



Political Integration of Sardar Vallabhai Patel

Dr. B. Prabhakara Rao, Academic Consultant,
Dept of Political Science and Public Administration,
Vikrama Simhapuri University, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Abstract : *This paper present is made to study of Sardar Vallabhai Patel,s in successfully achieving the integration of Indian states into Indian Union. The Sardar Vallabhai Patel is called the "Iron man of India for his courage and will power .He is occupies a unique position in the history of modern India .He is a prominent leader of the Indian National Congress and played a leading role in the Country's struggle for Independence.*

Key words: *colonial provinces, Indian Integrity,*

Introduction

Sardar Vallabhai Patel is called the "Iron man of India for his courage and will power. The Nation Salute for Sardar Vallabhai patel 141 birth anniversary celebration of the Nation " Rastriya Ekta Divas" announced by Our Prime minister Narendra modiji and also buildup 182 meters statue to beyond the Narmadha River in Gujarath State. It will be the Highest Statue in the World. Sardar Vallabhai Patel was the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India. He organized relief camps for refugees in Punjab and Delhi. He was the man behind the consolidation of 554 semi-autonomous princely states to form a united India. He suffered a major heart attack within two months of Gandhi's death. He died on 15 December 1950. He was a man of courage and determination and in the true sense the 'Iron Man of India'.

Vallabhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875 at Nadiad, in the Kaira district of Gujarat, Vallabh Bhai Patel was the son of Zaverbhai Galabhai Patel . He was a great political and social leader of India who played a major role in the country's struggle for independence and subsequently guided its integration into a

united, independent nation. He was called the "Iron Man of India", and was often addressed as "Sardar" which means "Chief" or "Leader" in many languages of India. He did his matriculation at the age of 22. He seemed to be an ordinary person to everyone around him, but had strong will power. He wanted to become a barrister. At the age of 36, he went to England to fulfill his dream and joined Middle Temple Inn. He completed his 36-month course in just 30 months. After returning to India he became one of the most successful barristers of Ahmadabad.

Vallabhai Patel already had a successful practice as a lawyer when he was first inspired by the work and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Patel subsequently organised the peasants of Kheda, Borsad, and Bardoli in Gujarat in a non-violent civil disobedience movement against oppressive policies imposed by the British Raj; in this role, he became one of the most influential leaders in Gujarat. He rose to the leadership of the Indian National Congress and was at the forefront of rebellions and political events, organizing the party for elections in 1934 and 1937, and promoting the Quit India movement.



As the first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of India, Patel organized relief for refugees in Punjab and Delhi, and led efforts to restore peace across the nation. Patel took charge of the task to forge a united India from the 565 semi-autonomous princely states and British-era colonial provinces. Using frank diplomacy backed with the option of military action, Patel's leadership enabled the accession of almost every princely state. Hailed as the Iron Man of India, he is also remembered as the "Patron Saint" of India's civil servants for establishing modern all-India services. Patel was also one of the earliest proponents of property rights and free enterprise in India.

Soon after the Indian Independence, 565 princely states, some of which were ruled by Maharajas and others by *Nawabs*, started believing they would become independent rulers of their kingdoms as in the pre-British era. They argued that the government of free India should treat them as equals. It was Sardar Patel's insight, wisdom and diplomacy that drove sense into the minds of the monarchs who agreed accession to the Indian Republic. After his death the Government presented "Bharat Rathna" (1991), remember his services for Indian Integrity.

Political integration of India

This event formed the cornerstone of Patel's popularity in post-independence era and even today, he is remembered as the man who united India. Lord Mount Batton announced on 3rd June, 1947, India will get independence before 15th August, 1947. When that time India has more than 562 princely states were given the option of joining either India or Pakistan, or choosing independence. Indian nationalists and large segments of

