

Embassy of India, Dublin

NEWSLETTER



September-October 2016

Inauguration of Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) in New Delhi on 2nd October 2016 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri V. K. Singh, MOS, Shri M. J. Akbar, MOS and other dignitaries were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister said that the PBK will be dedicated for the welfare of the Indian Diaspora spread throughout the globe. He further said, "We are inaugurating this Kendra on a significant day of 2nd October. Gandhiji had left India but the call of the nation brought him back."

He emphasised that the world's interest to engage with India has grown significantly. In such times, 'fear of unknown' can be an obstacle. But the Indian Diaspora can help

overcome this and thus, connecting with the Diaspora is important. "Let us view our Diaspora not only in terms of 'Sankhya' but let us see it as 'Shakti'," he added.

PM Modi said that the idea of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas coined by Atal Bihari Vajpayee and has been continued since his time.



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated in India on January 9 each year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915.

Located at the heart of the Capital at Dr. Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra is a tribute to the overseas Indian community; and commemorates their migration to various parts of the world, the challenges they faced abroad, their achievements and contributions.

Over time, the Kendra is expected to develop into a hub of activities for sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding economic, social and cultural engagement between India and its Diaspora. Activities, seminars, events, workshops pertaining to the Indian Diaspora are expected to be organized in PBK.

The Museum in the Kendra will depict the history of migration of the overseas Indian community; their experiences and contributions.

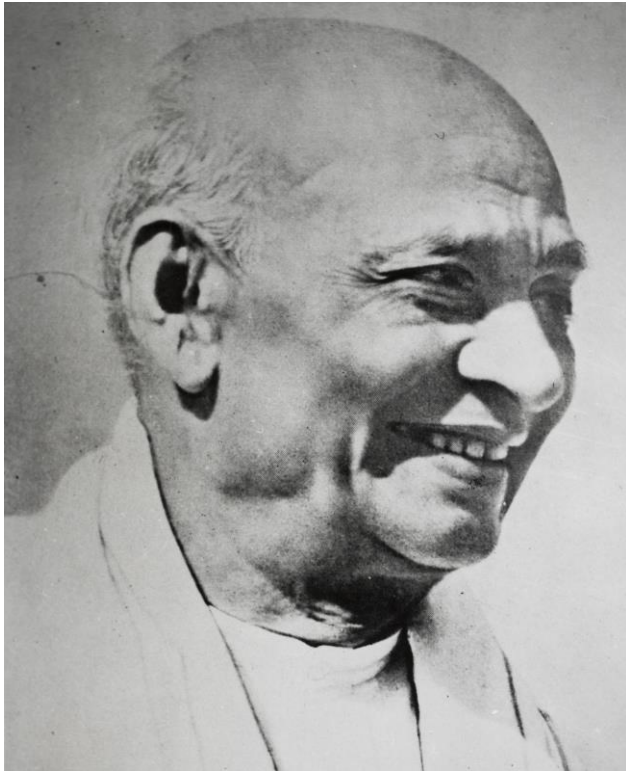
In the Kendra's state-of-the art auditorium, multi-purpose halls, Conference and seminar halls – workshops and conferences with overseas Indians and on issues pertaining to them would be organized on a regular basis. The Kendra will also house the autonomous bodies India Centre for Migration, a think-tank working on issues pertaining to Indian migrant workers and the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indians, a not-for-profit Trust promoting contributions to flagship programmes in India.

The Library in PBK is a valuable repository of material about the Indian Diaspora including books written by overseas Indians in different languages. With an emphasis on digital material, the library will provide access to online journals and prestigious library resources.

