Modern History · GS - I

Discuss the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to India's national integration and explain the contemporary relevance of National Unity Day.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - I	Modern History

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Integration of princely states; role of Patel; administrative consolidation; national identity; unity in diversity; contemporary challenges

Model Answer

Introduction

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly known as the *Iron Man of India*, played a decisive role in consolidating the newly independent nation. National Unity Day, observed on 31 October, commemorates his birth anniversary.

Contribution to National Integration

- **Integration of princely states:** As India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Patel played a pivotal role in integrating more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union.
- **Political consolidation:** His leadership helped prevent territorial fragmentation and strengthened India's sovereignty.
- **Administrative foundations:** He supported a strong and unified administrative structure and is widely regarded as a key architect of India's civil services.

Contemporary Relevance

- Promotes national solidarity and constitutional values.

- Encourages citizens to rise above regional, linguistic and social divisions.
- Initiatives such as the Run for Unity create public awareness about collective responsibility.
- Reinforces the importance of unity while respecting India's cultural diversity.

Conclusion

Patel's legacy highlights the importance of national integration, democratic cooperation and collective responsibility. National Unity Day serves as a reminder that India's strength lies in its unity in diversity.

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