

An Ironman, Known for Visionary Administration; Freedom Fighter and Unification of India: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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I. INTRODUCTION

Sardar Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel, one of the six children of Jhaverbhai and Smt Ladba, who is said to have born on October 311875 as per his matriculation certificate, at Nadiad Gujarat, and and belonged to an agricultural, Lewa Patidar community, and termed in economic status as lower middle class. Being lack of educational tradition of the community (because of poverty), Vallabhbhai's childhood spent away from books, but in the ancestral fields at Karamsad. He passed out Middle School in his late teens and joined high school at Nadiad, where he got matriculated in 1897. Even from his growing young age Patel had displayed qualities of leadership and organization which came in help for his future role of career development. He had also inherited from his father, who advised him to fight in the mutiny under Rani Laxmi Bhai of Jhansi and subsequently taken prisoner by Malher Rao Halkar.

Owing to impecunious circumstances after passing out his matriculation examination, being higher education out of his reach, Patel undertook course of law, District Pleader's examination and set up county lawyers , established a small practice at Godhra by setting up an independent District Pleader's Office in 1900. But by sufferance of an epidemic Plague, he was forced to shift for Naida and then to Borsad, a town in Kheda district in 1902, where he conducted a number of criminal cases. Despite his desire to qualify as a Barrister in England, but owing to certain domestic circumstances, he couldn't.

II. POLITICAL CAREER

Being impressed by the fearless leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to stand for the rights of public good, Sardar Patel was the staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1917 he was also elected Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha, a political body providing great assistance to Gandhi ji in his campaigns. Sardar Patel also faced calamities like plague in 1917 and famine in 1918, by involving himself in reliefs to the distressed face by the people of Gujarat.

The association of Patel with Mahatma Gandhi during 1918, Kheda Satyagraha, so launched for seeking exemptions of land revenue assessment upon failure of crops, which went on for three months, in consequence of which the incidences of arrests, seizure of goods, chattels and live stocks besides brutality before such relief was secured from the adamant Colonial Government. It was the firm opinion of Gandhi ji himself that if the assistance of Vallabhbhai had not been there "this campaign would not have been carried through so successfully " The period between 1917 to 1922 was popularly related to the popular agitation in India besides the end of the war was followed by Rowlatt Act, inflicting curtailment of individual freedom. The chain of movements further led to the Khilafat movement, involving with massacres and terror in Punjabi. Gandhi ji launched non- non-cooperation movement. In

the wake of such an important course of agitation, Sardar Patel left his legal practice for the sake of such an important issue of Indian freedom and devoted full time to political and constructive work for public good, but undertaking continuous tours of villages, addressing meetings organizing picketing of foreign cloth.shops and liquor sh6. Then came Bardoli Satyagraha, launched against the increased assessment of land revenue from Bardoli taluka by twenty two percent, even in some villages from fifty to sixty percent . To oppose the same the agriculturists of the Taluka in a conference held in February 1928 even decided to withhold the said exorbitantly enhanced land revenue under the leadership of Vallabhbhai Patel (1)

The said struggle was so grim and bitter, that the Colonial Rule resorted to seizure of property and live stocks to such extent that for days to end the people themselves and their buffaloes lock in. The arrests entailed with brutalities of police and hired Pathans and thus this struggle drew attention of the entire country. Patels and Tulatis resigned from



their jobs and the government revenue remained unrealized. Such a situation of revolt at large, forced the government to review and hold enquiry to what extent the increase could be justified. Pending decision thereto the realization of increased land revenue was postponed. This successful agitation established Vallabhbhai's faith among peasants of Bardoli, thus was given title of Sardar by more than one lakh. Peasants of Bardoli (2)

In September 1917, Patel delivered a speech at Borsad, where he encouraged Indians across nationwide to sign Gandhi's petition demanding Swaraj (self rule) from British, a month later he met Gandhi ji for the first time at The Gujarat Political Conference in Godhra. On Gandhi ji's encouragement, Patel became the Secretary of the Gujarat Sabha, a public body that would become a Gujarati arm of the Indian National Congress. Patel thereafter fought energetically against both (the forced servitude of Indians to Europeans) and organized relief efforts in the wake of plague (as already stated) and famine in Kheda (3).

