

**SARDAR PATEL ROLE IN UNIFING OF INDIA: AN ANALYSIS****Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Asstt. Prof. of Political Science****M.L.N College, Yamuna Nagar,****Kurukshetra University Kurukshetra****ABSTRACT:-**

This editorial has normally examined the Patel's role in Political incorporation of India. Patel was recognized to be societal leader of India who played a enter role in the country's fight back for independence and guided its integration into a unified, independent nation. Patel's role in Integrating Indian States incorporated Saurashtra (including Junagadh) Hyderabad, Cochin, Kashmir, Travancore, and other small states. Vallabhbhai's role in each of these states was very significant. Vallabhbhai handled proficiently the incorporation of the princely states with his diplomatic skills. The difficulty of amalgamating 562 independent states with a democratic independent India was not simple. He sensed the very important and imperative require of the integration of princely states. He followed an iron handed plan.

**KEYWORDS:** Freedom, Princess, Important, National, Strategy, Vital.**INTRODUCTION:-**

**“It is the prime responsibility of every citizen to feel that his country is free and to defend it freedom is his duty. Every Indian should now forget that he is a Rajput, a Sikh or a Jat. He must remember that he is an Indian and he has every right in his country but with certain duties.”**

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel handled successfully the incorporation of the princely states with his tactful skills and foresightedness. The difficulty of amalgamating 562 independent states with a democratic independent India was hard and delicate. But it was necessary to save India from balkanization, once the Paramountcy of British crown would fall. Sardar Patel took charge of the states department in July 1947. He sensed the vital and very important require of the addition of princely states. He followed an iron handed plan. He made it clear that he did not identify the right of any state to hang about independent and in separation, within India. Patel also appealed to the nationalistic and national sentiments of the Princes and invited them to unite the forming of a democratic constitution in the national concern. He convinced them to give up defense, foreign affairs and communication to the government of India. He, by his strategy, broke the union of separatist princes. By August 15, 1947 all apart from Hyderabad, Junagarh and Kashmir acceded to India. He after that accepted three fold processes of incorporation, centralization and merger of states. The states were combination to form a union and that union

was amalgamated with the Union of India. He handled the Junagarh and Hyderabad crisis as a seasoned statesman. Nawab of Junagarh want to agree to Pakistan. When the people revolted, Patel intervened. Indian Government took over the administration. Patel amalgamated it with India by holding a plebiscite. Patel with an iron fisted hand passive the Nizam. When the Nizam boasted anti-India approach and let loose a blood in cooperation by the Razakars, Patel determined upon police act. He prearranged the army to March into Hyderabad. The Nizam surrendered and Hyderabad was acceded to India. Thus Sardar Patel ensured, by his intended methods, the incorporation of a huge number of princely states into the Indian Union. Without a civil war, he protected the unity of the nation.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL IN INDIAN POLITICS:-**

Patel was born on October 31, 1875 in the prominent Patidar society as the fourth child to Ladbha and Jhaveribhai. Wedded at near the beginning age, he matriculated and passed his law examination later on. He became a winning lawyer from Godhra and then Borsad, but he determined to go to London and become a barrister. To citation Patel, "I came from a middle class family. My father lived a modest and devout life and died in the holy place he loved. He had no means to facilitate me to fulfill my ambitions. I realized lastly that if I required to go to England. I had to make money for myself. I, therefore, studied very sincerely for the law examination and resolved confidently to save enough money for a visit to England." He completed his LL.B from the Middle Temple, England in June 1912 in a record two-and-a-half years and come back to India with 'a lot of confidence, cynical approach and a balanced mindset'. in spite of tragedies in the family front, he went ahead to work in the community sphere. Vallabhbhai admitted: "No doubt, my practice is flourishing today. I am also doing something large in the Municipality. But, my practice may or may not be there tomorrow. My funds will be blown tomorrow, those who come into my money will blow it .Let me go away them a improved legacy than capital." After freedom, as Deputy Prime Minister under Jawaharlal Nehru, he managed the departments of Home, States, Information and Broadcasting. He played an dynamic role as the Chairman of the Committees for Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Provincial Constitution and necessities like the Right to Private Property, Privy purses for Princes and Constitutional guarantees for the Civil Services were integrated. As a member of the Partition committee, he helped the allocation of the liabilities and dividends between India and Pakistan. His role was worthy, and in Junagarh, Kashmir and Hyderabad he had to use power; in all the other cases his negotiating ability could combine the princely States. His health was gradually declining and in 1948, he had a heart attack immediately after the death of Gandhi and finally he succumbed to another enormous heart attack on December 15, 1950.