On this occasion the winners of Bharat ko Janiye Quiz received certificate and medal from the Prime Minister and the EAM. From Ireland Ms. Shweta Narayana had participated and won a Bronze medal. ■ ■ ■



Sardar Patel: An Icon of National Unity



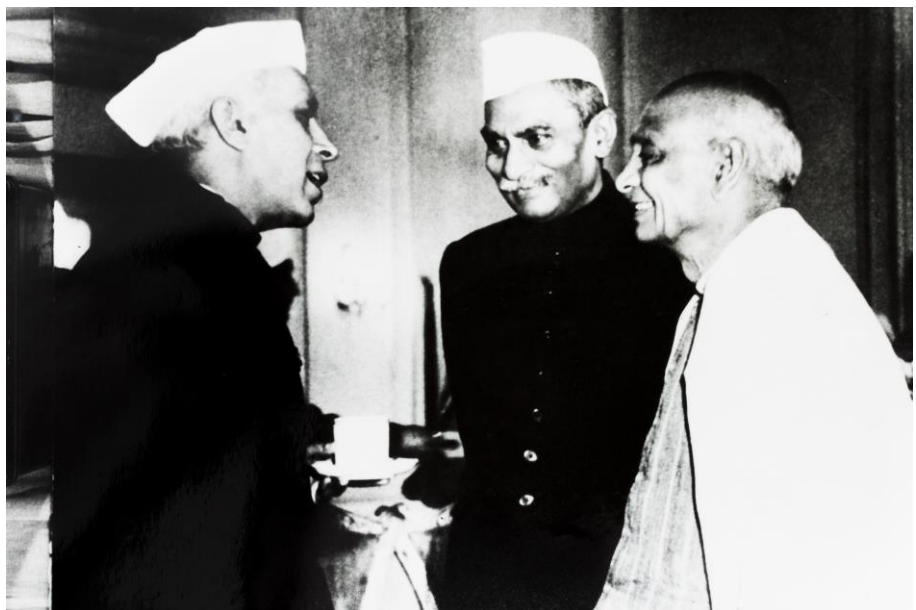
An extraordinary leader, freedom fighter and architect of the integration of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, better known as “Iron Man of India,” remains an enduring icon of patriotism, nationalism and the spirit of public service. In a fitting tribute to this giant, India will be launching week-long celebrations on Sardar Patel’s birth anniversary on October 31, which has been aptly designated as Rashtriya Ekta Divas or National Unity Day.

Making of a Legend: Grit & Steel

A quintessential self-made man, Patel’s life story exemplifies the sheer power of will, hard work and sincerity as he scripted a new life for himself first as a lawyer, and then as a freedom fighter and nation-

builder amid trying circumstances. Born on October 31, 1875 in the influential Patidar community, he did his early schooling in Gujarat and decided to study law in London. But the untimely death of his father plunged the family into a financial crisis. Fired by his steely determination, which was to remain his defining trait till the end, the young Patel “studied very earnestly for the law examination and resolved firmly to save sufficient money for a visit to England.” He finished his L.L.B from the Middle Temple, England in June 1912 in a record two-and-a-half years and returned to India. His formidable legal acumen earned him a dedicated clientele, and he became a much sought-after lawyer earning thousands of rupees every month. All this success and money, however, did not go to his head; on the contrary, it only kindled his thirst to do something for society and leave a lasting legacy.

“No doubt, my practice is flourishing today. I am also doing something big in the Municipality. But, my practice may or may not be there tomorrow. My money will be blown tomorrow, those who inherit my money will blow it. Let me leave them a better legacy



than money,” Patel wrote later about this key moment which was to drive him to dedicate his life to the nation.

The Gandhi Moment

A chance meeting with Mahatma Gandhi at the Gujarat Club in Ahmedabad in 1915 strengthened his resolve. Inspired by the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Patel became Gandhi’s ardent follower, and a fellow traveler in India’s freedom journey. In 1918, Vallabhbhai Patel transformed into Sardar Patel when he led the farmers’ agitation against the British who insisted on collecting tax despite a raging flood in Khaira, Gujarat. He led a successful and peaceful “No Tax campaign” which forced the British authorities to return then land taken away from the farmers. Patel’s heroic efforts to mobilise farmers earned him the title of Sardar, which means ‘chief’ in Hindi and Urdu.

Sardar Patel later deftly deployed the Gandhian methods of peaceful resistance many times in defending the rights of farmers, the subjugated and the exploited. In 1930, Sardar Patel was imprisoned for participating in the Salt Satyagraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi. His eloquent speeches during the salt movement inspired thousands to join Gandhi’s mission of emancipating India from the clutches of foreign rule.

