pakistan War of 1947.
- He was also instrumental in the creation of the All India Services which he described as the country’s “Steel Frame”.