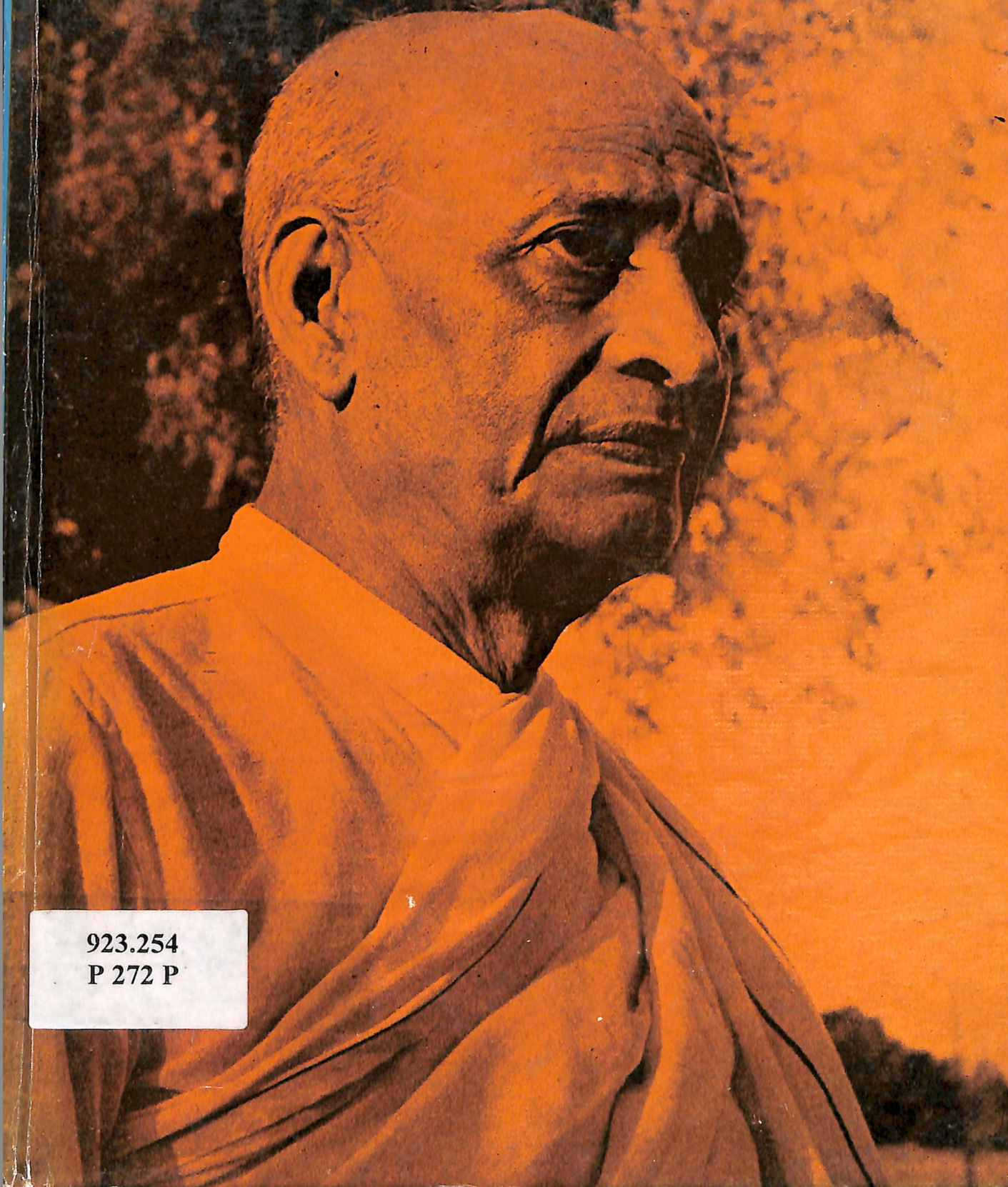


SARDAR PATEL



923.254
P 272 P



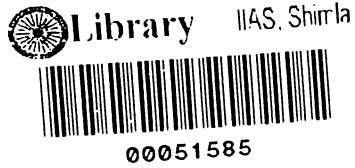
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
ADVANCED STUDY
LIBRARY * SIMLA**

DATA ENTERED



SARDAR PATEL

PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



October 1975 (Asvina 1897)

©

Published on the occasion of the birth centenary of Sardar Patel

Printed in India

Price : Rs. 15.00 ● \$ 4.50 ● £ 1.50

5-1585
22/12/75
923.254
P 2724

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PATIALA HOUSE NEW DELHI-110001

SALES EMPORIA ● PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

SUPER BAZAR (2ND FLOOR) CONNAUGHT CIRCUS NEW DELHI-110001
BOTAWALA CHAMBERS SIR PHEROZESHAH MEHTA ROAD BOMBAY-400001
8 ESPLANADE EAST CALCUTTA-700001
SHASTRI BHAVAN 35 HADDOWS ROAD MADRAS-600006

PRINTED AT THE NATIONAL PRINTING WORKS DELHI-110006

VALLABHBHAI JHAVERBHAI PATEL occupies a prominent place among those heroic men and women who worked for India's freedom and helped not only to win it but also to consolidate it. Although he came to public life only in his early forties, his thirty-three years of work in the cause of the nation are full of many-splendoured achievements. Along with Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and some other leaders, he dominated the politics of the country during the crucial thirty years from 1920 to 1950. He was not only a great leader of the masses but also a far-seeing statesman and able administrator who handled with consummate mastery and finesse the complex problems facing the new Government. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, "History will record many things about him in its pages and call him the builder and consolidator of new India...."

Vallabhbhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875 at Nadiad in the Kheda district of Gujarat. His parents Jhaverbhai Patel and Ladbai came of peasant stock. His father was a brave man. It is said that he had in early life enrolled himself in the army of Rani of Jhansi and fought against the British. Vallabhbhai was the fourth son in a family of five brothers and a sister.

He received his early education at Karamsad and then at Petlad, a small town some eleven km away, in a school where English was taught up to the fifth standard. He matriculated from the Nadiad High School.

The family could not finance his college education and, therefore, he prepared for the district pleaders' examination for which he had to borrow most of the books. He passed the examination and took up practice of law at Godhra, later shifting to Borsad, where he became quite proficient in handling criminal cases.

Like Abraham Lincoln, an illustrious American President, Vallabhbhai Patel was a self-made man who had worked with his father in the fields till he was seventeen. In 1893, when only 18, he married Jhaverbai. In 1909 when he was about 34 years old, his wife died after an operation in a Bombay hospital. When the news reached him at Borsad, he was in court arguing in a murder case. Totally unruffled, he went on arguing the case. But the news had stunned him. He never married again.

Vallabhbhai was keen on going to England and studying for the bar and saved money for the purpose. He wrote to a travel agency to arrange his passage. The firm addressed its reply to V.J. Patel and, as chance would have it, the letter was delivered to his elder brother Vithalbhai, who also wanted to go to England but had no money. Vallabhbhai not only let him go but also undertook to support his family during his absence. Vallabhbhai himself went to England later. He passed his final Bar-at-Law examination with first position and distinction for which he was awarded a cash prize of £50. He returned to India in February 1913 as a full-fledged barrister. On Vallabhbhai's arrival, Sir Basil Scott, the Chief Justice of Bombay, offered him an appointment in the Government Law School which Vallabhbhai declined. He did not want to serve the British Government. Patel specialised in criminal cases and soon had a flourishing practice. At this time, Patel's mode of living and dress was like that of a European. He was fond of playing bridge. He decorated his office with up-to-date furniture which, according to Sheth Kasturbhai, a leading businessman, was unique. He was a member of the Gujarat Club, rendezvous of Ahmedabad's fashionable society.

It was in 1917 that Patel first came in contact with Gandhiji, having been impressed by his leadership in the Champaran satyagraha. About this time, Gandhiji became the President of the Gujarat Sabha which held its first Political Conference at Godhra in November. Vallabhbhai was appointed its Secretary. The same year, he was elected a member of the Ahmedabad Municipal Board. Later, he became its President. He organised very successful relief operations during floods, drought and epidemics.

Vallabhbhai's political career had a modest beginning. The

first campaign organised jointly by Gandhiji and Patel was the Kheda satyagraha from March to June, 1918, in which, though the victory was not decisive, the sturdy peasantry of Vallabhbhai's home district learnt the lesson of fearlessness. A year later, when Gandhiji was arrested in April 1919, the people of Nadiad and Kheda soon showed the Government that they were not as mild as they looked.

The non-co-operation movement which Gandhiji launched on August 1, 1920 was a novel experiment in human history. No wonder, opinion even in the nationalist ranks was not united in support of it. Vallabhbhai, however, gave his whole-hearted support to Gandhiji's programme; and even before the special session of the Congress was held at Calcutta in September, he used his influence with the provincial leaders at the Gujarat Political Conference in August 1920 to persuade them to commit themselves to Gandhiji's programme and to recommend its adoption by the Congress. Though the movement failed in its political objective, Vallabhbhai's work made a deep impact by changing the climate of opinion in Gujarat, and eliminating from it the influence of old-style moderate politicians.

The non-co-operation movement was a watershed in India's long struggle to achieve freedom. For the first time after 1857, the British again felt their hold over India shaken. However, after the withdrawal of the movement following the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922, and Gandhiji's arrest in March, the British Government seemed to be as firmly in control as ever.

Then came the Borsad satyagraha of 1923, when Gandhiji was in jail, and later in 1928, on a much more impressive scale, the Bardoli satyagraha. The epic struggle of Bardoli, which constitutes one of the most glorious chapters in the history of India's struggle for freedom, brought out in bold relief the basic traits of Vallabhbhai's personality—an indomitable will and perseverance, a fine sense of strategy and calculation, complete identification with the espoused cause, total disregard of sentimentalism, an iron discipline imposed upon himself and those working with him and selflessness to the point of self-denial. Bardoli, in fact, was a unique personal triumph for Vallabhbhai. It was in acknowledgement of the efficiency with which he

conducted the movement that he was acclaimed as the 'Sardar'—the leader, a title by which he came to be known to the nation ever since.

The Dandi march, in 1930, electrified the people with a new self-confidence. After the symbolic breaking of the salt law by Gandhiji on the Dandi beach on April 6, the spirit of defiance spread like wildfire throughout the country. Hundreds of young soldiers of Gandhiji's non-violent movement braved police assaults as they raided the Government salt depots at Dharasana and demonstrated a type of courage and self-restraint which the world had never seen before. Prominent women of Gujarat organised picketing of foreign cloth shops and liquor booths and, by their disciplined strength, brought about a change in women's status which a century of reform movement had failed to achieve. The achievement was largely Vallabhbhai's.

