

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)

1. Date of Celebration

- **Observed on:** 31st October every year.
- **Occasion:** Birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, known as the *Iron Man of India*.

2. Significance of the Day

- **Objective:** To commemorate the immense contribution of Sardar Patel in **national integration** and **unity**.
- The day highlights the importance of maintaining **unity, integrity, and security** of the nation.
- Encourages citizens to strengthen the spirit of '**Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**' (One India, Great India).

3. About Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Played a crucial role in **India's freedom struggle** under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership.
- After Independence, he was instrumental in the **integration of more than 500 princely states** into the **Union of India**, ensuring political unity.
- His strong leadership, diplomacy, and vision earned him the title "**Iron Man of India.**"

4. Statue of Unity

- **Unveiled on:** 31st October 2018 by the **Prime Minister of India**.
 - **Location:** **Kevadia (now Ekta Nagar), Gujarat**, (nestled between the Satpura and Vindhyachal mountain ranges) on the banks of the Narmada River.
 - **Height:** 182 metres — the **world's tallest statue**.
 - **Symbolism:** A grand tribute to Sardar Patel, the *Unifier of India*.
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5. Features of the Statue Complex

- **Exhibition Hall:**
 - Located in the pedestal of the statue, covering **4,647 sq. metres**.
 - Showcases Sardar Patel's **life, contributions to the freedom movement**, and his **role in integrating princely states**.
- **Visitor Centre & Viewing Gallery:** Provide educational and panoramic experiences.
- Represents a major **tourism and cultural landmark** in India.

6. Nationwide Celebrations and Activities

- Organized by **various Ministries and Departments** across the country.
- Key events include:
 - **Run for Unity**
 - **Ekta Diwas Pledge**
 - **March Past by Police, CAPFs, and Students**
 - **Cultural programs and exhibitions** promoting unity and national integration.

7. Main Celebration Venue

- The central event is held at **Ekta Nagar, Kevadia (Gujarat)** every year.
- Organized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** with support from the **Government of Gujarat**.

8. Major Components of the National Event

- **Ekta Parade** featuring personnel from Police, CAPFs, NCC, NSS, and school students.
- **Band and Platoon Performances** showcasing national pride.
- **Cycle or Motorcycle Rallies** promoting unity and fitness.
- **Martial Arts Demonstrations** symbolizing strength and discipline.

- **Cultural Programs** displaying India's rich diversity and unity.

9. This Year's (2025) Celebration

- To be held at **Ekta Nagar, Kevadia**, similar to previous years.
- Will include **multiple events and public participation** at the Statue of Unity premises.
- Aims to inspire citizens towards **collective responsibility for national integration**.

10. Broader Relevance for UPSC

- **Themes for GS Paper II & IV:**
 - Nation-building and integration post-Independence.
 - Leadership and administrative vision of Sardar Patel.
 - Promotion of national unity and integrity.
- **Ethics Connection:** Embodies values of **patriotism, integrity, unity, and leadership**.

Key Takeaway

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas serves as a reminder of the efforts and vision of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting India and upholding the spirit of *national integration*. The **Statue of Unity** stands as a monumental symbol of this legacy, inspiring generations to preserve and strengthen India's unity.

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