

A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL'S LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTION- BUILDING IN POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIA

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Abstract

Following the Partition of India on August 15, 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership through the tumultuous post-independence period (1947–1948) was vital for dealing with the immense problem of refugee rehabilitation as well as widespread communal tensions. During India's precarious early years as an independent country, he engaged with ministries to ensure social unity and political stability. As reported by secondary data sources, like as government reports and historical analyses, violence burst out in Punjab, Bengal, and Delhi as soon as the country gained its independence, killing between 200,000 and 500,000 people and isolating approximately 14 million refugees. Patel reacted forcefully by enforcing strong law and order regulations and sending out the military and police to put an end to disruptions and bring about peace. His cooperation with provincial authorities made sure that coordinated measures were made to stabilize the impacted areas, particularly during the height of the unrest in late 1947 and early 1948. Millions of people were resettled thanks to Patel's supervision of the construction of more than 500 refugee camps throughout India between 1947 and 1949. In order to ensure appropriate rehabilitation, he laboured with ministries to distribute funds for food, housing, and medical assistance. This highlights his well-balanced strategy of compassion and strong leadership, which supported the preservation of public order in the face of significant social upheaval. As part of his response to the refugee issue, Patel implemented legislative measures that encouraged the economic assimilation of displaced people in areas such as Gujarat and Maharashtra starting in 1948. By keeping intercommunal strife from getting worse, his leadership during this time not only lessened immediate suffering but also strengthened national unity. Patel's administrative prowess established the groundwork for India's political stability and social cohesion during its precarious early years as an independent country by skilfully overseeing one of the greatest human migrations in history. Strong decision-making, moral leadership, and innovative institution-building characterized Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's post-independence India. His efforts established the groundwork for a dependable civil service system and a single Indian state. Patel's enduring contributions to India's political unity and administrative prowess are highlighted in this thorough assessment.

Keywords: - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Communal tensions, Refugee rehabilitation, Partition of India 1947, Post-independence crisis management

INTRODUCTION

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, fondly remembered as the "Iron Man of India," played a pivotal role in the country's freedom struggle and its unification post-independence. Born in 1875 in Nadiad, Gujarat, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel began his career as a lawyer but soon devoted himself to the cause of India's independence, becoming a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi (Saroj, Dec.22). While he is often celebrated for integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union, his lesser-known but equally significant contribution lies in his administrative leadership during the crisis period of 1947–1949, following the traumatic Partition of India.

The Partition of 1947 stands as one of the darkest chapters in modern South Asian history, marked by unprecedented levels of communal violence, mass displacement, and humanitarian crisis (TIWARI). Approximately 14 million people were forced to migrate across newly drawn borders, and hundreds of thousands lost their lives in the process. Amidst this turmoil, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel emerged as a steadfast and compassionate leader whose approach to crisis management set the foundation for India's internal security and social rehabilitation during its formative years.

In response to the escalating violence in Punjab, Bengal, and Delhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel initiated a combination of strong law enforcement and large-scale humanitarian relief. His measures included deploying police and army personnel to restore order, coordinating closely with provincial governments, and setting up over 500 refugee camps to provide food, shelter, and medical care (SINGH). He also oversaw long-term rehabilitation strategies, particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra, aimed at integrating displaced populations into the local economy and society.