**POLITICAL IDEAS OF SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL:-**

Patel all the time raised his voice on numerous issues against exploitation and criticized the high-handedness of power, the unfair revenue policy of the Government and maladministration in the Princely states. He not only criticized the illogical policies of confiscation of changeable and fixed properties, but also insisted on protected regulations on land reforms and nationalization of key industries. His hard work to reform the Hindu religion and defend the people of other faiths reflected his desire for the right to religion. He encouraged the suitably elected authority to bring limitations through different legislative events to liberty for all. Thus, his political value system was a well synthesis of liberalism, conservatism and welfarism. His visualization of State was in melody with the pattern of his political ethics. In his conception, the State was founded and held mutually by a high logic of nationalism and patriotism. Individual liberty was to be in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, to make a Nation-State, he hard-pressed for the emancipation of backward communities and women and bring about Hindu- Muslim harmony through the Gandhian constructive programme and skillfully utilized the higher castes for social combination and political mobilization. Thus, he strengthened the plural basis of the nation-state by bringing electoral contribution as effectual political mobilisation. He saw a nation as 'democratic in structure, nationalistic in foundation and welfarist in character and function'.

**POLITICAL INTEGRATION OF INDIA:-**

This event shaped the foundation stone of Patel's popularity in post independence period and even today, he is remembered as the man who combined India. He is, in this regard, compared to Otto von Bismarck of Germany, who did the similar thing in 1860s. Under the chart of 3 June, more than 562 princely states were agreed the option of joining either India or Pakistan, or choosing dependence. Indian nationalists and great segments of the community feared that if these states did not accede, most of the people and territory would be disjointed. The Congress as well as senior British officials measured Patel the best man for the task of achieving amalgamation of the princely states with the Indian dominion. Gandhi had said to Patel "the difficulty of the States is not easy that you alone can resolve it". On 6 May 1947, Patel began lobbying the princes, attempting to make them receptive towards discussion with the future Government and trying to forestall potential conflicts. Sardar used social meetings and unofficial surroundings to connect most monarchs, inviting them to have lunch and tea at his home in Delhi In these meetings; Patel affirmed that there was no inherent difference between the Congress and the princely order. He stressed that the princes would require to accede to India in high-quality faith by 15 August 1947. Patel invoked the nationalism of India's monarchs,

asking them to unite in the freedom of their nation and act as responsible rulers who cared about the prospect of their people. He persuaded the princes of 565 states of the impracticality of independence from the Indian republic, especially in the presence of growing opposition from their subjects. He projected favorable terms for the combination, including creation of privy purses for the descendants of the rulers. All but three of the states happily merged into the Indian union only Jammu and Kashmir, Junagadh and Hyderabad did not go down into his basket. Junagadh was particularly vital to Sardar, since it was in his home state of Gujarat and also because this Kathiawar area had the ultra-rich Somnath temple which had been plundered 17 times by Mahmud of Ghazni who ruined the temple and its idols to take from it of its riches, emeralds, diamonds and gold.

