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## STATUE OF UNITY TO POLITICAL SYMBOLISM: PATEL'S TRANSITION ROLE FROM FREEDOM FIGHTER TO NATION- FOUNDING FATHER (1928-1948)

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**Abstract:** In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, what made Sardar Patel a unique part of the freedom struggle compared to other nation builders and after the freedom struggle, in the foundation members' sardar's role can be viewed as a man like an iron pillar or like Germany's Bismarck in unification with strict action for the need of the nation and its People. In my paper, I explore my arguments regarding the political environment of that time and Sardar's vision, a long-term vision for modern India. Sardar's main role can be seen as a Gandhian follower and a struggler for the masses, like **the Kheda 1918, Bardoli Satyagraha 1928**, mainly an active role in the civil disobedience movement 1930-31 and the Quit India movement 1942. Founding member of the civil services of India, like IAS, IPS, with a modern governance structure for a newly formed nation. The main role can be viewed as a member of the constitutional committees, complete focus on human rights, gender equality, and minority rights. Adoption of the Gandhian way of life in constitutional making. Some said to him as a right-wing Heart in Congress circle on many issues. Patel's main achievement was doing work for the Political **unification of this nation**.

**Keywords:** Unification, Balkanization, Subcontractors, Fundamental rights.

**Introduction:** Along with Gandhi, we had many revolutionary freedom fighters during the freedom struggle days, among whom Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Maulana Azad and Sardar Patel were prominent. the role of Sardar Patel can be considered decisive. Sardar Patel was a strong Gandhian leader who played an important role in the Congress Working Committee. He had full faith in the peaceful aspects of Indian culture and social journey that we can achieve independence through non-violence and without harming anyone, we will be able to achieve the basic objectives of our India with the end of the British rule will happen one day, and that will be because of the struggle of us Indians. Patel will be remembered as an important person in Indian political history, and especially in the 20th century. The reason for this is that Patel's role is not only as a political leader, but also in connecting the more than 500 princely states. The policies that should be followed to connect the whole country in which soft and effective measures should be taken.

**Main Body:** Patel is one of those few leaders of Indian politics who used to think about India in the long term and not for a limited time during which the country may have to suffer. Patel has always said that the people of India should know how to do politics, but that politics should be



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based on non-violence and truth. Without it, there are many issues in this country in which there is a possibility of violence, or their solution is not that easy. Therefore, people must find their solution by following the Gandhian path.

We can understand Patel's most important role in three or four ways, especially in strengthening the organisational structure of the Indian National Congress. Patel's role was important at the village level. Patel also played an important role in the way the Indian freedom struggle was to be taken forward through the Congress because he had been the President of the Congress. And when the freedom struggle entered its stormy phase in the 1930s, Patel also became the National President of the Congress. Among other important points, before independence, Patel was against communalism and was in favour of taking tough action against people who spread communalism, and he said that if the government wants, these riots or such communal activities can be stopped.

When we talk about the second phase of Patel, he is called the Iron Man of India because Patel's role in providing unity to more than 500 princely states of India is considered important, he Stopped process of **Balkanization** of India during 1947-48 In which most of the princely states, the consent to join the Republic of India without any fight will be called the real success of Patel because Patel was the one who was responsible for the Home Ministry at that time. Patel wanted to merge the Indian princely states with India with respect, and for this, the **Privy-Purse** system was introduced. The princely states, which were reluctant to join India and were geo-strategically important for India, Patel also tried to merge them through punitive action and made every possible effort to ensure that they joined India.

Patel's most important action can be seen in the Hyderabad princely state. In the Hyderabad princely state, he defeated the Nizam's soldiers through police action. And Patel played an important role in stopping the atrocities on the people there, especially the majority religious community there, because the **Razakars** were torturing the women, Dalits and the Hindu majority people there and somewhere, the mindset of the Razakars was to establish Hyderabad as an independent country, which was being supported by the Nizam. Sardar Patel took strict action against the Hyderabad princely state and named it **Operation Polo**. If we look at the Junagadh princely state, Sardar Patel not only made the Junagadh princely state a part of the Indian state, but in the Junagadh princely state, through the process of voting, most of the people considered joining India important, On the other hand, the princely state of Kashmir was made a part of the Indian state Patel was seen to be a little strict on the issue. He was not an idealist like Nehru, rather, he was realistic. Nehru was seen to be a little strict on the issue of the state of Kashmir. Patel, on the other hand, wanted to take a tough stand on the state, considering the geographical and local political challenges there. And for this, he repeatedly warned Nehru that we can solve this at the local level only. This should not be taken as this will complicate the matter even more. Patel will be remembered as an important pillar of the modern Indian Republic.



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The way Dr Ambedkar created the Constitution, in the same way, the geographical boundaries of India were created internally (unification) by Patel. He was the last person who did the political and geographical integration of India. He should be given credit for this.

**Christopher Jeff. says in his book that Sardar Patel resorted to strictness in the integration of the country and in creating differences among the communities,** which is not good for a democratic system because you cannot give space to the democratic voices which have different agreements or disagreements from you. They do not get a place in democracy on a larger scale, that too in a newly independent nation. The kind of activities that happened under Sardar Patel's ministry or on his orders were an attempt to weaken democracy and to show the supremacy of a religious community.