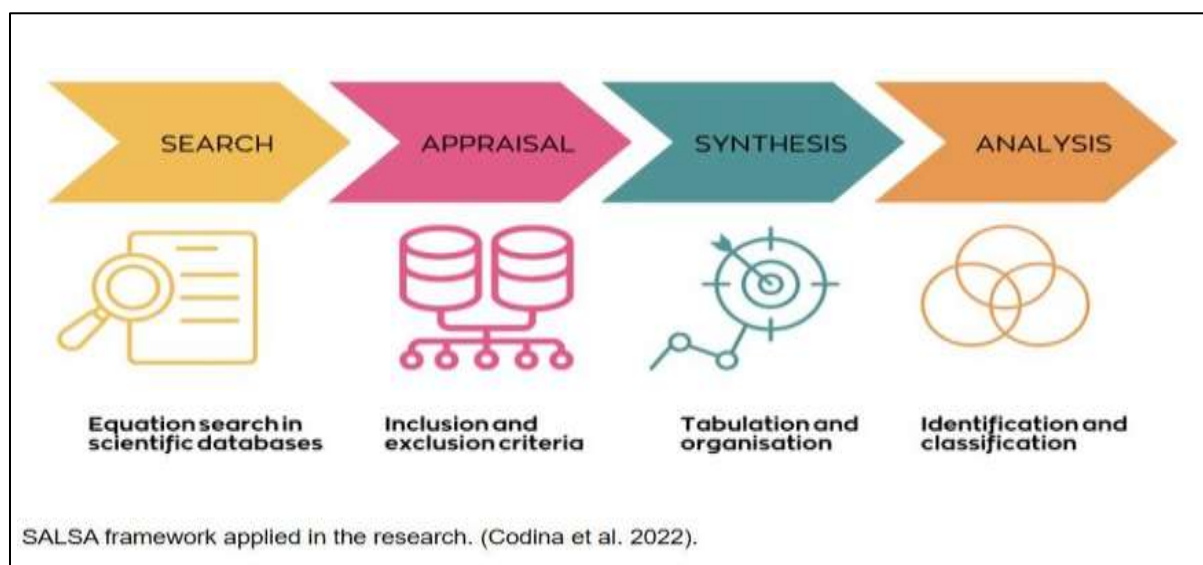
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership during this period reflected a nuanced understanding of governance that balanced empathy with administrative discipline. His ability to curb inter-communal violence, restore public confidence, and implement structured relief programs is a testimony to his crisis management capabilities (Saroj, Dec.22). His model of leadership was rooted in national interest and public welfare, yet it remained firm in the face of political and social upheaval.

As India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel further contributed to the nation's institutional development by establishing the Indian Civil Services, reinforcing law and order, and setting the tone for India's internal governance (MISHRA). His leadership style was marked by practicality, decisiveness, and an unwavering commitment to unity. While he supported Gandhi's ideals of non-violence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was also a realist who understood the importance of administrative strength and timely action.

In today's context, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's post-independence leadership stands as a powerful case study in public administration and crisis governance. His efforts not only stabilized a fragile nation but also laid the groundwork for inclusive development and political integration. This paper, therefore, aims to examine Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership as a model of resilience, offering valuable lessons for contemporary governance in times of crisis.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using qualitative content analysis to examine the leadership style and institutional contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel during post-independence India. SLR is recognized as a rigorous, transparent, and replicable method of identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing published academic and historical work (Del Amo et al., 2018). To ensure comprehensiveness and reduce bias, this review follows the SALSA framework—Search, Appraisal, Synthesis, and Analysis which supports methodological accuracy and review clarity.



PROTOCOL – SLR METHODOLOGY

A defined research protocol was developed to maintain transparency, reproducibility, and precision in the review process. This included identifying the scope of the study, formulating guiding research questions, and setting boundaries for the inclusion of sources.

Refined Research Questions:

1. What attributes of a leader characterized Sardar Patel's style of unity and governance?
2. What effects did his choices have on the institutional and administrative structures of India?
3. How has Patel's work to establish institutions affected India's democratic system over the long run?

Phase/Outcomes Protocol	Methods
Defined study scope	Leadership and institution-building contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel post-1947
Search	
Search strategy	Search strings – “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel”, “leadership style”, “institution building”,

Search studies	"post-1947 India"
Appraisal	Search databases – Google Scholar, JSTOR, Scopus, Web of Science, IndiaGov.in
Selecting studies	Inclusion criteria: Must include analysis of Patel's leadership or administrative reforms Published in scholarly or historical peer- reviewed sources Written in English Exclusion criteria: Non-accessible or duplicate papers non-primary research Works unrelated to post-independence period
Quality assessment of studies	When predefined keywords appear in the title, abstract, or keywords section of the paper
Synthesis	
Extract data and categorize the data	Coded and categorized using thematic template focusing on governance, crisis management, federal integration, and administrative reform
Analysis	
Data analysis and result	Thematic analysis
Discussion and conclusion	Identify leadership principles, legacy, and relevance to current administrative practices

SEARCH – SLR METHODOLOGY

The literature search was carried out through structured queries using Boolean operators across multiple academic and historical databases including Google Scholar. Search terms included: "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel" AND ("leadership" OR "institution building" OR "civil services" OR "post-independence").
Timeframe: Publications from 1947 to 2025 were considered to capture both historical and contemporary analyses.