In 1908 Patel lost his wife, by leaving behind a son and a daughter born from her. As a lower Patel distinguished himself in presenting an unassailable case in a precise manner and in challenging police witnesses and British Judges. After death of his wife in 1908 Patel chose to remain widower throughout his remaining life. In August 1910 Patel travelled for London to study Middle temple, where he studied very diligently and passed the final examination with honour he returned India in 1913

Since 1917 Patel found the course of his life changed, by adhering to the Satyagraha (policy of nonviolence,) so far as it furthered the Indian struggle against the British. But he didn't identify himself with Gandhi's moral conviction and ideals and regarded Gandhi ji's emphasis on their universal application as irrelevant to India's immediate political, economic and social problems. Nevertheless, having resolved to follow and support Gandhi ji, he changed his style and appearance. He quit the Gujarat Club, dressed in white clothes of the Indian peasants and ate in an Indian manner.

As Gandhi embarked on the Dandi march, Patel was arrested in the village of Ras and was put on trial without witness with no lawyer or journalist allowed to attend Patel's arrest and subsequent arrest caused the Salt Satyagraha to greatly intensify in Gujarat districts across Gujarat launched an anti tax rebellion until and unless Patel and Gandhi were released (4). Once released, Patel served as interim Congress President, but was rearrested while leading procession in Bombay. After signing of the Gandhi - Irwin Pact, Patel was elected President of Congress in its 1931 session in Karachi, where Congress ratified the pact and committed itself to the defence of fundamental rights and liberties. It advocated for the establishment of a secular nation with minimum wage and abolition of untouchability. Patel made his all efforts being Congress President for the return of the confiscated land to farmers in Gujarat (5). It was Patel in 1934 who became Congress's main fundraiser and Chairman of its Central Parliamentary Board with the vital role of selecting candidates for the 1934 Central Legislative Assembly and 1936 Provincial elections. Under his close guidance Governments in provinces were formed, and advised all Ministers to preserve party disciplines so as to give no chance of ultra party difference for which the British were closely watching, but to stand for complete independence, being the main goal behind. (6). Patel clashed with Nehru opposing the declaration of the adoption of secularism by the Congress at its 136 session, which he believed to be a diversion from the main goal of achieving independence.

III. VITHALBHAI PATEL AND SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

Vithalbai, the elder brother of Vallabhbhai Patel, and Subhas Chandra Bose, both had been critical of Gandhi's leadership during their travels in Europe. Vithalbai died being Barrister by profession but being a true patriotic son of India had left a will, whereby he had bequeathed three quarters of his money to Bose for promoting the cause of India in other countries.

3.1 Quit India Movement

Upon the outbreak of World War II, Patel supported Nehru's decision to withdraw the Congress from Central and Provincial legislatures, contrary to Gandhi's advice, as well as the initiative by Senior leader Chakravarthi Rajagopalacharya to offer Congress full support to Britain if it promised Indian independence at the end of the war and installed a democratic government right away. Gandhi had refused to support Britain on the grounds of the moral opposition to war, while Subhas Chandra Bose was in militant opposition to the British. The British Government rejected Rajagopalachari's initiative and Patel embarrassed Gandhi's leadership again (8). He participated in Gandhi's



call for individual disobedience and was arrested in 1940 and was imprisoned for nine months. He Also Opposed the proposal of criggs mission 1942. Patel lost more than twenty pounds weight during his period of imprisonment.

Although Nehru, Rajagopalachari and Maulana Azad initially criticized Gandhi's proposal for an all out campaign of civil disobedience, Patel was its most fervent supporter. Arguing that the British would retreat from India as they had lost from Singapore and Burma, Patel urged that campaign start without delay (9) though feeling that the British would not leave immediately, Patel favored an all out rebellion that would galvanize the Indian people, who had been divided in their response to the war. In Patel's view ,such a rebellion would force the British to concede that continuation of colonial rule had no support in India, and thus speedup the transfer of power to Indiana (10). Believing strongly in the need for revolt, Patel started his intention to resign from the Congress if the revolt was not approved (11). Gandhi ji strongly pressured the All India Congress Committee to approve an all out campaign of civil disobedience, and ultimately the AICC approved the campaign on 7th August 1942. Though Patel's health had suffered during his stint jail, he delivered emotional speeches to large crowds across India (12), asking them to refuse to pay taxes and to participate in civil disobedience, mass protests and the shutdown of all civil services. He raised funds and prepared a second tier of command as a precaution against the arrests of national leaders (13). Patel made a climatic speech before more than one lakh People's gathering at Gowalia Tank in Bombay on 7th August 1942;

"The Governor of Burma boasts in London that they left Burma only after reducing everything to dust. So you promise the same thing to India?..you refer in your radio broadcasts and newspapers about the government established in Burma by Japan as a puppet government? What sort of government do you have in Delhi now?..when France fell before the Nazi onslaught, in the midst of war.

