# 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.

## 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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