

The History of the Integration of the Indian Princely States: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

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Abstract: *Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is popularly known as a Man of Steel' 19 and Iron Man of India' because of his great deeds and contributions to the Indian freedom struggle and independent India. Truly a man of substance, Sardar Patel was born on October 31, 1875, in Nadiad, Gujarat. It would be apt to put forth the life sketch of any beacon before penetrating his personality study. Thus here, it is presented, a brief life sketch of a patriot' Statesman' and an Apostle of reality, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Karamsad a village in Gujarat the golden land of the peasant claims the Honour of. having given birth to Vallabhbhai Patel. His father, Jhaverbhai was a farmer and his mother Laad Bai was a housewife.*

Key Words: *Sardar, Gujarat, Integration, Gandhi, Princely states, Independence*

I. Introduction

The early education of Sardar Vallabhbhai took place in Karamsad and he completed his high school in 1896. A brilliant student throughout his academic life, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel went on to become a lawyer and started legal practice in Godhra, Gujarat. Patel did his law and became Pleader, Borsad. Like many others at that time he too wanted to go to England. He saved Rs 10,000 and was all set to go until elder brother Vithalbhai expressed a desire to go. Patel gave his brother 15 days to make up his mind failing which P would go. As we shall see later, this characteristic of keeping the second string to his bow is part of his character. This happened in 1901. He lost his wife Jhaverba in 1909. For the benefit of his children, he did not marry again. Patel sailed for England in 1910. From Marseilles, he took a train to Calais and via Dover reached London. He wore Western clothes for the first time as he left for London. Presented British rule and the notion of Englishman's superiority. The fire seen in his breadth, when he attacked Englishmen who were calling others uncivilized, was smoldering inside him even in 1910-1913.

Pateel's Relationship with Other Leaders: He was admitted to the Middle Temple, one of the Inns of Court, as London's law colleges were called. In 1910, Nehru was admitted to the Inner Temple. While Tilak spoke in Marathi, Vithalbhai struggled with Gujarati and Jinnah too stammered out a speech in Gujarati. 27 years later said, "Jinnah hated me since the day I asked him in a meeting to give up English and speak Gujarati". Impressed with G, P agreed to serve as the Gujarat Sabha's first executive committee secretary. "G's success in 1917 impressed P. Not to be left behind, P helped majorly when the Plague struck Ahemabad and famine in the nearby villages. The pairs of Nadiad to whom Vallabhbhai belonged had played a notable part in the first war of India's independence and his father Jhaverbhai played an activist role. His forefathers were storm warriors and warriors and Sardar Patel was true to the stock. "Even while at the time of his birth the spirit of patriotism was raging in his family. Respect for his achievements and personal character also earned him a place in the developing political life of Ahmadabad, where he was elected unopposed to the municipal board in 1917, and became chairman of its sanitary committee, in which capacity he displayed extraordinary devotion to duty and personal courage in fighting an outbreak of plague, and led a successful agitation for the removal of an unpopular British municipal commissioner. Purity of personal life and service to fellow men was the tradition and culture of the Patel family". Right from his childhood Sardar Patel could not withstand any indiscipline or injustice¹. Several pleasant incidents that happened in his early school days at Nadiad play proof of this. Once he found a teacher making a black-market profit in the sale of tax books

Role of Sardar Patel in Integration of Princely States: While Gandhi pitched the centre of his activities at Ahmadabad the Sardar remained away from him for two years. "The barrister first got on then got honour and then got honest. He went beyond honesty and took to national service. Even as a lawyer, he had a deep vein of patriotism in him." In his professional capacity, he won several victories against British imperialists. It was customary in those days for all people attending courts to remove their shoes in the presence of judges and there were several other inhuman and disgraces to humiliate the Indians. Patel fought against this in a unionist spirit and got them abolished in the lower courts. An interesting story is told of a judge who used to frighten criminals

by compelling them to face a mirror while speaking in court. Patel opposed this practice when his clients were involved and got the judge concerned warned for his pernicious practice. As a lawyer, he excelled in cross-examination and thorough study of the facts. He took a lively interest in the opponent's case. Though he started his legal career by giving costly legal services for a petty price he did not stay long in the field to give a bit of petty legal advice for a costly sum⁶. Penetrating his public life, we see that Sardar Patel kept himself away from Gandhi and his activities till 1916. The year