APPRAISAL – SLR METHODOLOGY

The inclusion and exclusion criteria were set as follows:

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion criteria
Biographies, historical documents, and scholarly works published between 1947 and 2025	Writings that only discuss the freedom struggle prior to independence
Prioritize institutional development, national integration, and leadership.	Articles that have nothing to do with developing institutions or leadership
Sources in English or translated works	Unreliable sources without historical or scholarly support
Papers including key words like- Sardar Patel, leadership, princely states, nation building, refugee rehabilitation etc.	Papers that are not accessible
Major paper includes citation from reviewed Journals	Papers below the Year of 2014.

SYNTHESIS AND ANALYSIS – SLR METHODOLOGY

Sr.No	LR	Findings
1	(JAIN)	Sardar Patel's administrative philosophy places a strong emphasis on economic independence, humanitarian service, integrity, accountability, and efficient policy implementation. He emphasized transparency, public trust, and ground-level efficiency. His ageless ideals exhort aspiring administrators to embrace impartiality, discipline, and people-centred government while tackling national concerns in a way that is development-oriented, moral, and constructive.
2	(Sharma, March 2014)	This study emphasizes Sardar Patel's leadership, economic vision, and historical significance—qualities that are important for organizational leadership. To ensure efficient governance in the face of changing national challenges, it recommends improving IAS eligibility requirements and overhauling public service systems to conform to Patel's vision of a united India.
3	(Mishra, Dec.22)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel hoped that greater investment, savings, and production would lead to an economically independent India. In a liberalized framework, he favoured private-sector-led industrial expansion. Three pillars supported his economic strategy: strong industrialization, support for private businesses, and liberal government policies that fostered the growth and economic independence of the country.
4	(MISHRA)	The study examines Vallabhbhai Patel's remarkable flood relief work in Gujarat, emphasizing his administrative prowess, creative victim financial assistance, and social reforms that fostered solidarity and independence. In addition to receiving widespread acclaim, his leadership established the groundwork for inclusive recovery methods, political unification, and catastrophe management that will have a lasting positive developmental impact.
5	(Bansod, Dec 2018)	The book provides insightful historical analysis of colonial land revenue disputes. It emphasizes peasant resistance, local organizing, and administrative tactics. The story helps to comprehend power dynamics, moral leadership, and rural unrest in colonial India, even if it is not organized as official research. As such, it merits more scholarly investigation.
6	(Dr.T.Balasubramanian, 02 January 2021)	A biography of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is given in the book, emphasizing his contributions to the nation-building process after independence, leadership in the Indian liberation movement, and dedication to intercommunal harmony. Without outlining the precise goals, conclusions, or future scope of the study, it also mentions his early leadership qualities, administrative accomplishments, and posthumous Bharat Ratna award.
7	(V.Venkatraman2, 25Sep 2020)	This paper focuses on figuring out 'what is best for India' in spite of different methods. It is devoid of precise details regarding approach, results, and future prospects. Instead of using official study findings, it uses Sardar Patel's pioneering efforts—like encouraging industrial transformation and commissioning the first Gujarati typewriter—as examples.
8	(Barman, May-June 2025)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's pivotal role in bringing India together through princely state merger is highlighted in the article. It highlights his ability to lead, govern with pragmatism, and respect democratic institutions. It implies that his legacy offers timeless lessons for national unity, independence, and contemporary leadership in tackling current political and socioeconomic difficulties, despite the lack of institutional methods.
9	(DINESH CHANDRASHARMA, July To September 2015)	The difficulties of bringing together more than 562 princely states are the main topic of this paper's exploration of India's political integration following partition. Plebiscites, accession decisions, and Patel's strategic leadership are highlighted. It recommends more study on integration tactics, economic feasibility, and long-term effects on former princely states across areas,