Mr Churchill offered Union with England to the French. That was indeed a stroke of inspired statesmanship. But when it comes to India? Oh no! Constitutional changes midst of war? Absolutely unthinkable.... The objective this time is to free India before the Japanese can come and be ready to fight them if they come. They will round up all. Then it will be the duty of every Indian to put forth his utmost effort within nonviolence. No source is to be left untapped. No weapon untried. This is going to be opportunity of a lifetime"(14).

Historians believe that this Patel's speech was Instrumental in electrifying nationalists, who upto them had been sceptical of the proposed rebellion. Patel's organizing work in this period is credited by historians with ensuring the success of the rebellion across India (15). Patel was arrested on 9th August 1942, and was imprisoned with the entire Congress Working Committee from 1942 to 1945 at the fort in Ahmednagar. Here he spun cloth, played bridge, read large number of books, took long walks and practised gardening. He also provided emotional support to his colleagues while awaiting news and developments from outside (16). Patel was deeply pained at the news of the death of Mahadev Desai and Kasturba Gandhi later that year. Patel wrote a letter to his daughter that he and his colleagues were experiencing "fullest peace " for having done their duty (17).

The Quit India Movement was " by far the most serious rebellion since that of 1857: as the Viceroy cables to Winston Churchill. More than one lakh people were arrested and a number of protesters were killed in violent confrontation with the Indian Imperial Police. Strikes, protests and other revolutionary activities had broken out across India (18). When Patel was released on 15th June 1945, he realized that the British government was preparing proposals to transfer power to Indians.

3.2 Partition of India

Dismissing the idea of Pakistan as Jinnah's " mad dream " Sardar Patel reacted with indignation at the suggestion that the Congress might help Jinnah in realizing those dreams. To him the idea of seeing India divided was unacceptable. However once it dawned upon him that the partition was going to be reality, he came around and decided to use his influence to see that the Congress also accepted. He didn't wish that the Nation should break out in civil war

In 1946, Indian Provincial elections, the Congress won a large majority of the elected seats dominated by the Hindu electorates. However Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah won a large number of Muslim electorate seats. The Muslim League had resolved in 1940 to demand Pakistan- an Independent state for Muslims- and was a fierce critic of the Congress. The Congress formed governments in all provinces, save Sindh, Punjab and Bengal, where it entered into coalition with other parties.



When the British Cabinet Mission proposed two plans for transfer of power, there was considerable opposition within the Congress to both. The plan of 16th May 1946, proposed a loose federation's with extensive provincial autonomy and the grouping of provinces based on religious majority. The plan of 16 May 1946 proposed the partition of India on religious lines with over 565 princely states free to choose between independence or accession to either dominion. The League approved both plans, while Congress flatly rejected the proposal of 16th May 1946. Gandhi termed May 16th proposal being inherently divisive, but Patel, while realizing that the rejection of the said proposal would mean that only the League would be invited to form a government. He lobbied the Congress Working Committee hard to give its assent to the 16 May proposal. However, Patel engaged in discussions with Sir, Stafford Cripps and Lord Pethick Lawrence and obtained assurances that the grouping clause would not be given practical force. Patel moulded Pandit Nehru, Dr Rajinder Prasad and Rajagopalacharya to accept the plan. When the League retracted its approval of 16th May plan, the Viceroy Lord Wavell invited Congress to form a government. Under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was styled as the "Vice President of the Viceroy's Executive Council " Patel took the charge of the department's of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting as well as of the Ministry of States. He moved in to a government house on Aurangzeb Road in Delhi, which would be his home until his death in 1950(19).