Even before he entered politics, Vallabhbhai had become known for his sturdy independence both as a lawyer and a city father. He had humbled two arrogant British civilians and a British engineer foisted on the municipality by the British authorities and had obliged all three to leave. During the non-co-operation movement, Vallabhbhai had persuaded the Municipal Council, with the support of the teachers, to make the primary schools independent of Government control. After Gandhiji's arrest in March 1922, Vallabhbhai remained a firm "no-changer" in the controversy over the formation of the Swaraj party, led by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru, and demonstrated the effectiveness of direct action by taking up the leadership of the flag satyagraha in Nagpur in July 1923, and organising the people of the Borsad taluka in the Kheda district to resist payment of an unjust punitive tax imposed on the taluka by the British Government. Re-entering the municipality in 1924, Vallabhbhai became President of the council, and during his four years in this office set an example of rectitude and efficiency which won the admiration even of his critics. During the unprecedented Gujarat floods of July 1927, the Sardar was on his feet from the very first night of the deluge and worked tirelessly week after week. Gandhiji was then in Bangalore, but Vallabhbhai and his band of workers had already learnt the art of disciplined service and did their work so well that even Lord

Irwin, during his visit to Gujarat in December, publicly acknowledged the superb efficiency of the relief operations organised by the Gujarat Congress.

Thanks to this constructive approach to political work, the Congress had struck deep roots among the common people of Gujarat. When civil disobedience came, Sardar Patel was among the first national leaders to be arrested. That was on March 7, 1930, a few days before the Dandi march commenced. But whether in jail or out of it, he received unstinted co-operation from the volunteers who had responded to his call, and they made a complete success of Gandhiji's programme of defiance of salt laws and boycott of foreign cloth. Though refusal to pay land revenue was not a part of the campaign, several villages in Borsad and Bardoli talukas refused to pay the tax even at the cost of their lands and other possessions.

Gujarat's massive contribution to the national movement was gratefully recognised by the nation when the Sardar was made President of the Congress which met at Karachi in the last week of March 1931 to consider and approve the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. It was an extremely difficult situation for any President to handle, for the execution, a few days earlier, of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdeo and Raj Guru, had enraged the nation beyond measure and ratification by the Congress of the Gandhi-Irwin agreement seemed almost an impossibility. But Vallabhbhai softened the opposition by himself condemning the execution as "heartless" and promising resumption of the struggle after six months, if the parleys at the Round Table Conference failed.

They did. Gandhiji returned empty-handed. The Government had made advance preparations to crush the civil disobedience movement, and within a week of Gandhiji's landing in Bombay, all the leaders were arrested. This time Vallabhbhai was lodged in Yeravda jail with Gandhiji. Their days together in jail from March 1932 to April 1933 have been delightfully chronicled by Mahadev Desai who joined them later. He has described Vallabhbhai's mother-like concern for Gandhiji's comfort and his infectious humour about which Gandhiji remarked: "I have in my little camp of four a special privileged jester in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He

succeeds in bending me almost double with laughter over his unexpected sallies. Gloom hides her fiendish face in his presence. No disappointment, however great, can make him gloomy for long. And he will not let me be serious for two consecutive minutes. He will not spare even my saintliness.” Gandhiji, after release from jail, spoke of the tender feelings of Sardar Patel. In his words: “...I was well aware of his matchless bravery but....I never knew him to possess motherly qualities. If the slightest thing happened to me, he would be out of his bed. He superintended every detail in connection with my comforts.”

The Sardar’s loyalty and affection did not, however, stand in the way of his disagreeing with the Mahatma when occasion demanded. For example, Vallabhbhai insisted on getting back for the Gujarat Vidyapith the library which, with Gandhiji’s consent, had been handed over to the Ahmedabad Municipality while Vallabhbhai was in jail. Vallabhbhai had come to the aid of the Vidyapith when it was in financial difficulties during the twenties and had collected for it as much as ten lakhs of rupees. The Vidyapith had all along been rendering invaluable national service by producing alumni, qualified and willing to do work in the villages. When after the withdrawal of the civil disobedience movement in 1934 the Vidyapith was revived, Vallabhbhai was made its Vice-Chancellor and later, after Gandhiji’s death, Chancellor. The collection of books which Vallabhbhai thus saved in 1934 has now become one of the biggest libraries in Ahmedabad, and the Gujarat Vidyapith continues to supply well-trained village workers.

He was among the front-rank leaders who appreciated Gandhiji’s intention of resigning from the Congress in 1934 to devote himself to the revival of village industries, and rendered all possible assistance to the new programme.

When the Congress decided to contest the elections to the Central Legislative Assembly in November 1934, the main burden of the election campaign fell on Vallabhbhai and, though he himself had never been a whole-hearted supporter of the Parliamentary programme, he became, from now on, more and more involved in Parliamentary activity. Later, as Chairman of the Parliamentary Board, Vallabhbhai was in overall charge of the Congress

election campaigns both in 1937 and 1946 and established an efficient machinery not only for winning the elections but also for co-ordinating the work of the ministries and ensuring that the latter faithfully carried out the Congress policies and worked under the direction of the national organisation. The Sardar's work during this early phase of the Parliamentary programme was of inestimable value in creating an all-India framework for the functioning of provincial ministries and thereby preparing the ground for the evolution in post-independence India of a truly national political outlook.