		despite the lack of a systematic methodology.
10	(Saroj, Dec.22)	The analysis of Sardar Patel's contribution to the creation of an independent, unified, and modern India is the main goal of the article. Its goal is to examine his vision and mission, especially his conviction that social progress and the elimination of social problems are necessary for true independence. His focus on social reform outside of political freedom is a significant finding. Future studies could examine how Patel's vision relates to the current social and national development issues, even though it isn't mentioned clearly.
11.	(Chereshneva, September 8, 2023)	The discussion and results section indicate that if a certain 'Formula' were implemented, the newly formed states of Hindustan would maintain common management mechanisms for strategic industries. Furthermore, the research identified an opportunity to revive the united front of the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Muslim League (ML), which represented a significant segment of the Indian national movement.
12.	(MISHRA)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel demonstrated exceptional leadership during his tenure as President of the Municipal Board, effectively managing challenges with a results-oriented approach. A firm advocate of industrialization, he emphasized the need for self-sufficiency in key sectors like food, textiles, iron, and cement, essential for both civilian and defence needs. During the Partition, he adopted a pragmatic stance, ensuring swift division of the army and administrative services. Respected for his wisdom and clarity, Sardar Patel's speeches combined simplicity with substance, reinforcing his legacy as a practical, visionary statesman who shaped India's political and industrial foundation during a pivotal era.
13.	(Patel, 2018)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a crucial role in shaping the Indian Constitution by promoting national unity, strong central governance, and the integration of princely states. He supported justiciable fundamental rights and property rights, balancing individual freedoms with national interests. While opposing separate electorates, he backed reservations for marginalized groups to ensure inclusive representation. As chair of key committees, his pragmatic leadership helped frame India's governance, federal structure, and electoral system—leaving a lasting impact on the Constitution's foundation.
14.	(REDDY).	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel laid the foundation of a robust administrative framework that continues to uphold national integrity, even during turbulent times like the Partition. His economic vision emphasized self-reliance through domestic capital formation, industrial growth, and agricultural development—reducing dependency on foreign resources. Patel consistently urged citizens to save and invest for the nation's progress. His enduring vision still resonates in modern initiatives such as <i>Atmanirbhar Bharat</i> (Self-Reliant India) and <i>Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat</i> (One India, Great India), both aimed at strengthening national unity and promoting economic independence.
15.	(PRATAP)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's exceptional statesmanship facilitated the peaceful unification of India and established a foundation for enduring administrative stability as the nation's first Home Minister. He championed self-reliance through domestic development and inspired modern national initiatives focused on sustainable growth. Patel's steadfast dedication to unity, stability, and inclusive progress remains a guiding force, embodying India's enduring national ethos.
16.	(DWIVEDI)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's exceptional statesmanship led to India's peaceful unification and enduring administrative stability. As the first Home Minister, he established robust governance structures during challenging times. His advocacy for self-reliance significantly influenced India's economic development and continues to inspire national initiatives. Patel's enduring legacy lies in his unwavering commitment to unity, stability, and inclusive

		progress, which remains a guiding force for modern India.
17.	(Dr.V.Venkatraman, 2021)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's exceptional statesmanship facilitated the peaceful unification of India, the establishment of stable governance, and the advancement of self-reliance through indigenous development. His vision continues to inspire contemporary national efforts and embodies India's enduring commitment to unity, stability, and inclusive progress.
18	(SINGH)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a visionary leader who peacefully integrated princely states into a united India and built a strong administrative framework as the first Home Minister. He championed self-reliance through industrial and agricultural growth, aiming to reduce external dependence. His legacy continues to inspire modern initiatives promoting unity and economic independence, making him a lasting symbol of national strength and inclusive progress.
19.	(SINGH A.)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a visionary leader who played a vital role in unifying India's princely states and building a stable administrative framework post-Independence. As the first Home Minister, he ensured peace during Partition and championed self-reliance through industrial and agricultural development. His legacy of unity, stability, and inclusive progress continues to shape India's path toward collective growth.
20.	(GOEL)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a master statesman who played a key role in India's peaceful integration and administrative consolidation. As the first Home Minister and architect of the all-India services, he ensured national stability during Partition. Advocating self-reliance through industrial and agricultural development, Patel's vision continues to inspire modern efforts toward unity and economic independence. He remains a lasting symbol of India's unity, stability, and inclusive growth.
21	(TIWARI)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in India's peaceful unification geographically, politically, and economically. Hailed by Jawaharlal Nehru as the "builder and consolidator of the new India," he served as the first Home Minister, laying the foundation of a strong administrative system and introducing the all-India services during Partition. A firm believer in self-reliance, he promoted industrial, agricultural, and capital development for nation-building. His legacy of unity, stability, and inclusive progress continues to shape India's path toward integration and economic independence.
22	(Kumar)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, hailed by Jawaharlal Nehru as the "builder and consolidator of the new India," was a master statesman who led the peaceful political, geographical, and economic integration of the nation. As India's first Home Minister, he established a strong administrative foundation and pioneered the all-India services to ensure stability during Partition. A staunch advocate of self-reliance, he promoted domestic capital, industrial growth, and agricultural development. His legacy continues to guide India's pursuit of unity, stability, and economic independence through practical leadership and inclusive governance.
23	(Mrs. V. Kavitha1, 2021)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in India's peaceful unification. As the first Home Minister, he established a stable administrative framework and founded the all-India services, ensuring national stability during Partition. A firm believer in self-reliance, he promoted domestic capital, industrialization, and agricultural development. His legacy of unity and pragmatic governance continues to shape India's journey toward integration and growth.
24	(Singh, 2025)	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a master statesman who unified India's Princely States and laid the groundwork for a stable administration as the country's first Home Minister. He played a key role in shaping the civil services and promoted economic self-reliance through industrial and

