

RESOLUTION

Flag bearer of Freedom Movement – Our ‘Sardar’ – Sh. Vallabhbhai Patel

On the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Indian National Congress has gathered in the land of Gandhi & Patel at Ahmedabad, Gujarat to give a new direction of thought and action to India's future. The banks of Sabarmati are a witness to this ideological struggle. The inspiration for this battle of ideologies is Sardar Patel and the foundation lies in the thought process of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Ideological Struggle to Pave the Way for a New Direction

1. Drawing Inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel stepped into the thick of the freedom movement in the year 1918 by leading the farmers' agitation in Kheda, Gujarat against the tax extortion by the British. Thereafter, Sardar Patel launched the "Bardoli Satyagrah" in the year 1928 against the cruel and illegitimate levy on farmers by the Britishers. His energetic and charismatic leadership during the "Bardoli Andolan" gave him a new recognition of "Sardar".

The BJP government of today emulates the cruel British Policies against the farmers – be it bringing an ordinance to whittle down "the Right to Fair Compensation Law" for acquisition of land, the three Anti-Agriculture 'Black Laws' to enslave the farmers, blocking the path of farmers by digging up roads and putting up spikes & wedges, betrayal of the farmers by reneging on the solemn promise of an MSP guarantee law or crushing the farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri under the Jeeps of BJP leaders as a revenge for demanding justice. Therefore, once again, Congress Party is ready to tread the path of struggle shown by Sardar Patel for the rights of the farmers.

2. The British captured power by one-sided agreements and compromises with the erstwhile rulers of princely states, brutally exploited the wealth and natural resources of India and ran an autocratic regime.

The forceful leadership of Sardar Patel and visionary stewardship of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru laid the foundation of our democratic republic by merging and uniting over 560 princely states of India. Today again, the BJP seeks to fragment India's united spirit by creating artificial splits of regionalism, orchestrating scheming divisions of north v/s south & east v/s west as also wily segregation based on language and culture. Therefore, once again, the Congress Party is determined to tread upon the path of Sardar Patel of reclaiming the spirit of India by "Shed Hatred-Unite India".

3. The British followed a calculated policy of suppression of the rights of workers and labor. In the Karachi session of the Congress Party as the President of the Indian National Congress, Sardar Patel gave a clarion call against the British for protecting the rights of India's toiling workers and labor. This AICC session also transcribed the principle of nondiscrimination on the grounds of religion, caste or sex that shaped the present-day Constitutional guarantee of fundamental rights.

The BJP government of today has unleashed a sinister agenda to trample upon the rights of our striving workers and labor, be it the assault on MGNAREGA or designed weakening of India's labor laws. So much so, that fundamental rights of the people are

being bulldozed with impunity. Therefore, once again, the Congress Party resolves to walk the path of Sardar Patel by fighting for the rights of our workers and labor.

4. The British had plundered India's resources and pushed the country into a cycle of extreme poverty and wealth concentration. Sardar Patel, on the other hand, believed that comprehensive production, equitable distribution of resources, a just and impartial treatment and level playing field for all producers is the cornerstone of a sound economic policy.

On the other hand, the present BJP government has ravaged Gujarat's bountiful enterprise and used India's treasury for enrichment of a handful of crony capitalists, thereby giving rise to huge wealth concentration. Therefore, once again, the Congress is ready to walk in the footsteps of Sardar Patel by a renewed struggle for justice against extreme wealth inequality and deeply embedded concentration of wealth.

5. The forces opposed to the foundational principles of "Truth & Non-Violence" and also opposed to the freedom struggle personify the same violent ideology that murdered Mahatma Gandhi. Nathuram Godse was indoctrinated by this very perverted ideology. On the other hand, India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Sardar Patel believed that the ideology of 'Violence and Communalism' is inimical to national interests. It was Sardar Patel, who banned the RSS on 4 February, 1948 after the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

At that time, a similar violent ideology attacked both Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru and even gave a call for their 'public hanging' as described by none less than Sardar Patel himself in his letter dated 8 February, 1948 addressed to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

Today, the ideology of violence and communalism is pushing the country into an abyss of hatred, based on the divisions of religious polarization. Therefore, once again, Congress Party is determined to emulate the resoluteness of 'Iron man' Sardar Patel by fighting the frenzy of religious polarization.

6. The ideology of make-believe confrontation and mischievously professed division had led to spreading of a deliberate web of lies of conflict between Sardar Patel & Pandit Nehru. In reality, it was an attack on the very ethos of our freedom struggle and the inseparable leadership of Gandhi-Nehru-Patel.

The cobweb of deceit and deception couldn't sustain, for Sardar Patel himself wrote to Pandit Nehru on 03 August, 1947 and unequivocally stated, "Our attachment and affection for each other and our comradeship for an unbroken period of nearly 30 years admit of no formalities.... Our combination is unbreakable and therein lies our strength."

Today, the forces of animosity & division seek to undermine this very spirit of camaraderie and bonhomie. Therefore, once again, Congress is determined to follow the life principles of Sardar Patel to defeat the forces of animosity and division as also exposing the fake news factory of these elements.

7. That Congress President, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and the proponent of social justice, our leader, Shri Rahul Gandhi as also millions of Congress workers are even more determined today to walk on the "NYAYPATH" in our struggle for protection of the Constitution as also our democracy. The path shown by Sardar Patel is this very path.

We stand committed to walk on the path lit by Sardar Patel, imbibe his thoughts and reshape our present and future with his vision & thoughts. This would be the fittest tribute to the life work of Iron Man, Sardar Patel.