National Unity Day 2019: On Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Jayanti, nation gears up to mark 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas'. Since 2014, every year on 31 October 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' or the National Unity Day is observed to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – an Indian politician who played a pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and then during the integration of the country. Patel the 'Iron Man of India', who had dreamt of full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India, played an instrumental role in convincing several princely states to align with the Indian Union.