Despite internal wrangling in the Indian National Congress, Patel remained a staunch supporter and ally of Mahatma Gandhi. The differences over the course of the freedom movement came out in the open when veteran leaders questioned the logic and efficacy of civil disobedience movement linked to Gandhi’s Quit India Movement in 1942. Sardar Patel robustly rallied to Gandhi’s defence, and eventually the All India Congress Committee was compelled to ratify and sanction the Quit India Movement.

Unifier of India: Iron Man



Sardar Patel with Rajpramukh And Chief-Minister of Saurashtra.

Given his formidable organizational abilities and unflinching commitment to nation-building, Sardar Patel was appointed as the first deputy prime minister and home minister of independent India, the crucial posts which brought out the best in him and help create an integrated and unified India as we know it now. Patel the Unifier is justly remembered for his iron will and firmness with which he facilitated the integration of over 500 princely states into the framework of federal India. Patel used his fabled powers of persuasion and diplomacy, and combined it with a judicious use of the threat of force to get 565 princely states to accede to India. This was a monumental feat which earned him mass adoration and gratitude, cementing his reputation as the Iron Man of India.

In the aftermath of Partition, Patel was to show his extraordinary concern for refugees, regardless of their religion. Moved by their plight, Patel organized relief for refugees fleeing from Punjab and Delhi and spearheaded efforts to restore peace across the nation.

Patel: A social reformer

An appraisal of Patel's legacy would be incomplete without his role as a social reformer and thinker. His efforts to reform the Hindu religion went side by side with his unstinting commitment to religious freedom. In the economic realm, Sardar Patel tirelessly championed self-sufficiency and promoting the growth of domestic industries by harnessing indigenous resources, talent and expertise.

The idea of the state as an enabler of national development and resurgence animated Patel's thinking. His vision of the State was in tune with the political values he propagated. Nationalism and patriotism were not only the foundation stones of a state, but were the core elements holding it together. In Patel's thinking, individual liberty had to be in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution. To create a modern nation, he promoted the emancipation of backward communities and women through the Gandhian programmes and expertly utilized the higher castes for social integration and political mobilisation.

Patel the Globalist

A pragmatist and realist to the core, Patel was a sharp observer of the international scene and advocated a realistic foreign policy in place of a symbolic idealism. He consistently advocated that no move must be adopted that would compromise the territorial integrity of India, and in particular, cautioned against internationalizing the Kashmir dispute. "I should like to make one thing clear, that we shall not surrender an inch of Kashmir territory to anybody," Patel famously said.

While espousing friendly relations with India's neighbours, Patel was quick to recognize that warmth should not be interpreted as weakness. In November of 1950, Patel wrote a letter to PM Nehru outlining how the Chinese troops' entry into Tibet earlier that year resulted in a situation that "for the first time, after centuries, India's defence has to concentrate itself on two fronts simultaneously." Patel had suggested that "we have to consider what new situation now faces us as a result of the disappearance of Tibet as we know it, and the expansion of China up to our gates". Patel's cautionary note was to prove prophetic when China invaded India in 1962.

Patel's Legacy: Nation-builder

Sardar Patel may have lived only two and a half years after India's independence, but in those few months, he shaped the narrative of a modern, strong and self-reliant India. Often compared to Germany's legendary leader Otto van Bismarck for his key role in the integration of princely states into India, Patel contributed to nation-building in myriad ways. He was a leading light in the Constituent Assembly of India and played a pivotal role in the appointment of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar as the chairman of the drafting committee, and the inclusion of leaders from across the political spectrum in the process of scripting the constitution.

Not many know it, but Sardar Patel was the founding father of the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, and introduced articles to protect the independence and impartiality of the civil services.