Knowing Gandhi's deep anguish over the proposal of partition, Patel engaged him in frank discussions in private meetings and found that as the practically unworkability of any Congress- League coalition, rising violence and the threat of civil war. At the All India Congress Committee meeting called to vote on the proposal, Patel said;

"I fully appreciate the fears of our brothers (from the Muslim majority areas). Nobody likes the division of India and my heart is heavy. But choice is between one division or many divisions. We must face facts. We can't give way to emotionalism and sentimentality. The working Committee has not acted out of fear. But I am afraid of one thing, that all our toil and hard work of these many years might go waste or prove unfruitful. My nine months in office has completely disillusioned me regarding the supposed merits of the Cabinet Mission Plan. Except for a few honourable exceptions, Muslim officials from the top to the Chaprasi (Peons or servants) are working for the League. The communal veto given to the League in the Mission Plan would have blocked India's progress at every stage. Whether we like it or not, de facto Pakistan already exists in Punjab and Bengal. Under the circumstances, I would prefer to de Jure Pakistan, which may make the League more responsible. Freedom is coming. We have 75 to 80 percent of India, which we can make strong with our own genius. The League can develop the rest of the country "(20).

After Gandhi rejected and Congress approved the plan, Patel represented India on the Partition Council (21), where he oversaw the division of the public assets, and selected the India's Council of Ministers with Nehru (22). However neither Patel nor any other Indian leader had foreseen the intense violence and population transfer that would take visit with partition. Patel took the leading organizing relief and emergency supplies, establishing refugee camps and visiting the border areas with Pakistani leaders to encourage peace. Despite these efforts, the death toll is estimated between five lakhs to one million people (23). The estimated number of refugees in both countries exceeds 15 millions (24). Understanding that Delhi and Punjabi policemen, accused of organizing attacks, Patel called out the Indian Army with south Indian regiments to restore order, while imposing strict curfew and shoot on sight orders. He suppressed from the press reports of atrocities in Pakistan against Hindus and Sikhs to prevent retaliatory violence. Patel addressed a massive crowd of 2 lakhs refugees who had surrounded his car after meeting;

"Here in the same city(Amritsar), the blood of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims mingled in the bloodbath of Jallian Walla Bagh. I am grieved to think that the things have come to such a pass that no Muslim can go about the Amritsar and no Hindu of Sikh can ever think of living in Lahore. The butchery of innocent and defenseless men, women and children does not behove brave men...I am quite certain that India's interest lies in getting all her men and women across the border and sending out all Muslims from East Punjab. I have come to you with specific appeal "Pledge the Safety of Muslim refugees crossing the city. Any obstacles or hindrances will only worsen the plights of our refugees who are already performing prodigious feats of endurance. If we have to fight must wait an appropriate time and conditions and you must be watchful in choosing your ground. To fight against refugees is no fight at all. No law of humanity or war among honourable men permit the murder of people who have sought shelter and protection. Let there be truce for three months in which both sides can exchange their refugees. This sort of truce is permitted even by laws of war. Let us take the initiative in breaking this vicious circle of attacks and counter attacks. Hold your hands for a week and see



what happens. Make way for the refugees with your own force of volunteers and let them deliver the refugees Safety at your Frontier (25)

IV. ICON OF NATION BUILDING

4.1 Integration of India

India as of today, owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the vision, tact, diplomacy and pragmatic approach of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the indomitable leader, who Integrated 562 princely states with the Union of India and prevented the Balkanization of the newly independent country.

Upon independence, India was divided into two sets of territories, one being under the direct British Rule and other under suzerainty of the British control, with control over the internal affairs remaining in the hands of their hereditary rulers. The later included 562 princely states having different types of revenue sharing arrangements with British, often depending on their size, population and their local conditions. In addition there were several colonial enclaves controlled by France and Portugal. The political integration of these territories with India was declared objective of the Government of India and was pursued the same for over next decade. Through a combination of factors, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and V.P. Menon made efforts for accession of the princely states with India. Aftermath of securing such accessions, they stepped further in phases, to secure and extend the Union Government's authority over these states and transform administration until 1956, thereby leaving very little distance between the territories so held by the British India and that of princely states. Simultaneously, the Government of India, through combination of military and diplomatic means, acquired de facto and de Jure control over the remaining colonial enclaves, which too were integrated into India.