"The first success of Gandhi's technique of nonviolence at the Bardoli campaign was due to the erstwhile sceptic lawyer who had become the most devout follower of the mahatma the perfect instrument the vehicle supreme of the master. Before the government knew what was happening 80000 people had been organized into one compact unit which the Raj tried desperate tricks to break up. But in vain. From that day the Sardar stands for efficiency of organisation thoroughness in handling a situation and mastery in management of big things. The British rulers stooped as low as they could at the hard campaign 17000 men and 40000 buffaloes were locked up in a small sanitary house for over three months. Stench Gandhi and Patel were imprisoned together, and the master on his release spoke of the glorious attributes of his disciple. The Sardar's motherly qualities became as much known as his bravery during his incarceration. Even while the foundations for the future constitution of free India were laid Sardar was elected as the president of the Karachi session of the congress in 1931. held under gloomy shadows. His presidential address was short and business-like. His interest lay in helping the downtrodden to rise in level with the tallest in the land,

He showed that mass Satyagraha was no longer the idle dream of a visionary but a concrete idea rich in potentialities Sardar Patel thought not a Marxist was not a lover of landlordism either. The Karachi congress resolution on landlordism either. The Karachi congress resolution on fundamental rights and economic programme was a combination of Nehru's idealism and Sardar's practicalism. Sardar Patel was heavily influenced by the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi. Soon the call of the nation made him join the freedom struggle. His works started with peasant movements in Kheda, Bardoli and other parts of Gujarat. He was also an active participant in the non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement against the payment of Thought seriously ill, it fell to his lot to reorganize the congress machine, which he did with ruthlessness and remarkable swiftness. Sardar Patel has been the general at every critical moment when the Rubicon has been crossed and the boats burnt. When the premier political party decided to fight the elections in 1937 it was again Sardar Patel who organized the campaigns everywhere. No wonder the Congress swept the polls in seven out of eleven provinces.

When the party came to power he sat majestically astride the saddle of authority on a charge of universal good will. As a chairman of the Congress parliamentary subcommittee, he was pretty busy with the broom against nepotism and corruption. Graft and greed wherever he came across he weeded out ruthlessly. Airman in Bombay and khare in Madhya Pradesh were sacked for misuse of power. Throughout his life the Sardar.

Administration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

When an achiever and contributor is overcome by weakness because of the grave situation, the responsible leader reminds the achiever in distress about his real inner strength and points out the impracticality of exhibiting weakness in critical situations. Thus he arrests the tendency to give up. The responsible leader boosts the morale of the members of the team and encourages and inspires them to get up and rise to the occasion. Sardar Vallabhbhai was a devoted and dedicated master. His actions always showed clarity which was the source of peace of mind. The problems of minorities, though at the first instance seemed minor, came out to be crucial.

And, Sardar Patel with his extraordinary calibre wisdom and capacity, could arrive at an acceptable solution to restore confidence in them; thereby leading them towards the common goal of national solidarity. The dawn of India's freedom was full of political and socio-economic complexities. The leaders of the E country found themselves in an atmosphere surcharged with multifarious and divergent criticalities. These had, if not solved quickly, would have led to further complications. Vexed with various problems of varied dimensions, the leaders had to find ways and means to face the reality of the situation and arrive at a solution beneficial to the country.

While assessing his contribution to administration one has to take into consideration his personality the forces that shaped the man his philosophy of life and the organizational and public experience that he gained while mobilizing forces for political resistance to the alien rule in different ways and at different times. It will be a narrow view of the subject to confine oneself only to the evaluation of his direct association with administration from the formation of the interim government in September 1946 till his death in December 1950. When he strived for and achieved during this span of about four years as part of the government was largely motivated and

sustained by his observation and experience in his earlier public and political, Sardar Patel as we have noted, was no administrator in the conventional sense.

He was a statesman administrator. In a way, he was the guardian not only of administrative requirements and proprieties but also of administrative effectiveness. As has been said, "the rebel in him had also the sound instinct of a builder." It is in the effort at nation-building that his administrative finesse found expression as is capacity for organizational efficiency; enforcement of discipline and popular mobilization had flowered during the struggle for independence. From the beginning of his career as a political worker of Indian National Congress, he was a follower of Gandhi. During his participation as a leader of the Congress party, his view-point was in accordance with the policy formulation of the party. Sardar, a votary of

II. Conclusion

He was an Iron Man of India and a strong administrator a devoted patriot of the nation Sardar Patel will be remembered in the annals of India for his great towards political fighting and territorial consolidation of the country. He devoted his vast energies to give concrete shape to some of the Gandhian techniques for political fighting. The appellation Sardar was conferred on him after the success of the Bardoli Satyagraha and that is how he came to be known throughout his life. It signifies the capacity for leadership. In administration and organizational theory we have many approaches to the question of leadership. From an analysis of his thoughts judging from his dealings with multifarious situations and also from the assessment of his personality by people belonging to different political complexion a number of striking qualities emerge which helped him to provide administrative leadership in times of crisis and which set an example for others one might venture to summarize them briefly.

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