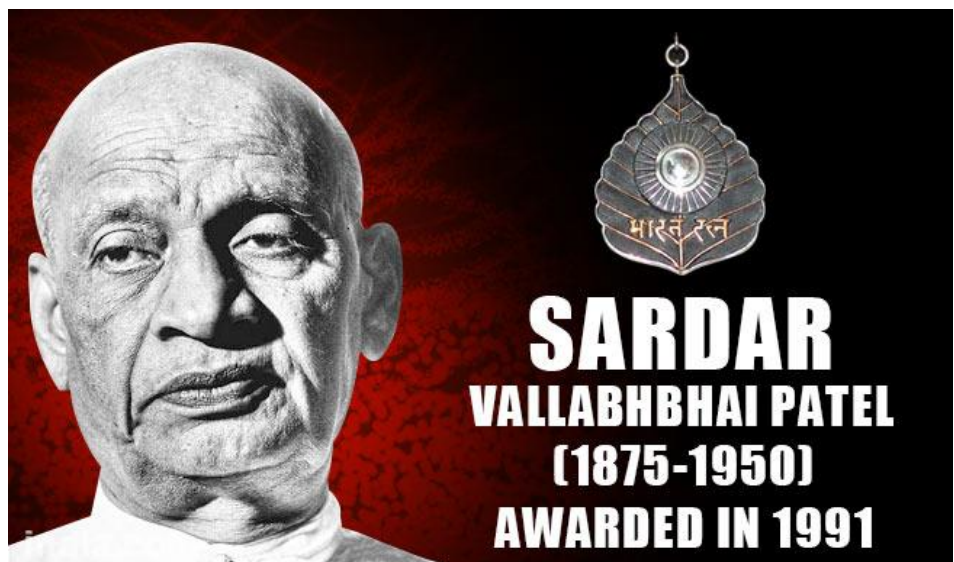


Besides his colossal achievements, Sardar Patel exemplified humility and Gandhian ideals of simple living and high thinking. His personality was such that he inspired instant respect and affection, even amongst those who differed with him. He remained hugely popular till his dying day. More than a million-people attended his cremation in Sonapur in Bombay, which included Prime Minister Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, and President Rajendra Prasad. In a tribute to his role in creating civil services, more than 1,500 officers of India's civil and police services gathered to mourn at Patel's residence in Delhi a day after his death and pledged "complete loyalty

and unremitting zeal" in India's service.

Freedom Song

Decades after his death, Sardar Patel's absolute love and devotion for India continues to inspire all those who are engaged in the resurgence of India. Tributes and honours continue to pour in for this legendary figure to this day. Time magazine put



Sardar Patel on the cover in its **January 27, 1947 issue**, and called him "The Boss." Sardar Patel was finally conferred India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1991.

In his public life and as a founding father of the Republic of India, he tirelessly exhorted people to live true to their ideals and place country and society above self. In the conflicted times we live in, Sardar Patel's **address at a meeting in Alwar in 1948** is an eloquent reminder to the people of the responsibilities of a free citizen to ensure their freedom and that of their country. "Guns can protect freedom from aggressive designs of neighbours or other foreign states. But internally, it is the honest core of the people and the true realisation of the responsibilities of a free citizen that alone can save freedom from the machinations of self-seeking and interested parties and individuals."

Celebration of Hindi Divas



The Hindi Divas was celebrated with immense enthusiasm at Maldron Hotel Tallaght, Dublin on 18 September 2016 for the first time in Ireland. The distinguished speakers on the occasion included Mr. Prashant Shukla, Director & CEO, IIC, Mrs. Anita Shukla, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Dr. Aileen Pearson-Evans, Senior Lecturer in Inter-cultural Studies, Dublin City University, Mr. Siraj

Zaidi, Director, Indian Film Festival of Ireland, Mr. Paddy Banks, Board Member, IIC, Ms. Jaishree Singhvi.

The lectures were followed by Hindi poem recitation and cultural programme. Several children and community members recited Hindi poems including an Irish citizen.

The Dublin City University (DCU) had organised a pilot course in Hindi which was the first of its kind in Ireland. Dr. Aileen Pearson-Evans of DCU in her lecture recalled her experiences of this pilot course where the students were from various nationalities. She also informed about the future conduct of Hindi classes at DCU in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Another member from the Indian Community Ms. Jaishree Singhvi informed that she would be conducting Hindi classes in the near future for Children in Ireland.

People from all walks of life such as academics, Board Members of the Ireland-India Council and office bearers of Indian community associations and prominent members of the Indian community along with family attended the event. The Ireland-India Council which have made some initiatives vis-à-vis Hindi language with the Irish Government lent their support to the event. The first celebration of Hindi Divas was appreciated by all and the event generated great enthusiasm among the community members and guests present.