In December 1947, princes from the Eastern India Agency and the Chattisgarh Agency were summoned to an all night meeting with Menon, where they were persuaded to sign the Merger agreements integrating their states into Orissa, Central Provinces, and Bihar with effects from 1st January 1948 (26). Later that year 66 states in Gujarat and Deccan were Integrated into Bombay, including large states of Kolhapur and Baroda. Other small states were merged into Madras, East Punjab, West Bengal, United Provinces and Assam (27). Not all states that signed merger agreements were Integrated into provinces, thirty states of the former Punjab Hill States Agency were Integrated into Himachal Pradesh, a distinct entity which was administered directly by the center as a Chief Commissioner's Province for the reasons of security (28).

The Merger Agreements required rulers to cede "full and exclusive jurisdiction and powers for and in relation to governance" of their states. Their private properties were duly protected, besides also their protected titles and dignities (29).

A second kind of merger agreements were demanded from the larger states along sensitive border areas, Kutch in Western India and Tripura and Manipur in Northeast India. They were not merged into other states but retained as Chief Commissioner's Provinces under Central Government's control

The Integration of states took place in four steps i.e. Merger (31); Democratization (32); Centralization and Constitutionalization (33); and Reorganization (34).

After independence and partition, India was a weak nation, and that's when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel came and took substantial steps to unite all the princely states under the aegis of Indian Republic. After signing of most of the sovereign states back in the Indian, the princely state of Hyderabad and the princely state of Goa were not cooperating with the agenda of Sardar Patel. He tried to negotiate with princely state of Hyderabad but failed. So he sent the Indian Army to fight against protesters and within few days, the princely state of Hyderabad was merged in India

In case of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Patel had played very vital role on the crucial issues created by the British hegemony intended to keep this state in weak hands of Pakistan, so as to achieve her (British) long run goals being this state strategically very important on geographical and political reasons.

Lord Mountbatten the then Viceroy of India in the year 1947, the architect of partition of India with the motive behind aforesaid, conspired with the State of Jammu and Kashmir by drafting the Indian Independence Act 1947 in such a fashion that the Gurdaspur district of East Punjab the only possible access of the state with India was assigned with the territories of Pakistan so as to compel the ruler of the state Maharaja Hari Singh to accede with Pakistan (35). However because of the timely intervention of Sardar Patel (on the request of the then RSS Chief Guru Golwalkar ji) even

travelling contrary to the wishes of Pandit Nehru, he got said decision modified the Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan the member of the Boundary Commission headed by Radcliff, thereby getting Gurdaspur district with East Punjab by sacrificing in exchange Lahore to Pakistan. (36).

Only thereafter the instrument of accession was executed by Maharaja Hari Singh on 26th October 1947 and the India Army landed in Kashmir on 27th October 1947 only because of the bold step of Sardar Patel, though number of obstacles laid in way by Lord Mountbatten and Pandit Nehru for which Indian nation as whole more particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir state were made to face the consequences thereof in the face of draconian provisions of Article 370 read with backdoors provisions of Article 35A..

4.2 Indian Civil Services

Moving ahead towards establishment of the Civil Services Cadre of free India, substituting British India services cadres, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel convened a conference of Provincial Premiers on 20th and 21st October 1946, which was attended by prominent stalwarts like Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant from United Province, T. Prakasam from Madras, B.H.Kher from Bombay. Sri Krishana Sinha from Bihar, Hare Krishna Maharaja from Orissa, Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla from Central Province, Gopinath Bardoloi from Assam, and Dr Khan Sahib from Northwest Frontier Province. Some states were also represented by their senior officers.

Sardar Patel in his introductory remarks raised the question of whether a central or provincial service should replace the Indian Civil Service and the India Police, recruitment to which has been stopped by the Secretary of State of India in view of the impending constitutional changes. He expressed the central Government's support for the setting up of an "All India Administrative Service " and the advantages of such a service both to the centre and the provinces. Such an All India Service, he stated would facilitate liaison between centre and provinces, ensure certain uniformity and standards of administration, and keep the central administration in touch with the ground level realities in the provinces. He went on to emphasize that the Provincial administration would, on its part, acquire civil servants of a wider outlook and obtain the best material for the higher posts. The Home Minister emphasized that there was need for ensuring that the civil service was free from communal or party bias..