Another sensitive problem which required most careful handling was that of the freedom struggle in the Indian states. With the winds of change blowing in British India, the subjects of the princely states were getting restive and beginning to organise themselves for civil and political rights. The Congress policy, laid down at Gandhiji's instance, had been one of avoiding direct interference in the affairs of the states and till then Gandhiji had even discouraged satyagraha in the states. This policy had the support of Vallabhbhai. Both knew that once the protection of the British Government ended, the Indian princes would not be able to resist the demands of their subjects, and they also felt that the princes would be patriotic enough to co-operate with the leaders of British India as soon as they were free to do so. But when Congress ministries started functioning in the provinces, the atmosphere in the country changed and the political organisations in Indian states began to demand affiliation with the National Congress and its support in their struggles against their rulers. At the Haripura Congress in February 1938 the Congress agreed to recognise organisations of the states' subjects and guide their movements. At the Tripuri Congress in March 1939 the policy was further revised and the struggle of the states' subjects was made part and parcel of the national struggle for freedom. The Sardar had all the time been in close contact with the leaders of the states' subjects in Gujarat and now began to take more active interest in guiding them. He presided over the conferences of the Prajamandals of Baroda and Bhavnagar states and entered into negotiations with the Rajkot ruler on behalf of the states' subjects. The struggle in Rajkot became an all-India issue and brought Gandhiji too on the scene. All these experiences

gave Vallabhbhai a first-hand picture of conditions in the Indian states and an insight into the working of the minds of Indian princes.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, the national struggle entered its last phase and the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan added to it a dimension which was a challenge even for the phenomenal moral influence of the Mahatma. The events took such a turn and communal unrest reached such proportions that the majority of the national leaders became convinced that the choice was between partition, as demanded by the Muslim League, and anarchy in the country. Vallabhbhai had all along opposed the demand for Pakistan, but he was now among the first to accept the Mountbatten plan for partition. Accordingly, the Congress Working Committee took the fateful decision and Gandhiji himself persuaded the A.I.C.C. to accept it.

The 'finest hour' in the life of Sardar Patel came when he had to deal with the incorporation of over 560 princely states in the Indian Union. Lord Mountbatten, who had frequently discussed this subject with him, has written: "We were, of course, particularly closely associated in dealing with the future of the 565 Indian states. My instructions from the British Government were to hand back paramountcy to all the rulers on the transfer of power to British India. This would then in theory have created 565 entirely independent sovereign states within the borders of the Indian sub-continent. . . . There is no doubt that the high-minded statesmanship which Vallabhbhai Patel displayed throughout these very difficult negotiations made it possible to find a solution."

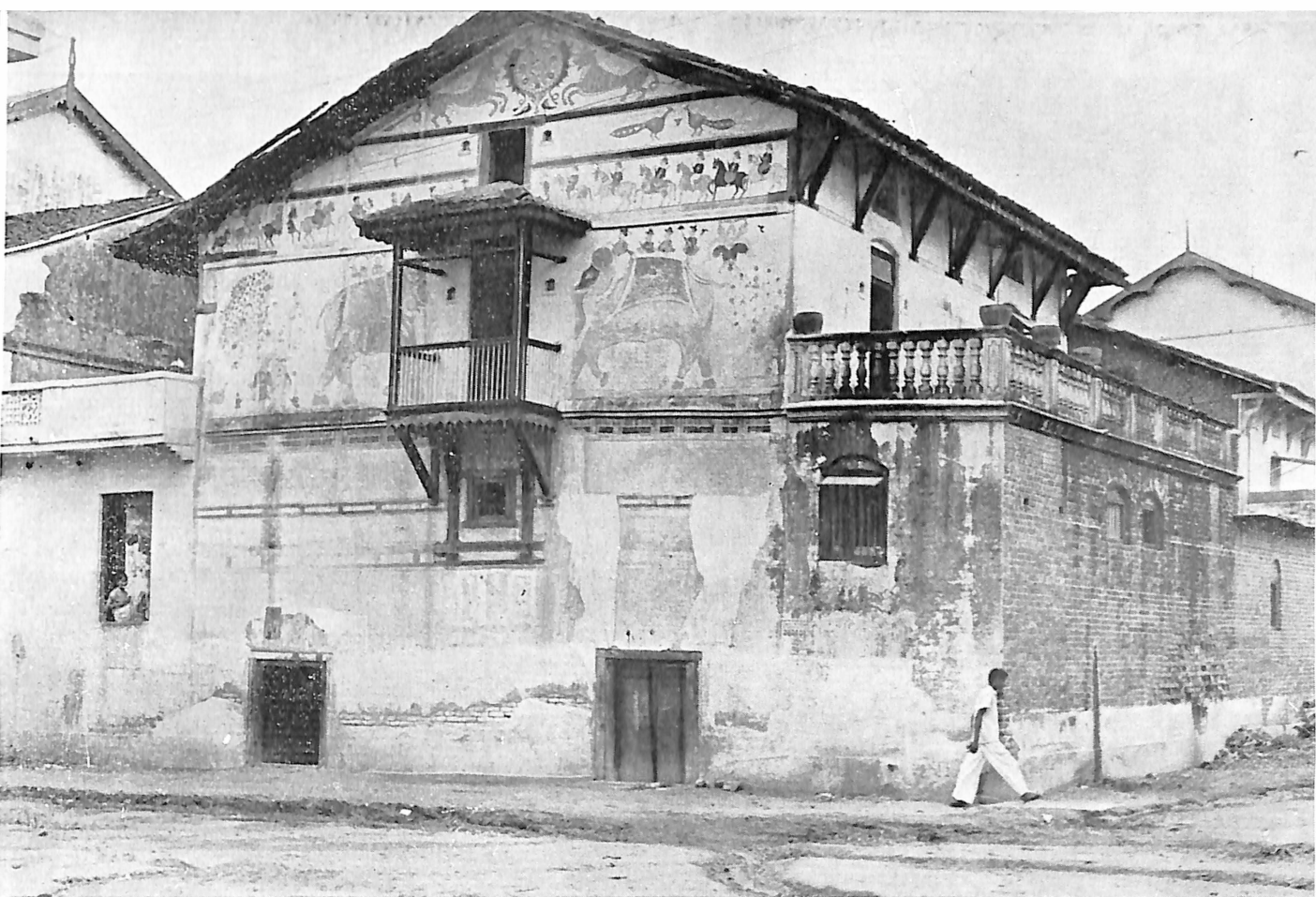
All the princes had entered into agreements with the paramount power and all were jealous of their rights and privileges. To persuade such a motley crowd to come to terms with the new India was a Herculean task. Sardar Patel appealed to their sense of patriotism and said: "We are at a momentous stage in the history of India. By common endeavour we can raise the country to a new greatness while lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities. I hope the Indian states will bear in mind that the alternative to co-operation in the general interest is anarchy and chaos which will overwhelm great and small in a common ruin if we are unable to act together in the minimum of common tasks."