Organisation of the 7th Indian Film Festival of Ireland (IFFI)



The annual Indian Film Festival of Ireland 2016 was held in Dublin from 30th September – 2 October 2016. The film festival was opened jointly by the Cd'A, Dr. Jasbeer Singh Puri, and Ms. Cliona Buckley, the Patrons of the festival. The Indian flagship and niche film festival was created in 2010, by the noted film and TV actor, producer and the festival artistic Director Mr. Siraj Zaidi to propagate and create an awareness in Ireland about the vast canvas of Indian Cinema.

IFFI 2016 had a successful programme of film screening, academic workshops, in the Irish film institutions, and the school screenings as part of the Festival. The festival is an important event of the Cultural calendar of the Dublin City. There is a growing appreciation of classic and contemporary Indian films among the native Irish and Indian Diaspora.

The director in focus was Mr. Prakash Jha, his latest film *Jai Gangaa Jal* was the curtain raiser. This film was very well received at the opening ceremony. A special message from Prakash Jha, for the IFFI 2016 was screened prior to the screening.

Other films shown during the three-day festival were Nil Battey Sannata, Mango Dreams, Roti, and Gandhi.

The festival was held at the Dublin's most prestigious multiplex movies@Dundrum Cinema. Other venues were the Public Libraries and Dublin institute of Technology. part of the closing ceremony of the 7th IFFI, screening of the acclaimed



film 'Gandhi' was organized, where office bearers of all Indian associations in Ireland, prominent NRIs/PIOs and members of the Diplomatic corps were invited.

The webcast of the inaugural ceremony of the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra was also shown at the event. ■ ■ ■

Consular News



Indian students studying in Universities/Colleges in Ireland are welcome to register their details in the Students Registration module under <MADAD: Consular Grievances Monitoring System > link on the Embassy of India website.



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India



प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
7-9 जनवरी 2017 - बेंगलूरु, कर्नाटक
7-9 January 2017- Bengaluru, Karnataka
प्रवासी भारतीय - संबंधों के नए आयाम
Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora



युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

7 to 9 January 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Ministry of External Affairs and Government of Karnataka invite Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin to the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD) 7 to 9 January 2017, Bengaluru.

Theme: "Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora"

Highlights of the PBD Convention

Youth PBD - 7 January

- Connecting with Young Overseas Indians.
- Inauguration by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Interact with Young PIOs and NRIs from all across the world.
- Interact with Young Resident Indians.
- Sessions on Start-ups Innovations which have social impact; and Start-up Ecosystem in Karnataka.

PBD Convention - 8-9 January

- Sessions on issues of significance to Indian Diaspora.
- Key note Address by Prime Minister.
- Chief Ministers will address delegates.
- President will confer Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.
- Interactive Sessions with Overseas Indians.
- 9 January: Invest Karnataka- Innovate, Invent & Invest in Karnataka.

Key Features of Convention

- Exhibition Showcasing Flagship Programmes, policies; corporate sectors.
- Special Sessions 7 & 9 January: Karnataka's investment potential & Start-up Ecosystem.
- Lunch and Dinner arranged for delegates.
- Indian Handicrafts and Cultural Bazaar.
- Optional: Industrial Visits on 7 & 10 January organized by Karnataka Govt.
- Optional: Local Sight Seeing tours organized by Karnataka Tourism on payment.
- Cultural programmes on 7 & 8 January evening.

For Programme and Registration visit: pbdindia.gov.in
Last Date for Registration : 7 December 2016
Special Rates for Young PIOs and NRIs and Group Registrations

Forthcoming Events

Sr. No.	Event/Date/Website	Name of the Event
1.	GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2016 22-23 October 2016 www.investmp.com	
2.	47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2016) 20-28 November 2016 www.iffi.nic.in	
3.	NOTICE FOR KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME: DECEMBER, 2016 TO JANUARY, 2017 December, 2016 to January, 2017 http://indianembassy.ie/	
4.	9th INDIA RUBBER EXPO 2017 19 to 21 January, 2017 http://www.indiarubberexpo.in/ .	
5.	Health Tech India, an International Exhibition & Conference on Medical Equipment and Technology 3-5 February 2017 www.healthtechindia.co.in	

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The Great Rhino, Kaziranga National park, India



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