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel concluded the discussion by emphasizing the provincial premiers' general support to the proposal for the creation of the "All India Administrative Service and Indian Police Service. He expressed the hope that " after general scheme was framed, those who were at present not in favour, would be convinced that adequate allowance have been made for provincial susceptibilities regarding control and would agree to join in. (37). The debate in the Indian Constituent Assembly on giving constitutional status to All India Services, while mirroring deep differences among the members, highlights Sardar Patel's vision of civil services in making of new India and his resolve to translate that into practice. finally it was given constitutional shape with status under the constitution of India (38).

4.3 Sardar Patel- Parliamentary Democracy

The fascinating correspondence between Patel and Nehru over their powers between late 1947 and early 1948 illustrates the wider difficulties in comprehending conventions and of powers so usurped by Pandit Nehru posing himself to be Prime Minister and the cabinet. While Pandit Nehru believed that he had seniority over Sardar Patel and had to be respected as such (Nehru's letter dated 23rd December 1947). Patel was critical of Pandit Nehru's interference into matters which fall within his ministerial responsibilities (39)."The Prime Minister should influence by way of consultation, not by edit" Patel believed that his version was in accord with the UK practice of the cabinet system of government. But Patel always reached out to Nehru to ensure that their differences didn't come in the way of the government's ability to tackle the external aggression and internal strife.

4.4 Protection to Civil Services

In his speech on the floor of the Indian Constituent Assembly on 10th October 1949 he said "If you want an efficient All India Service, I advise you to allow the service to open their mouth freely. You will not have United India if you don't have a good All India Service which has independence to speak out of its mind "

Though accommodating and generous, Patel could be unsparing in upbraiding erring colleagues and responsible politicians (40).

14 Facts to Know, Why Patel is called " THE IRON MAN OF INDIA "

Fact No 1- Integration of 562 states into Republic of India.

Diplomacy, negotiations and his great foresight helped Sardar Patel in Integration of numerous princely states into the Indian Republic without any bloodshed. His all efforts in uniting the scattered nation leaves behind his biggest legacy, where his power of persuasion and his statesmanship came into full recognition

Fact No2- Contributions to the Indian Constituent Assembly

Sardar Patel- played vital role in the selection of members of the Drafting Committee. He took a strong stand on key issues such as fundamental rights, the position of Prime Minister, the election procedure of the President and the status of Jammu and Kashmir. He worked to ensure that the princely states accepted the Constitution of India, a pivotal step toward the unification of India.

Fact No.3. The Founder of All India Services

Sardar Patel- had been instrumental in founding th Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service

Fact No4 The Protector of Jammu and Kashmir

In September 1947,when Pakistan attempted to invade Kashmir, Sardar Patel ruthlessly protected Kashmir from Pakistan..It was at his instance Jammu and Kashmir acceded to India on 26th October 1947 and Indian Army landed in Kashmir on 27th October 1947.

Fact No5. A strong leader of the Non Cooperation Movement

During the Non Cooperative Movement he toured the country and recruited three lakh members and collected 15 lakhs cash towards party funds. His support to the non cooperation movement and Gandhian ideals of Satyagraha, aided by his oratory skills though short but straight from the heart would mark the beginning of the mass participation in the Indian freedom struggle.

Fact No 6. The Sardar of Indian Satyagraha in Absence of Gandhi ji

He led the Satyagraha in Nagpur in 1923 against British law banning the hoisting of the Indian flag. He was a great orator, leader, unifier who in absence of Gandhi ji kept his spirit of Satyagraha. Patel negotiated a settlement, which involved the release of prisoners and hoisting of the national flag in public.

Fact No 7 A Strong Voice Against Untouchability, Caste discrimination and voice for emancipation of women

In 1922,a session of the Indian National Congress, when Sardar Patel a separate enclosure for Dalits,instead of occupying a seat earmarked for him in the main enclosure, he straightway proceeded to the enclosure meant for Dalits and sat there and delivered his speech from that enclosure. During the Bardoli Satyagraha, Sardar Patel consulted with large number of women to prepare the strategy of the Satyagraha and brought them into the lexicon of politics. Sardar Patel's support to the Hindu Code Bill brought out his commitment to the rights of the women and their empowerment, by ensuring every citizen was treated equally.