U.N. Dhebar in a commemorative lecture on Sardar Patel on September 5, 1975 said: “His contribution is oftentimes compared to that of Bismarck of Germany. If one goes, however, into the history of Germany as related by H.G. Wells, one would understand the great difference between the two. First, the integration of states that took place in India was on a much vaster scale. Secondly, it had to be worked out in much greater depth in India. Thirdly, there was a qualitative difference in the process adopted in the two countries....

“What was achieved in the brief span of two or three years and what we have inherited is something which everyone can be proud of—a united country under a single Constitution, under a single Parliamentary forum elected on the basis of adult suffrage, a united economic framework and a united army....

“Once when a seasoned worker was facing some domestic problem and wanted to retire, the Sardar said: ‘When I joined Gandhiji, I collected some firewood, lit a fire, put all considerations of my family, my career, my reputation and everything in the fire. I do not know what would be left of all these except the ashes.’ True to his words, when he died, his personal clothing was his only belonging.”

On his death, the *Manchester Guardian* wrote: “Patel was not only the organiser of the fight for freedom but also the architect of the new State when the fight was over. The same man is seldom successful as a rebel and a statesman. Sardar Patel was the exception.”



House in Karamsad (Gujarat) where Vallabhbhai Patel lived as a child



Vallabhbhai's mother Ladbai



Vallabhbhai as schoolboy
at Nadiad (Gujarat)



As district pleader,
Borsad (Gujarat)

Gandhiji during the Kheda
satyagraha, 1918

Caring little for his lucrative
legal practice, Vallabhbhai
joined the movement under the
leadership of Gandhiji, who
later said about Vallabhbhai:

*"If it were not for his assistance,
I must admit that this campaign
would not have been carried
through so successfully."*



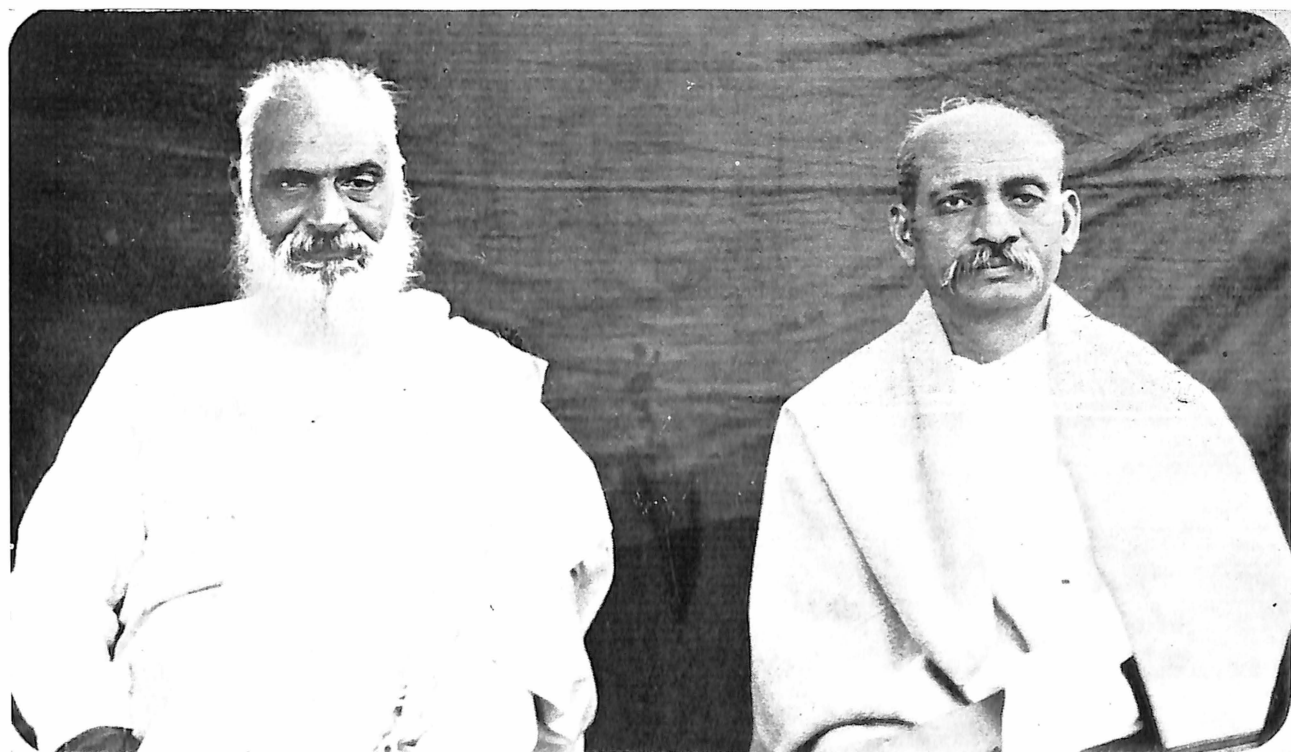
The two brothers, Vithalbai
and Vallabhbhai (right), as
Barristers-at-Law on the latter's
return from England, 1913