the public feared that if these states did not accede, most of the people and territory would be fragmented. The Congress as well as senior British officials considered Patel the best man for the task of achieving unification of the princely states with the Indian dominion. Gandhi had said to Patel "*the problem of the States is so difficult that you alone can solve it*". He was considered a statesman of integrity with the practical acumen and resolve to accomplish a monumental task. Patel asked V.P. Menon, a senior civil servant with whom he had worked over the partition of India, to become his right-hand as chief secretary of the States Ministry. On 6 May 1947, Patel began lobbying the princes, attempting to make them receptive towards dialogue with the future Government and trying to forestall potential conflicts. Patel used social meetings and unofficial surroundings to engage most monarchs, inviting them to lunch and tea at his home in Delhi. At these meetings, Patel stated that there was no inherent conflict between the Congress and the princely order. Nonetheless, he stressed that the princes would need to accede to India in good faith by 15 August 1947. Patel invoked the patriotism of India's monarchs, asking them to join in the freedom of their nation and act as responsible rulers who cared about the future of their people. He persuaded the princes of 565 states of the impossibility of independence from the Indian republic, especially in the presence of growing opposition from their subjects. He proposed favourable terms for the merger, including creation of *privy purses* for the descendants of the rulers. While encouraging the rulers to act with patriotism, Patel did not rule out force, setting a deadline of 15 August 1947 for



them to sign the instrument of accession document. All of the states willingly merged into the Indian union but only three of Princely states Jammu and Kashmir, Junagadh, and Hyderabad did not agree to join the Indian union.

Junagadh was particularly to Patel, since it was in his home state of Gujarat and also because this Kathiawar district had the ultra-rich Somnath temple which had been plundered 17 times by Mahmud of Ghazni who broke the temple and its idols to rob it of its riches, emeralds, diamonds and gold. The Nawab had under pressure from Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto acceded to Pakistan. It was however, quite far from Pakistan and 80% of its population was Hindu. Patel combined diplomacy with force, demanding that Pakistan annul the accession, and that the Nawab accede to India. He sent the Army to occupy three principalities of Junagadh to show his resolve. Following widespread protests and the formation of a civil government, or *Aarzi Hukumat*, both Bhutto and the Nawab fled to Karachi, and under Patel's orders, Indian Army and police units marched into the state. A plebiscite later organised produced a 99.5% vote for merger with India. In a speech at the Bahauddin College in Junagadh following the latter's take-over, Patel emphasised his feeling of urgency on Hyderabad, which he felt was more vital to India than Kashmir:

If Hyderabad does not see the writing on the wall, it goes the way Junagadh has gone. Pakistan attempted to set off Kashmir against Junagadh. When we raised the question of settlement in a democratic way, they (Pakistan) at once told us that they would consider it if we applied that policy to Kashmir. Our reply was that we would agree to Kashmir if

they agreed to Hyderabad. Hyderabad was the largest of the princely states, and included parts of present-day Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra states. Its ruler, the Nizam Osman Ali Khan was a Muslim, although over 80% of its people were Hindu. The Nizam sought independence or accession with Pakistan. Muslim forces loyal to Nizam, called the Razakars, under Qasim Razvi pressed the Nizam to hold out against India, while organising attacks on people on Indian soil. Even though a Standstill Agreement was signed due to the desperate efforts of Lord Mountbatten to avoid a war, the Nizam rejected deals and changed his positions. In September 1948, Patel emphasised in Cabinet meetings that India should talk no more, and reconciled Nehru and the Governor-general, Chakravarthula Rajgopalachari to military action. Following preparations, Patel ordered the Indian Army to invade Hyderabad when Nehru was touring Europe. The action was termed Operation Polo, in which thousands of Razakar forces had been killed, but Hyderabad was forcefully secured and integrated into the Indian Union. The main aim of Mountbatten and Nehru in avoiding a forced annexation was to prevent an outbreak of Hindu-Muslim violence. Patel insisted that if Hyderabad was allowed to continue as an independent nation enclave surrounded by India, the prestige of the Government would fall and then neither Hindus nor Muslims would feel secure in its realm. After defeating Nizam, Patel retained him as the ceremonial chief of state, and held talks with him.



Conclusion:

The above discussion, I can say that Vallabhai Patel had beginning his life from small peasant family in Kaira district of Gujarat. He was exposed keen interest of the formation of united India. He occupies a unique position in the history of modern India. Sardar Vallabhai Patel in successfully achieving the integration of Indian states into Indian Union. The Sardar Vallabhai Patel is nation called the "Iron man of India for his courage and will power .

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