Fact No 8 A Bold voice of Secular India

Every Muslim or any member of minority community should feel eternally from the core of his heart that he is Indian first and being Indian citizen has equal rights like any other Indian. In June 1947, on the issue of declaration India as the.Hindu state with Hinduism as the official religion, it was Sardar Patel who out rightly rejected the same by strongly endorsing Mahatma Gandhi's vision for a secular India and said " we must not forget that there are other minorities whose protection is our primary responsibility "

Fact No 9 A Strong voice for communal harmony

In 1949, a mob claimed Ayodhya, the place of so -called Barbary Masjid, to be a temple. Sardar Patel wrote to the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh G B Pant,that " there can be no question of resolving such a dispute by force " but opined that " such matters can be resolved peacefully if we take the willing consent of the Muslim community with us".

Fact No. 10 revitalization of party machinery for the freedom struggle

Mahatma Gandhi chalked out Congress programme for broad based party action. To accelerate the same Sardar Patel rejuvenated party machinery so as enabling wide participation of masses. He realized the pivotal role of the machinery to meet with the needs arising during freedom struggle, and devoted his full organization's talents and energy for making party strong enough to meet with the ensuing challenges.

Fact No 11 Fight for self- rule

In the fight for self- rule, Sardar Patel's contributions came to light when he became the Sanitation Commissioner of Ahmedabad in 1917. He then became Municipal President in 1922,1924,1927. He ensured electricity supply and educational reforms came to Ahmedabad, despite limited resources and power at his hands.

Fact No12. The Entitled Sardar by Farmers

Vallabhbhai Patel's devotion towards the plights of farmers' rights he was entitled as Sardar by the agriculturists. In 1918 he led the " No Tax campaign " by urging the farmers not to pay exorbitant taxes of land revenue so imposed by the British after floods of Kaira. 1928, the farmers of Bardoli again faced the massive tax hikes and the British Government seized their land in realization in the wake of inability of farmers to pay such heavy taxes. After negotiations by Sardar Patel the seized lands and livestock were released to the farmers.

Fact No 13 .The Saviour of Refugees, Weak and Marginalized

During intense violence having visited as a partition of India in 1947, Sardar Patel led organizing relief camps, providing emergency supplies besides undertook visits of affected border areas to ensure encouragement of peace and harmony.

Fact No 15 Visions and Foresight

The first Gujarati typewriter was commissioned by Sardar Patelin 1924 for the Ahmedabad Municipality. He also stood for the transformation of the country into industrial power. Sardar Patel aided the setting up of a public health laboratory within Dudheshwar water works at Shahibaug.

4.5 Life Achievements

1. He became President of the Indian National Congress in 1931.He also became President of the Karachi Division and remained as such for a long duration.
2. He became the first Home Minister of India and also the First Deputy Prime Minister of India.
3. He was responsible for the unification of Indian Republic. The most notable was merger of Hyderabad state by deploying Army and got freed state from the clutches of Nizam within five days
4. He was accorded the Highest Civilian Award from the Republic of India in 1991 posthumously.

He was embodied with Bismark's ability of organization, famous Chankya's diplomacy and Abraham Lincoln unqualified faith in unity.

V. CONCLUSION

In retrospect, the modern Indian Republic owes its existence to Sardar Patel for welding India as a nation by getting hundreds of princely states acceded. A man of actions but not a formal written, Sardar's contributions need to be evaluated based on what he could achieve in a brief span of four years. Besides imparting sound advice both on the troubled occasions as well as the moments of victory and achievements. Sardar Patel was such a personality on whom the Congress Party as well as the Government could rely whenever there had been visiting trouble. Patel's exposure to public work in his early years coupled childhood experiences, played a major role in shaping his genius and statesmanship as evinced at a historical juncture when India was a fragile new born nation in the present form of democracy. He could lay down the institutional foundation of the modern state. This consisted of not only steering the Constitution making being Chairman of the crucial sub committees but also to conceive of all India services ,loyal to law and constitution to hold the India and nation together .



In so far as the civil services are concerned, Sardar Patel was clear as to where the politics begins and that administration ends and vice versa: that democracy is an interplay between the citizen and the government that keeps extremism of all kinds at bay. Patel was devoted to United, strong and inspirational India, combining faith with work. With undiminished faith in Mahatma Gandhi and incessant work for the country, he bequeathed us India where democracy is not an everyday's plebiscite but continued process when as a nation we work for a brighter future not of only present but also for our succeeding generations.

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