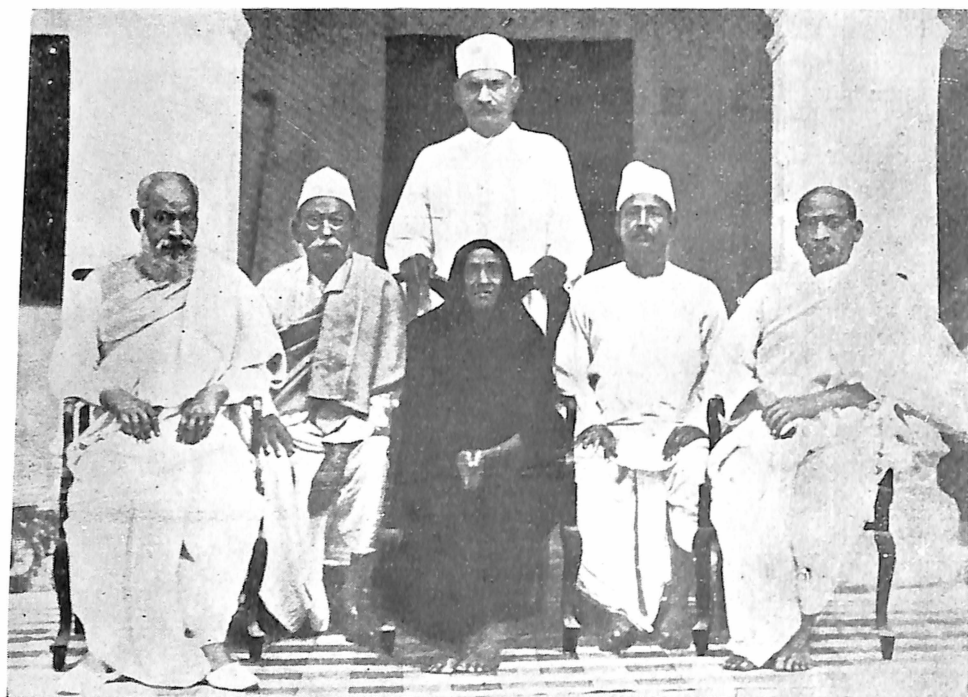


Vithalbhai and Vallabhbhai (right)



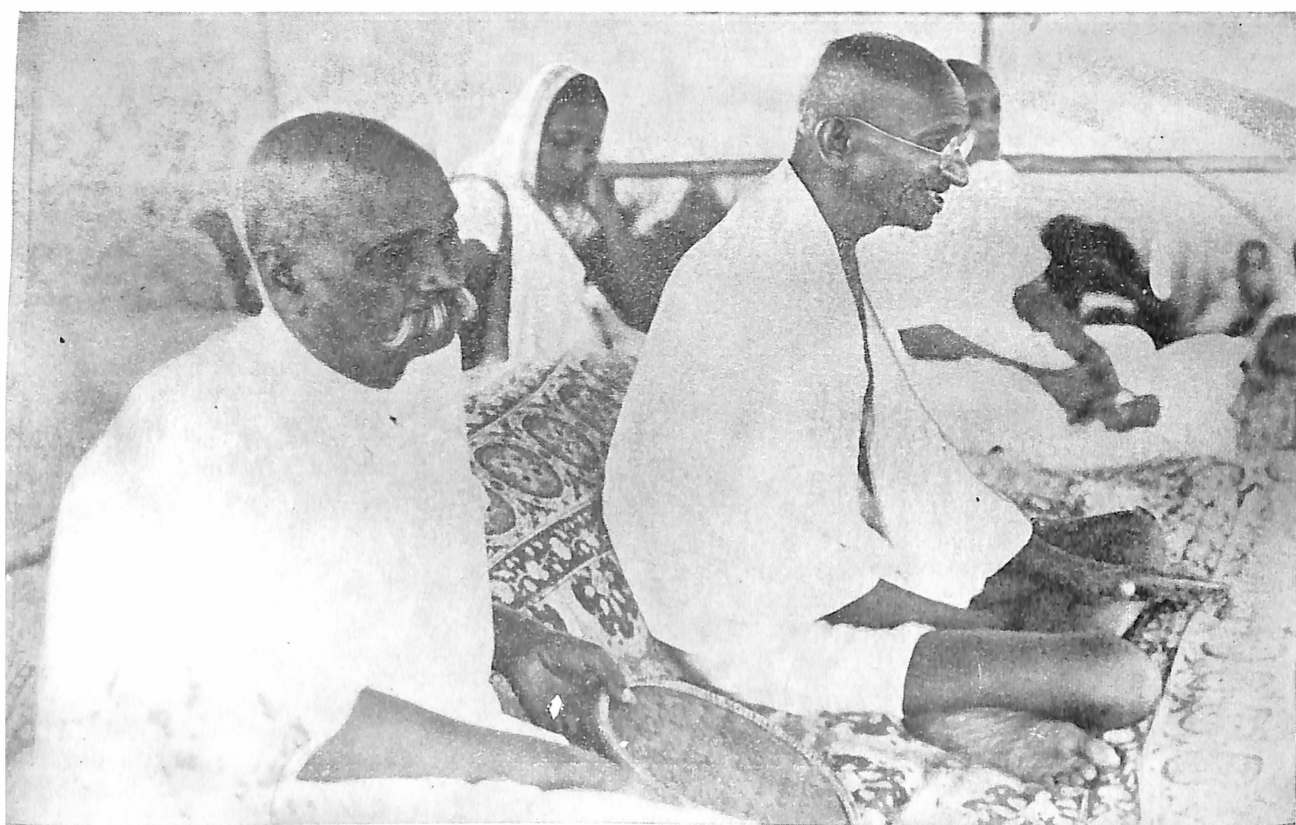
In 1923 during the Nagpur flag satyagraha and the Borsad satyagraha against punitive police tax

