



Sardar Vallabhai Patel: Contribution to National Movement and Integration of Independent India

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Abstract : *Sardar Patel life has been a source of motivation and inspiration. He first accomplished his professional objectives with little assistance from others before playing a crucial, pivotal role in uniting the Indian people in their quest for independence. He was known as the Iron Man of India because of his commitment to the idea of Unity in Diversity and his ability to unite people around the common goal of India's independence. He has been given the name Sardar Patel, which is a title for a leader. Sardar Patel was a compelling leader who spoke truthfully from the heart, respected the views of people who disagreed with him, and firmly felt that Indians might advance from "Swarajya" to "Surajya" by working together to fight the British. He firmly believed in equality and supported rapid industrialization as a means of empowering women and achieving self-sufficiency. Sardar Patel won't ever be forgotten as the father of a unified India, despite the fact that he wasn't India's first prime minister. He became India's first Deputy Prime Minister after the country attained independence. Patel was appointed India's Home Minister on the nation's first anniversary of independence. Patel organized relief efforts for refugees fleeing from Punjab and Delhi as India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, while also working to restore calm. In the post-colonial era, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel was recognized as the father of modern India. He was a supporter of national integrity and the notion of a diverse society founded on the tenets of truth, nonviolence, and Satyagrah, just like Gandhi. Sardar Vallabhai Patel was a self-sufficient and self-driven individual. He almost never needed assistance from others to fulfill any of his professional tasks. Sardar Vallabhai Patel was one of those who helped the nation's citizens come together.*

Early life of Sardar Vallabhai patel

Vallabhabhai belonged to the affluent Pattidar community. He was born on October 31, 1875 in Gujarat. After completing his education at Karamsad, Vallabhabhai moved on to Petlad to pursue his higher studies. He graduated from Nadiad in 1897 at the age of 22, passing the matriculation exam. At the age of 18, he was married off to Zaberbai. His main intentions is to study law in England and work as a barrister. After passing the district pleader's examination in 1900, Vallabhabhai started his legal

career in Godhra. In just two years, Vallabhabhai had amassed enough money from his successful legal business in Borsad to move to England. He traveled to England in 1910, completed his final bar exams in 1912, and the following day departed for India. On February 13th, 1913, he arrived in Bombay and chose to establish his legal practice in Ahmedabad despite being offered a professorship in a law school or a position in the judicial branch of the Provincial Government. He quickly achieved tremendous success as a criminal defense attorney. While his accomplishments will serve as a source of



inspiration, his contributions to the country will be gratefully recalled in the years to come. "Iron Man of India" Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a valiant freedom warrior who made a vital contribution to the growth of contemporary India. Following the Satyagraha, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel took part in other agitations, which grew his friendship with Gandhi. Sardar Patel can be seen playing a variety of characters at various points throughout the life.

Sardar Patel's agitations in National Struggle

In 1917, he had joined the struggle as a mobilizer of public opinion and support for the Kheda Satyagraha. Patel ran for office in 1917 and easily won the position of Ahmedabad's sanitation commissioner. Meanwhile, as Patel listened to Gandhi speak for the Swadeshi Movement, his interest in politics intensified. Gandhi's statements served as inspiration for Patel, who began actively participating in the Indian independence fight. Following a meeting with Gandhi at the Gujarat Political Conference in Godhra, Patel was appointed secretary of the Gujarat Sabha, which would later become the economically significant Gujarat branch of the Indian National Congress. He spearheaded relief efforts during plague and famine in Kheda, campaigned against the enslavement of Indians by Europeans, and led the nonviolent Civil Disobedience Movement against British tax increases. He was given the title Sardar for his leadership efforts. He traveled from town to village, gathering support for a nationwide uprising from peasants and other communities by refusing to pay taxes. He adhered fervently to Gandhi's nonviolent principles. By organizing a nonviolent civil disobedience rally in 1920, Sardar Patel

defeated the British administration, and his political career began to flourish. With the success of the Civil Disobedience Movement, he rose to prominence nationally and became one of Gujarat's most influential political figures. Before independence, one of his most notable accomplishments was taking office as president of the Indian National Congress in 1931. He organized the Party's All India Election Campaign in 1934 and 1937 in his capacity as Party President. After India gained its independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was appointed as the country's first home minister and deputy prime minister. Despite the fact that many people wanted him to be India's first prime minister that never happened. He earned the moniker "Iron Man of India" because he acted decisively to stop additional harm coming to a divided India after the country's independence.