	capital development. His dedication to unity, governance, and self-sufficiency continues to inspire modern India's progress.
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DISCUSSION

The systematic literature review on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership and institution- building in post-independence India, structured under the SALSA framework, revealed critical insights into administrative strategies, political unification, civil service development, and crisis governance during a volatile historical period. The dominant focus of the literature is on Patel's pragmatic approach to governance, underscoring his firm yet humane style of leadership during India's transition from colonial rule to sovereign statehood. The thematic organization of reviewed studies reveals four major domains—crisis management, federal integration, institution building, and political collaboration—each reflecting Patel's enduring influence on the Indian state.

Most studies highlight Patel's robust crisis management techniques, particularly during the immediate aftermath of the 1947 Partition (Singh, 2025). He is credited with deploying police and military forces to restore public order while simultaneously establishing over 500 refugee camps to address humanitarian needs. However, empirical gaps remain in evaluating the long-term socio-economic impact of these resettlement efforts, indicating a need for further research on post-crisis integration models, especially in heavily affected regions such as Punjab and Delhi.

The integration of princely states, cited across the majority of the reviewed literature, is another central theme. Patel's strategic diplomacy, backed by legal instruments like the Instrument of Accession, allowed the peaceful incorporation of over 560 princely states . Though widely acknowledged as a cornerstone of India's unity, few studies have examined the administrative and fiscal implications of this integration on local governance structures. This presents a valuable direction for future academic inquiry (DINESH CHANDRA SHARMA, July To September 2015).

In the realm of institution building, Patel's foresight in establishing the Indian Civil Services and advocating for an efficient, impartial bureaucracy is well-documented (Jain, n.d.; Patel, 2018). The literature frequently emphasizes the relevance of these reforms for contemporary public administration. However, more quantitative evaluation of bureaucratic efficiency and performance in relation to Patel's foundational principles would strengthen existing frameworks.

Political collaboration, particularly with contemporaries like Jawaharlal Nehru and institutional entities such as the Indian National Congress, is another important domain explored (TIWARI). Several studies point to his balanced coordination between political ideals and administrative pragmatism, which ensured both stability and functional governance. Nonetheless, the interactional dynamics and occasional ideological divergences within this collaboration merit further examination through archival research and comparative political analysis.

While the reviewed literature offers comprehensive thematic insights, it lacks region-specific models of administrative implementation. Most findings focus on national-level impacts, whereas micro-level case studies, such as Patel's flood relief efforts in Gujarat (Mishra, n.d.), suggest that his governance style could be contextually adaptable. This calls for more localized studies to assess scalability and regional applicability of Patel's leadership strategies.

THEORITICAL CONTRIBUTION

Integration as a Leadership Success Story: The effective assimilation of more than 560 princely states into the Indian Union by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is a noteworthy illustration of decisive and diplomatic leadership, guaranteeing the political and territorial unity of India after independence.