The Nawab had under stress from Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto acceded to Pakistan. It was however, fairly far from Pakistan and 80% of its population was Hindu. Patel mutual diplomacy with force, demanding that Pakistan annul the accession, and that the Nawab accede to India. He sent the Army to occupy three principalities of Junagadh to show his resolve. Following wide spread protests and the shape of a civil government, or Aarzi Hukumat, both Bhutto and the Nawab fled to Karachi and under Patel's orders, Indian Army and police units marched into the state. A plebiscite later organised produced a 99.5% vote for merger with India. In a speech at the Bahauddin College in Junagadh following the latter's take-over; Patel emphasize his emotions of importance on Hyderabad, which he felt was very important to India than Jammu, Kashmir and Junagadh. If Hyderabad does not observe the writing on the wall, it goes the way Junagadh has gone. Pakistan attempted to set off Kashmir against Junagadh. When we raised the question of settlement in a democratic way, they (Pakistan) at once told us that they would consider it if we applied that policy to Kashmir. Our respond was that we would consent to Kashmir if they settled to Hyderabad. Since the smaller states of West Gujarat, which were almost ebbing out, but had an excellent organization for rousing the political realization of the people in so far as the Congress was concerned they paying attention the thought of Patel in his very first effort towards their incorporation. The West Gujarat known as Saurashtra constituted a number of small states which did not have much possible from the point of view of economic and political freedom. In all, 327 such States existed in Gujarat. These States were close to some of the adjoining bigger States in April, 1943, as per the attachment scheme. But the attachment scheme finished with the fall of paramountcy on August 14th, 1947. The Home Department arranged a revised Instrument of accession for these states. In the new tool of Accession, the States were to be free from the attaching states and to be administered by the Government as in the reattachment period. The states would vest all residuary powers and jurisdiction in the Central

Government of India. The modus operandi was very easy, as those states did not have any capacity of declaring independence with the lapse of paramountcy.

There was also no option for those states to accede to Pakistan due to political and geographical situation. Patel succeeded in bringing the small states jointly and it was a very essential step towards national unity. Although the states were in theory free to wish whether they wished to accede to India or Pakistan, Mountbatten had pointed out that "geographic compulsions" meant that most of them must prefer India. In effect, he took the position that only the states that shared a border with Pakistan could desire to accede to it. The Nawab of Junagadh, a princely state positioned on the south-western end of Gujarat and having no common border with Pakistan, chose to accede to Pakistan ignoring Mountbatten's views, arguing that it could be reached from Pakistan by sea. The rulers of two states that were subject matter to the suzerainty of Junagadh, Mangrol and Babariawad reacted to this by declaring their freedom from Junagadh and acceding to India. In response, the Nawab of Junagadh militarily engaged the states. The rulers of adjoining states reacted irritably, sending their troops to the Junagadh frontier and appealed to the Government of India for support. A grouping of Junagadhi people, led by Samaldas Gandhi, shaped a government-in-exile, the Aarzi Hukumat ("temporary government"). India believed that if Junagadh was allowed to go to Pakistan, the communal tension already simmering in Gujarat would worsen, and refused to recognize the accession. The government pointed out that the state was 80% Hindu, and called for a plebiscite to make a decision the question of accession. Simultaneously, they cut off supplies of fuel and coal to Junagadh, severed air and postal links, sent troops to the frontier, and reoccupied the principalities of Mangrol and Babariawad that had acceded to India. Pakistan agreed to talk about a plebiscite, subject to the removal of Indian troops, a condition India discarded. On 26 October, the Nawab and his family fled to Pakistan following clashes through Indian troops. On 7 November, Junagadh's court, facing fall down, invited the Government of India to take over the State's administration. The Government of India approved. A plebiscite was conducted in February 1948, which went almost commonly in favour of accession to India. Kashmir was also a difficulty. The state was ruled by a Hindu ruler, and the population of Kashmir was Muslim. It engaged a strategic position.

Till August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1947 Kashmir did not agree to India. Patel knew the significance of Kashmir from its geographical position and required to deal with the problem himself as the Minister of the States, shown in green is the Kashmiri area under Pakistani control. The dark-brown area represents Indian-administration Jammu and Kashmir while the Aksai Chin is below Chinese administration. At the time of the transfer of power, Kashmir was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a Hindu, although the state (Jammu Kashmir) itself had a Muslim majority. Hari Singh was

