India post independence · GS - I

Assess the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the integration of princely states and the consolidation of political unity in post-independence India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 31/10/2026	GS - I	India post independence

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Political integration; princely states; Instrument of Accession; Sardar Patel; V. P. Menon; national unity; territorial integrity; administrative consolidation

Model Answer

Introduction

At independence in 1947, India faced the complex challenge of integrating more than 560 princely states into a unified political framework. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a central role in this historic process.

Major Contributions

1. **Political leadership:** As Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Patel provided decisive leadership to the integration process.
2. **Diplomatic negotiations:** He encouraged princely rulers to accede to India through negotiations and the Instrument of Accession.
3. **Administrative support:** V. P. Menon assisted in developing and implementing the integration strategy.

4. **Handling complex cases:** Patel's leadership was significant in addressing challenges involving Junagadh and Hyderabad.
5. **National consolidation:** Integration strengthened India's territorial integrity and created the foundation for a unified administrative and political system.

Contemporary Relevance

Patel's legacy highlights the importance of national integration, cooperative federalism, constitutional governance and administrative coordination.

Conclusion

Sardar Patel's contribution went beyond territorial consolidation; it helped establish the political foundations of modern India and remains central to the idea of national unity.

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