Foundation of Modern Bureaucracy: Patel played a key role in fortifying civil institutions and creating the Indian Administrative Services (IAS), creating the institutional structure that still influences Indian administration today.

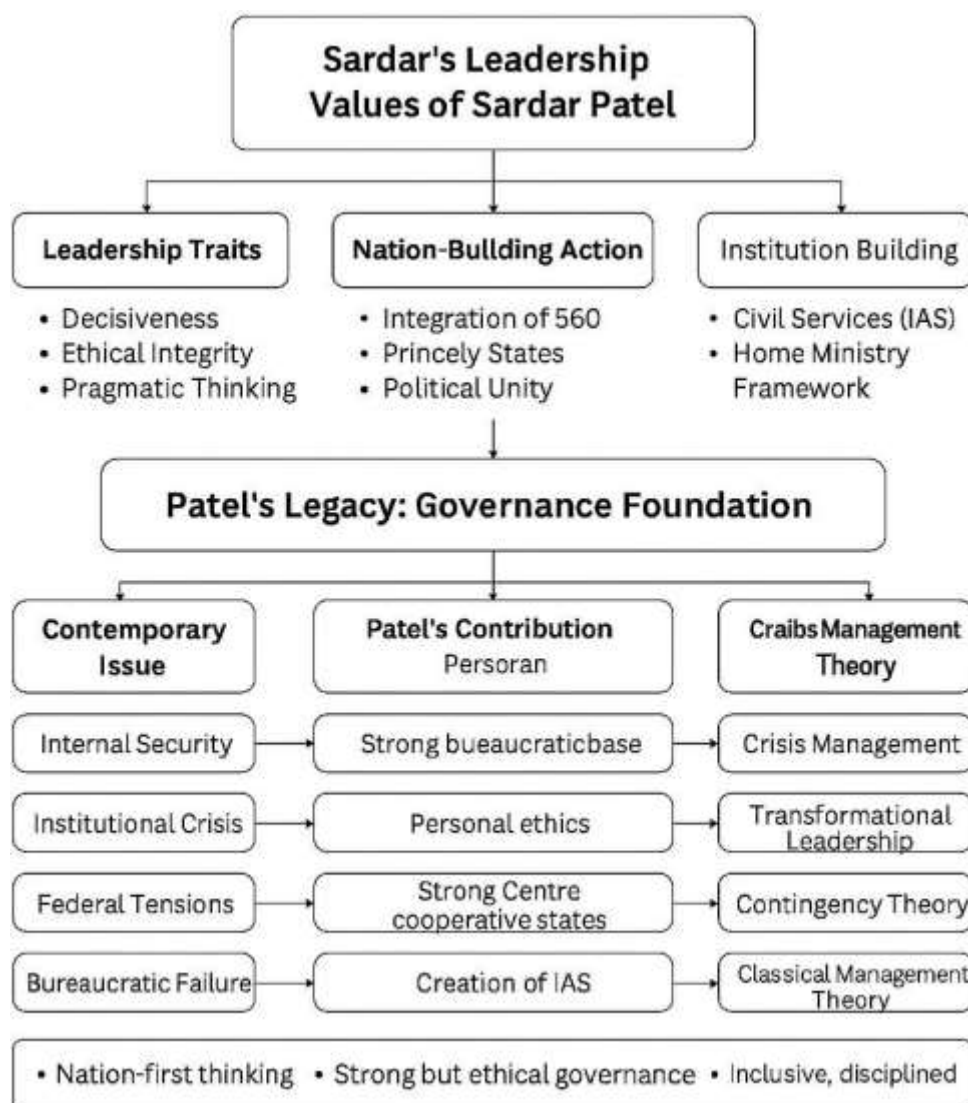
Ethical and Value-Based Leadership: According to the study, Patel's leadership was based on the concepts of Dharma (moral order), Rajdharma (responsibility of the ruler), and Seva (selfless service), which allowed him to lead with simplicity and honesty.

Administrative Nation-Building: During a turbulent time, Patel placed a high priority on internal stability, effective governance, and law and order. As a result, he established an administrative leadership model that is still applicable in modern-day India.