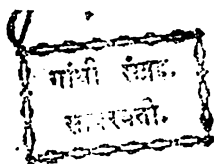




Ladbai with her five sons, 1927
 (From left to right): Vithalbhai, Somabhai, Kashibhai (standing),
 Narsinhabhai and Vallabhbbhai

With Gandhiji at a public meeting, 1929





Vallabhbhai

Sarojinidevi says I should
go there for moral success
In my presence absolutely
necessarily am still useful
for a while work or long
discussions conferences
Bapu

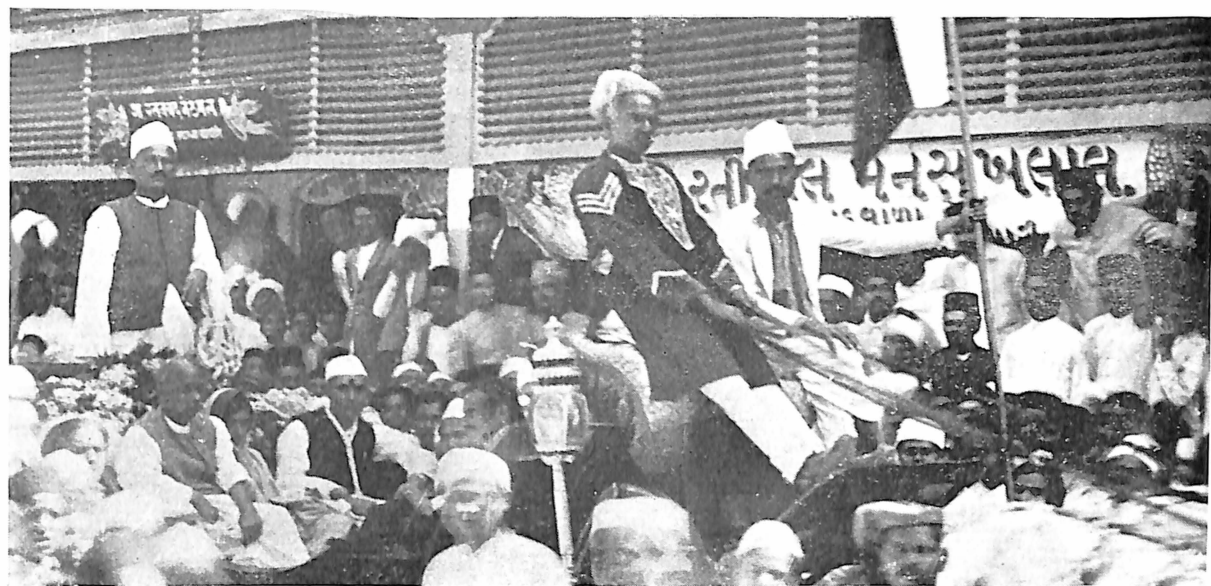
Vallabhbhai organised flood relief work in Gujarat. Above is a message dated August 8, 1927 in Gandhiji's hand telegraphed from Bangalore where he was convalescing.

Vallabhbhai's reply was characteristic:

"If you wish to give us an opportunity to show you how well we have learnt what you have taught us and how we are putting into practice the training that you have been giving us for the past 10 years, do not come."

Hero of Bardoli, 1928
His victory in the Bardoli satyagraha won
him the title of 'Sardar'.
After Bardoli, he emerged as an all-India
leader.