He disagreed with Gandhi and Nehru on the issue of the partition of India. Being opposed to the tragic division, he made measures that united all of the princely states and brought them under the Indian Republic. India was a weak country following Independence and Partition; during that time, Sardar Patel arrived and made significant efforts to bring all of the Princely States under the Republic of India's flag. The Princely States of Hyderabad and Goa refused to support Sardar Patel's agenda after signing the majority of the independent States back in the Indian Republic. And at that point, he made the crucial choice to occupy both of the Princely States by force. He made an effort to negotiate with the Princely State of Hyderabad, but his efforts were unsuccessful. He sent the Indian Army to attack the demonstrators, and a few days later, India annexed the Princely State of Hyderabad. Sardar Patel was certain that consolidation, rather



than division motivated by language or religion, was what India's future held. He merged the small independent states into administratively feasible divisions, transformed the face of India, and sparked a new wave of nationalism since he believed the country to be one unified entity. He did not want this spirit to be used as a breeding ground for future splintering factions. Because of this, he gave our constitution's founding documents his whole attention.

On April 29, 1947, Sardar Patel delivered the Constituent Assembly's Interim Report on the topic of Fundamental Rights in his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Committee. He suggested that the Fundamental Rights be split into two categories: the Non-Justiciable Rights category and the Justiciable Rights category. The committee compiled a list of these justiciable fundamental rights. The Interim Report addressed these issues. The Constituent Assembly approved the majority of the Committee's recommendations. The following statement accurately sums up the attitude of the Constituent Assembly toward this matter: "The history of our country, the composition of its population, ideological differences among the different sections of the population, our social traditions, and requirements of true democracy, all necessitated it." Patel stated, "Our mission is to satisfy everyone. At the very least, let us demonstrate that we are capable of ruling ourselves and that we have aspirations to rule others."

Impact of Sardar Patel in obtaining Public Support

On July 11, 1920, the Gujarat Political Conference's executive committee adopted a resolution endorsing the non-cooperation campaign at

Vallabhabhai's urging. Gandhiji surrendered to the Viceroy his Boer War Medal, the Zulu War Medal, and the Kaiser-e-Hind Medal awarded by the British Government on August 1, 1920 (the day Lokmanya Tilak passed away), and he declared the start of the nationwide noncooperation movement. For his part, Vallabhabhai believed that India was being duped by false and deceptive reform promises. The people were kept in check by the government policies because they sapped their energy and strength. He stated in a speech given to the Gujarat Political Conference from August 27 to 29, 1920. The administration needs to make a significant shift in its perspective. The Indian people must be the priority when running the government. When the government is governed to serve the interests of foreigners and only those concessions are made to us that are acceptable to the British, what do we really stand to gain by falling into the reform trap? There is no assurance that what occurred in Punjab won't happen again. The Congress's original goal of Dominion Status inside the British Empire was replaced with the goal of achieving total independence through peaceful and legal means at the Nagpur Congress Session at the end of 1920. Vallabhabhai argued because he was so vehemently drawn to the concept of independence.

Patel Participation in 1928 Bardoli Satyagraha

The medieval Gujarati city of Bardoli is well-known for its recent past. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, known as the Iron Man of India, had a close connection to the city. During India's struggle for independence, it saw significant historical occurrences. Soon after Gandhi began his rebellion against British control, Bardoli



took the lead in this revolution. This Surat district taluk has been very important to the movement. The Bardoli Satyagraha, which took place in 1928, was the most important event. The history of the Indian freedom fight and Sardar Patel's political career were both impacted by this movement. The largest civil disobedience movement against British rule was founded on this satyagraha. The Bardoli land tax was increased by the government in 1928. One of Gujarat's most well-known and prominent leaders was VallabhBhai Patel. Vallabhabhai had laid the foundation for a stronger relationship with the peasants in the Bardoli taluka in 1925, relying on his intuition. Together with a few other Gandhiji disciples, he had developed a relationship with the locals. The Bardoli Satyagraha had far-reaching effects in terms of both time and location, and its effects persisted well into the American Independence. Subhash Chandra Bose and Rajaji both alluded to Vallabhabhai's "great part in Indian history" and his "glorious victory," and there was a deluge of congrats letters from all over the nation. Sarojini Naidu commented that Vallabhabhai had "translated Gandhiji's teachings into a practical, dynamic action" and had demonstrated "an amazing power of organization... twice within a year." At the end of the Bardoli Satyagraha, Vallabhabhai Patel was left with the honorific title of "Sardar."