Relevance to contemporary Issues: Patel's leadership style is pertinent to the contemporary leadership and policy debate since it provides insights for issues like institutional autonomy, federal balance, and ethical governance

Minimal Dependency on Charm or Popularity: Patel's influence was based on action, pragmatism, and institutional work rather than populism, which contrasts with many other political leaders and emphasizes the value of substantive leadership over symbolic leadership

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study has limitations even if it provides insightful information. First of all, it mostly draws from secondary and historical sources, which could be biased in their interpretation and lack empirical support. Second, although Sardar Patel's leadership style and institution-building strategy offer a solid theoretical basis, applying them straight to current problems could ignore the intricacies of contemporary institutional, political, and social dynamics. Last but not least, the suggested conceptual model is theoretical in character and has not undergone empirical testing, which restricts its applicability in contemporary governance or administrative environments.

CONCLUSION

1. What attributes of a leader characterized Sardar Patel's style of unity and governance?
Sardar Patel showed a rare fusion of practical action, moral obligation (Rajdharm), and forceful leadership. He encouraged teamwork and national cohesion during a divided post- partition era, which is consistent with transformational leadership theory. His emphasis on serving the nation (Seva) is similar to servant leadership, in which the leader prioritizes the needs of the people and the nation before their own interests. He demonstrated contingency leadership by modifying his tactics (firmness or diplomacy) in accordance with the political climate of each princely state.
With the help of these qualities, he was able to unite 560 princely states via vision, negotiation, and strategic pressure, creating a basis for national unity that was both pragmatic and visionary.
2. What effects did his choices have on the institutional and administrative structures of India?
Patel's decisions, which reflected classical management theories like those of Henri Fayol, directly contributed to the establishment of India's institutional framework, especially the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and centralized civil services. His emphasis on structure, hierarchy, and discipline still has an impact on bureaucratic institutions today. He led India through a dramatic transition from a disjointed princely system to a unified federal democracy with robust institutions by applying Change Management concepts (such as Kotter's model). His resolute implementation of law-and-order procedures aided in preserving stability and handling post-partition emergencies.
3. How has Patel's work to establish institutions affected India's democratic system over the long run?
India's democratic system has been stabilized over time by Patel's legacy. The foundation for rule-based administration, administrative continuity, and impartial bureaucracy—all crucial components of any democracy—was established by his efforts to establish institutions. These contributions are consistent with systems theory, which holds that institutions are interdependent components of a broader democratic apparatus.

Under his direction, the bureaucracy was kept a professional, non-political branch of government, enabling democratic procedures to thrive under successive administrations. Although it faces difficulties today, Patel's idea of a united but diversified India is largely responsible for the federal system, which is still useful in handling modern concerns including administrative reforms, regional autonomy, and centralization discussions.

A LINKAGE OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, PATEL'S LEADERSHIP AND ITS INSIGHTS TODAY

Contemporary Issue	Patel's Leadership Response/Philosophy	Relevance/Insight Today
Centralization vs. Federalism	Advocated a strong Centre but ensured cooperative federalism through diplomacy	A balance of Centre-State powers is essential; Patel's integration model offers a framework
Civil Services Reforms	Created the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) as a neutral, merit- based system	Reinforces the need for administrative efficiency, neutrality, and transparency
Communal Tensions & Internal Security	Handled communal violence post- Partition with firmness and reconciliation	His approach supports strong internal security with social harmony as a priority
Erosion of Institutional Autonomy	Strengthened institutions (Home Ministry, Civil Services) to be independent	Emphasizes need for institutional integrity in current times of political interference
Political Corruption & Leadership Ethics	Lived by honesty, discipline, and public service	His ethical leadership is a model to rebuild trust in public life
Regional Separatism and Identity Politics	Integrated 560+ princely states with a national identity-first approach	Highlights the need to balance unity and regional diversity in today's politics
Digital Governance & Data Privacy	Believed in structural strength and legal safeguards (in his era's context)	Offers a principle-based approach to build digital institutions with transparency
Judiciary & Democratic Institution Challenges	Supported checks and balances, even as he built executive authority	His model urges institutional respect and separation of powers in democracy
Public Trust in Government	Earned people's trust through action-oriented leadership	Calls for restoration of credibility through decisive and people- centered

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