similarly hesitant about acceding to either India or Pakistan, as either would have motivated unfavorable reactions in parts of his kingdom. He signed a Standstill Agreement with Pak and proposed one with India as well, but he announced that Kashmir intended to remain sovereign. However, his rule was opposed by Sheikh Abdullah, the well-liked chief of Kashmir's largest political party, the National Conference, who demanded his resignation. Pakistan, attempting to power the matter of Kashmir's accession, cut off goods and transport links. The chaos in Punjab resulting from separation had also detached transport links with India, meaning that Kashmir's only links with the two dominions was through air. Rumors about atrocities against the Muslim population of Poonch by the Maharajah's forces caused the eruption of civil turbulence. Shortly thereafter, Pathan tribesmen from the North-West Frontier region of Pakistan crossed the border and entered Jammu & Kashmir. The invaders made fast advancement towards Srinagar. The Maharaja of Kashmir wrote to India, asking for military assistance. India required the signing of an Instrument of Accession and setting up an provisional government headed by Sheikh Abdullah in return. The Maharaja complied, but Nehru affirmed that it would have to be established by a plebiscite, although there was no legal requirement to seek such verification. Indian troops protected Jammu, Srinagar and the valley itself during the First Kashmir War, but the powerful fighting flagged with the onset of winter, which made much of the state blocked. Prime Minister Nehru, recognizing the point of international attention brought to bear on the dispute, confirmed a ceasefire and sought after UN arbitration, arguing that Hindustan would otherwise have to attack Pakistan itself, in view of its failure to discontinue the tribal incursions. The plebiscite was not at all held, and on 26 January 1950, the Constitution of the Govt. of India came into power in Kashmir, but with special provisions made for the state. India did not, however, safe administrative control over all of Kashmir. The northern and western portions of jammu & Kashmir came under Pakistan's control in 1947, and are nowadays Pakistan-administered Kashmir. In the 1962 Sino Indian War, China engaged Aksai Chin, Hyderabad Operation Polo: Patel's supreme role in the addition of states was his intelligent handling of the Hyderabad crisis. Most of the states acceded to India, Hyderabad was a non-coastal state that extended over 82,000 square miles (over 212,000 square kilometres) in southeastern India. While 87% of its 17 million citizens were Hindu, its ruler Nizam Osman Ali Khan was a Muslim, and its politics were subject by a Muslim influential. The Muslim nobility and the Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen, a powerful proNizam Muslim party, insisted Hyderabad remains independent and stand on an the same footing to India and Pakistan. as a result, the Nizam in June 1947 issued a firman announcing that on the transmit of power, his state would be resuming self-rule. Patel now insisted that if Hyderabad was permitted to continue its freedom, the reputation of the Government would be tarnished and then neither Hindus nor Muslims would feel safe in its kingdom.

The date for the assault was fixed as 13 September, even though General Sir Roy Bucher, the Indian head of staff, had objected on basis that Hyderabad would be an extra front for the Indian army after Kashmir. On 13 September, the Indian Army was sent into Hyderabad under Operation Polo on the reason that the law and order situation there threatened the peace of South India. The troops met little confrontation and between 13 and 18 September took whole control of the state. The Nizam was retained as the chief of state in the equivalent manner as the other princes who acceded to India. He there upon disavowed the complaints that had been ready to the UN and, in spite of vehement protests from Pakistan and strong criticism from other countries, the Security Council did not deal further with the inquiry, and Hyderabad was engaged into India.

### **CONCLUSION:-**

The procedure of the integration of the different states and the part played by Patel in it, we understand the significant role that Patel had in the incorporation of the country. The states incorporated Saurashtra (including Junagadh) Hyderabad, Cochin, Kashmir, Travancore and other tiny states. Patel's task in each of these states was very important. The continuation of a separated and feeble central government would in Patel's mind, result in the wider fragmentation of India by encouraging more than 600 princely states towards freedom. Between the months of December 1946 and January 1947, Patel worked with civil servant V.P. Menon on the latter's submission for a divide dominion of Pakistan created out of Muslim-majority provinces. Communal violence in Bengal and Punjab in January and March 1947 further convinced Patel of the soundness of separation. Sardar, a severe critic of Jinnah's demand that the Hindu-majority areas of Punjab and Bengal be incorporated in a Muslim state, obtained the separation of those provinces, thus blocking any option of their inclusion in Pakistan. By August 15, 1947 all apart from Hyderabad, Junagarh and Kashmir acceded to India. He thereafter accepted three fold processes of assimilation, centralization and amalgamation of states. The states were combined to form a union and that union was compound with the Union of India. He handled the Junagarh and Hyderabad crisis as a experienced statesman. Nawab of Junagarh sought to accede to Pakistan. The integration of the princely states thus acted as a synchronizing occurrence and recognized a State of balance between chaos and segmentation and solidarity of the recently born Indian Union.

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