Dandi March to 'Quit India' agitation

Gandhi made the decision to launch his civil disobedience movement in February 1929 by breaching the Salt Act. He instructed Sardar Patel to make the required arrangements, such as looking for an appropriate settlement along the shore, planning a route there, and preparing food for the Satyagrahis who

would be traveling with them. Vallabhabhai suggested the Surat district village of Dandi and mapped a 241-mile route there from Ahmedabad's Sabarmati Ashram. Gandhiji planned for his march to start on March 12. Vallabhabhai was detained on March 7 in the village of Ras for violating a prohibition on his public speaking, tried by the district collector of Surat, and found guilty, receiving a three-month term of simple jail and a fine of Rs. 500. He was sent to Sabarmati Jail in Ahmedabad after refusing to pay the fine. Gandhiji breached the Salt Act on April 6th during his planned Dandi March. For several days after that, hordes of Satyagrahis imitated him, and the prisons soon overflowed with them. After threatening to escalate the movement, Gandhiji was taken into custody on May 5 and lodged in Pune's Yeravada Jail. He was detained once more on July 31 and he was sentenced to three months in jail at the Yeravada Jail in Pune. He met Gandhi Yeravada Jail. This time, the arrest of Vallabhabhai was followed by 'no tax payments' in the talukas of Bardoli and Borsad, and the police brutality increased. On August 7, during the first day of the historic session, Jawaharlal Nehru submitted the resolution to "Quit India" to a vote following Gandhi's address. The Session passed a resolution on August 8 demanding the British to leave India and warning them that failure to do so would trigger a nonviolent uprising that would affect the entire country. Gandhi's fervent call for the people to "do or die" was so powerful that many people who had previously shied away from the freedom struggle felt that they had to join the "Quit India" movement. Even though other political parties opposed the campaign and the British used brutal methods of repression, the viceroy Winston Churchill said that the Quit India movement was "by



far the most serious rebellion since that of 1857." Over 100,000 individuals were detained, and many of them died in incidents of violence against police. All around India, there were strikes, protests, and other revolutionary movements. When Patel was freed on June 15, 1945, he learned that the British were drafting plans to give Indian hands control of the government.

Sardar Patel's action Plan

Sardar Patel believed that handling the issues surrounding princely status delicately would be essential to prevent the emergence of an unidentified third force, which would jeopardize the nation's future unity. The princes were pleaded with by Sardar for goodwill and a peaceful transfer of their status to India. As seen by the numerous encouraging responses he got from the leaders of the several states, his appeal had an electrifying effect on the princes. By telling them it would be beneficial for them to join the Dominion of India, Sardar could encourage them by regaining their confidence in them. With the backing of the majority of the princely states, this action by Sardar proved his contribution to the creation of a powerful Indian country. In order to prevent the formation of a third force, which would be devastating for the nation's unity, he could see that was the most appropriate time for the Status to be included into the Indian Union. Sardar Patel's achievement in creating the Indian country through a process of bloodless integration was a singular feat. The only way to bring a nation that had never been united under one flag was through a peaceful process of accession to the status. It was in fact peaceful integration and a significant step toward constructing the nation. Sardar Patel had a strong grasp on the populace

and believed in their power. To set free and unite India, Patel enlisted the help and support of the Princes. He came to the realization that the princes would heed his advice if they could regard him as a friend. They need to be persuaded that Sardar Patel would protect their interests. It took such a considerate gesture to win back the prince's trust. Thus, Sardar's success was in his astute management of the circumstance, which resulted from the loss of paramountcy. One might notice it in his response to the issues facing royal states. He was thinking strategically.