**Ramchandra Guha says that Sardar Patel's decision can be justified in many ways.** Sardar Patel's decisions and his activities, to whom he was giving orders, can be proved right because the circumstances of the time were such that he had to take tough decisions. Therefore, Sardar Patel took tough decisions wherever he had to, but he said that at the cost of the rights of the majority of the people, we cannot give priority to minority fundamentalist views or extreme demands. Because in a democracy, the decision of the majority or the one who has the majority is considered final. Sardar Patel also openly participated in the inauguration of the Somnath temple, and he said that whether I believe in my faith openly or privately, it is my personal opinion, Somnath Temple is a matter of faith for everyone and is a part of India's cultural journey So I must go there Sardar Patel tried to do his work in the Gandhian way But where he felt that the situation was getting out of hand, he took tough decisions there. There were many princely states, especially the politics of Rajasthan, which he very soon integrated into the Indian Republic.

And while giving priority to the glorious history of the kings there, he agreed to give them a place in Indian democracy.

Patel's role in the Indian post-independence era can be seen as negligible. The reason for this can be seen in many ways. The way Patel takes shape in Indian politics as a political symbol, the Statue of Unity, is important. A section of Indian politics supported his strong ideas, and a particular group of people also say that if Patel had been the Prime Minister, the Kashmir problem would not have been so complicated for India. Historians are divided on the issue of what role Patel would have played. Could he have found the solution to Kashmir at that time? The way he solved the Junagadh and Hyderabad princely states, or considering the demand of the people and the situation of the time, he went with Nehru. Although he supported Nehru, Patel and Nehru both agreed and disagreed with each other on many issues, there was no animosity.

Patel can be called the last main pillar of the values of the people after Gandhi. On Gandhi's insistence, even though he had the support of the provincial committees of the Congress, he withdrew his claim for the post of Prime Minister and made (supported Nehru as the Prime Minister. This should be called a true worker. **Judith M. brown has said that in the 1920s, Gandhi was preparing a group of subcontractors who worked like him, and Patel was**



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**playing the role of a real worker of Gandhi in the true sense.** During the Kheda Satyagraha, he opposed the high taxes levied by the British government, which were increasing due to famine at that time. And he gathered people against the British government. In the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, he led a big farmers' movement and united the people against the continuous increase in taxes by the government, and the women gave him the title of Sardar. He also played an important role in the Congress Party and in the Salt Satyagraha in 1931. His role in the Quit India Movement was also important, and he remained an associate of Gandhi as an important creator. He was also jailed during this period, and he remained in jail for many years in different parts of India.

Sardar Patel can be called the advocate of United India, and he opposed the partition. He opposed the division of India, and he worked very closely with Gandhi, Nehru, and Mountbatten. When the transfer of power was taking place, Patel, as the first deputy prime minister and home minister of India, **reintroduced the Indian Administrative Service. By no means wrongly, it was established according to Indian values. It was different from the earlier civil services.** Because it did not talk about the welfare of the people, rather it was based on the exploration of the people, but the work of the IAS officers was to do the welfare of the people, to strengthen the democracy of India. Sardar Patel worked to strengthen the security and governance of India, created many institutions.

Sardar Patel's role can also be seen as important during the making of the Indian Constitution. He chaired many committees and played an important role in the making of the constitution. If we compare him with other leaders, especially with Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose, his character can be clearly seen from both. Subhash Chandra Bose was a little supporter of military ideology, while Nehru was a little influenced by communist ideas, but Sardar Patel can be seen as completely Indian in his thoughts and a great influence of Indian politics and Indian culture can be seen on him. Sardar Patel opposed reservation on a religious basis and considered it the main reason for partition in India (political reservation). Sardar Patel believed that there had been social oppression in India, but no community should be given separate voting rights because it would create a gap in society.

It will be difficult to fill it. Sardar Patel supported the Hindu Code Bill, but he was in favour of implementing it according to Indian values and slowly. If this is applied to Indian society all at once, it can cause a big problem in society. Sardar Patel can also be called an animal lover. He **banned many slaughterhouses in Delhi** when he was the Home Minister, and he faced a lot of pain during the partition, felt a lot of pain when Indian people were being displaced in their subcontinent. Many people were going to Pakistan from here. Pakistani Hindus were coming here, and he was very saddened by the religious, violent violence that was happening to them. He also constantly raised the news of atrocities against women and expressed concern over it.

Sardar Patel's economic views are not discussed in much detail. **But he was a supporter of private enterprise. He wanted to allow private players to come into the market and let them produce some part of the production.** However, Sardar Patel believed that his objective should be for the



welfare of the people of India, not to collect as much money as possible. When Sardar Patel got the Somnath temple restored, he called it a vision of cultural restoration. Whereas Nehru dismissed it as a matter of realism, while Nehru did not take part in it, Sardar Patel did. Sardar Patel's political views, when we see how the welfare of the country is done, how can we give priority to the ideas of the country, the interests of the country and build a Bharat that society should be pragmatic.

**CONCLUSION:** Why does any country and independent society need heroes? Or maybe only a few heroes are found in all countries, or some heroes are created. In nation-building and for the participation of the nation in a planned manner, it becomes necessary to present some positive examples in front of millions of people of the society to take them along. In a vast country like India, where there are linguistic, religious, regional and ethnic differences, it is very important to have heroes. Sardar Patel is one of those leaders who contributed significantly to the creation of the nation-state of India. Today, we have the form of modern India which Sardar Patel had created, like a pearl necklace of the nation state. In this form, a personality like Sardar Patel is a Sardar because he was effective. After all, Sardar Patel was the last and important person to deal with the basic interests and important challenges of India, because the freedom movement not only brought independence but also brought many kinds of responsibilities and challenges, which Sardar Patel had resolved. He did it well through his actions.

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