Unification of India under Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel

By giving all 573 Native Princely States sovereignty, the British had not only divided India in two at the time of their departure, but also broken her up into innumerable parts. The Doctrine of Paramountcy, which affirmed the primacy of British interests, was developed by the British when they established their control in India. Although the Doctrine was never explicitly stated, there was unquestionably more subordination than cooperation in its application. On June 27, 1947, Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel took over leadership of the newly established Department of Native States. He was determined to use all of his resources to stop the harm caused by the Paramountcy's collapse and eager to navigate the maze until he could realize his vision of a United India. Vallabhabhai Patel managed the native State leaders with consummate dexterity as subsequent events developed. He took advantage of their nationalism, common sense, and ego; he capitalized on the historical trends that served as warnings to autocratic regimes; he adopted all the shrewd negotiator's tricks; and he offered them reasonable compensations for their loss of position



and power. Vallabhabhai Patel's skillful maneuvers and overtures in this regard lead to peaceful integration.

Indian Constitution and Sardar Patel

The Constituent Assembly has been working on creating the Constitution for the newly formed Union of India since December 9th, 1946. Several advisory groups were established for this reason. Sardar Patel was in charge of the Provincial Constitution Committee, the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, the Committee on Minorities, and the Committee on Tribal and Excluded Areas. Each of these Committees was given a specific assignment to complete. The current proposal in this piece is to assess Sardar Patel's contribution to the operation of these committees, particularly the Fundamental Rights Committee and the Minorities Committee. On January 26, 1950, India proclaimed itself a Sovereign Democratic Republic with a federal system of government by adopting a written constitution. The Indian federation has a powerful central government, and the federal constitution can be made unitary in an emergency. Residuary authority is granted to the Center. The Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List are three lists of subject matter that make up the 395 Articles of the Constitution. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy are also included. A secular state is India. The Union Council of Ministers, the Vice President, and the President hold executive authority. Following the British model, the Executive answers to the Parliament. The legislature has two houses. Compared to the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the House of the People (Lok Sabha) has more authority. The work of the Indian Parliament has been

admirable. The Supreme Court of India, which has extensive original and appellate jurisdictions, is in charge of the judiciary. India has a solitary, integrated legal system, in contrast to certain other democratic nations. The States Reorganization Commission Report states that the States were reformed in 1956 on the basis of language. There are currently 28 States as well as 7 Union Territories. Each state has a separate executive, legislative branch, and judicial branch. The Governor and the Cabinet are granted executive authority in the State. A bicameral legislature is present in the majority of States. The State's High Court is its highest court. The original Constitution has undergone 93 Amendments (as of 31.3.2006) to keep up with changing circumstances. In this essay, an evaluation of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel's contribution to the creation of the original Constitution is made. Like other social scientists, political scientists have developed specific investigation techniques to broaden the body of knowledge in their field. These approaches combine deductive and inductive thinking. In order to assess Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel's role in nation-building through his contribution to the country's freedom struggle, the unification of India, and the formulation of the Indian Constitution, the researcher primarily used the historical method (as opposed to historiography), one of the inductive methods. The historical research approach used in political science is the most suited method for the objectives of the current work because these three phenomena happened in a specific chronological order. Under the direction of the Political Science, the task has been done.



Conclusion

Sardar Patel controlled Indian politics, devoted his life to the cause of freedom, and restructured the Indian National Congress. He oversaw delicate ministries including Home and the States after Independence. He merged the princely States after the Partition and reorganized the government. Patel was a key contributor to the creation of the Indian Constitution and helped lay the groundwork for democratic democracy. As a result, he became known as the "Iron Man," a wise politician, and the father of modern India. Sardar Patel became command of the States Department and was in charge of 565 princely states joining the Union of India, which was to become his greatest enduring accomplishment. Nehru praised him by referring to Sardar as "the builder and consolidator of new India." Patel and Nehru made up an uncommon duo. They enhanced one another. Respect and appreciation were shared by the two outstanding leaders of the Indian National Congress. Sardar Patel made a tremendous and unparalleled contribution to the fight for Indian independence. Both had a passionate love for their nation and its independence. They also had a great deal of respect for one another, but jealous and interested parties were constantly trying to enlarge the gap between them. At one point, things became so bad that Sardar was ready to resign from the government. He wrote, "If under these circumstances you permit me to relations with the government, I am confident that it will act and differently," to Ganthi with a heavy heart. If I start to burden long-time colleagues and cause you anguish while still holding onto my position that would indicate that my quest for power has made me blind, which is why I refuse to resign. Set me free from this horrible situation,

please. However, it is also true that Sardar Patel was a leader who was driven by a strong sense of necessity in everyday life. He put his beliefs into action. While Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a wonderful man of great deeds, he was not a brilliant philosopher. That is where Sardar Patel's greatness lies.

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