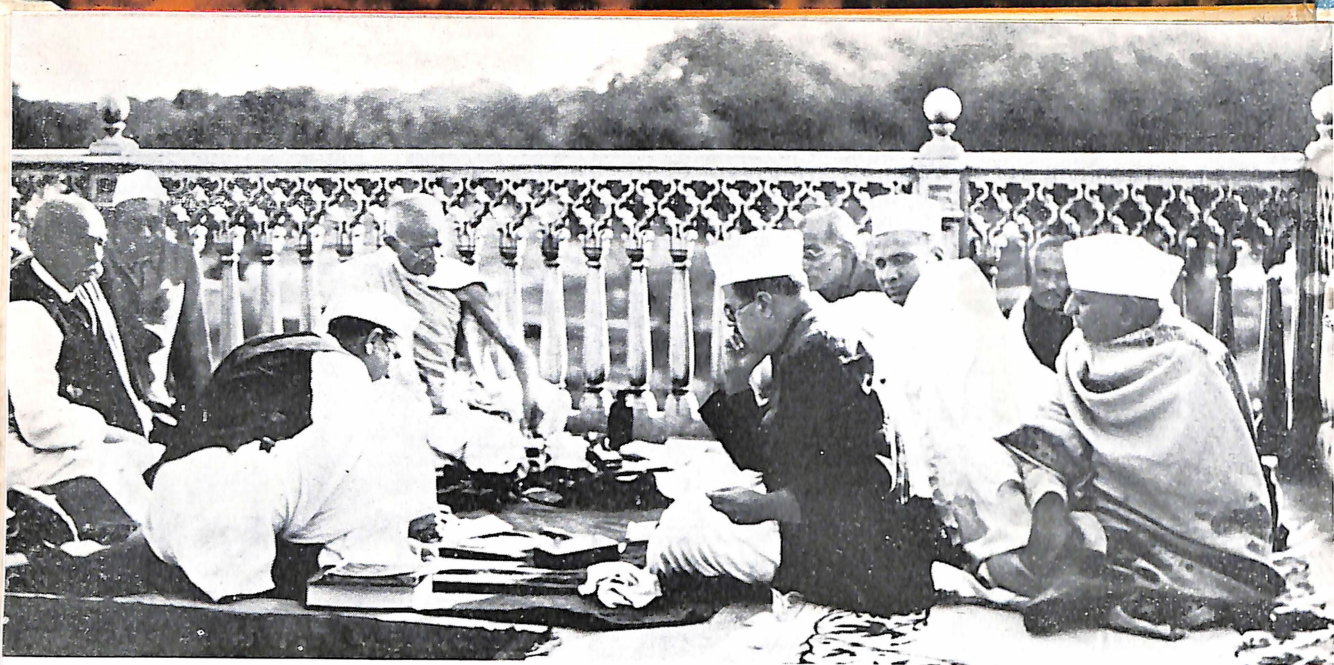




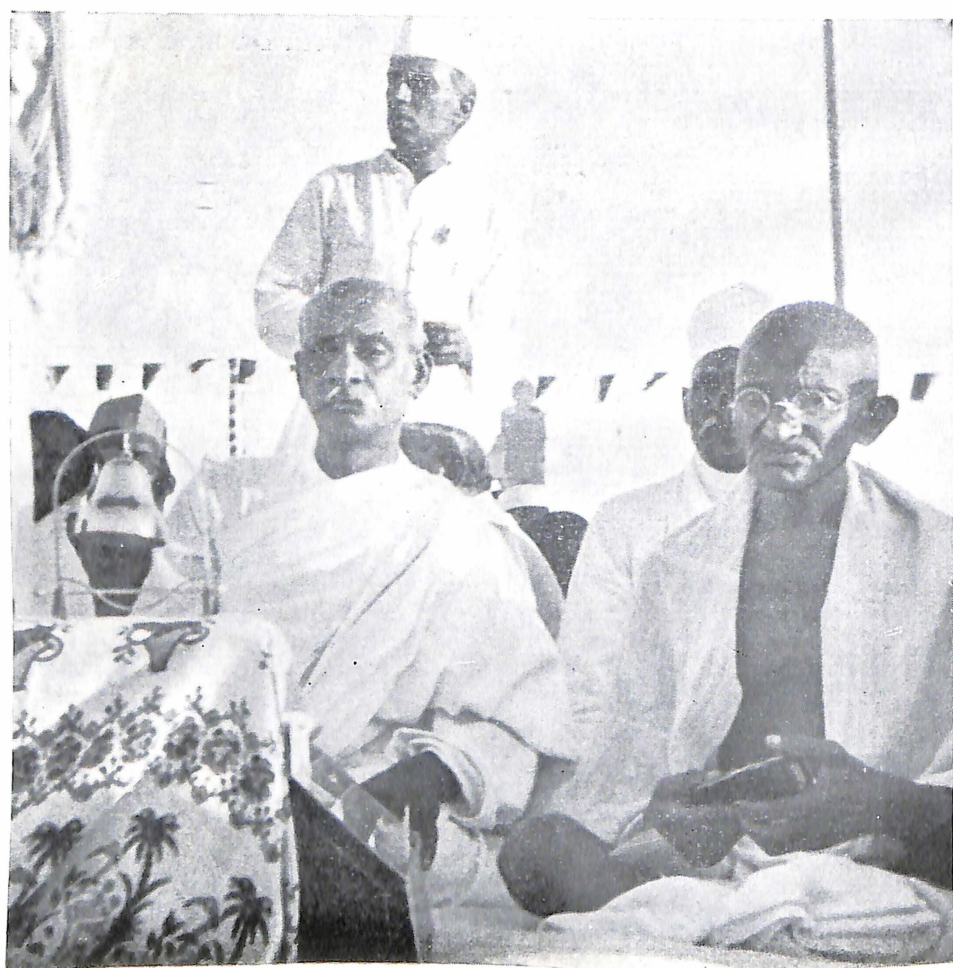
Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel being taken out in a procession in Ahmedabad, 1930

In a group of national leaders, 1931, seated between Dr. M.A. Ansari and Jawaharlal Nehru





At the Congress Working Committee meeting at Anand Bhawan, Allahabad, 1931



President,
Karachi Congress, 1931

The Sardar declared:
*"There is no receding from
the Lahore resolution of
Complete Independence."*



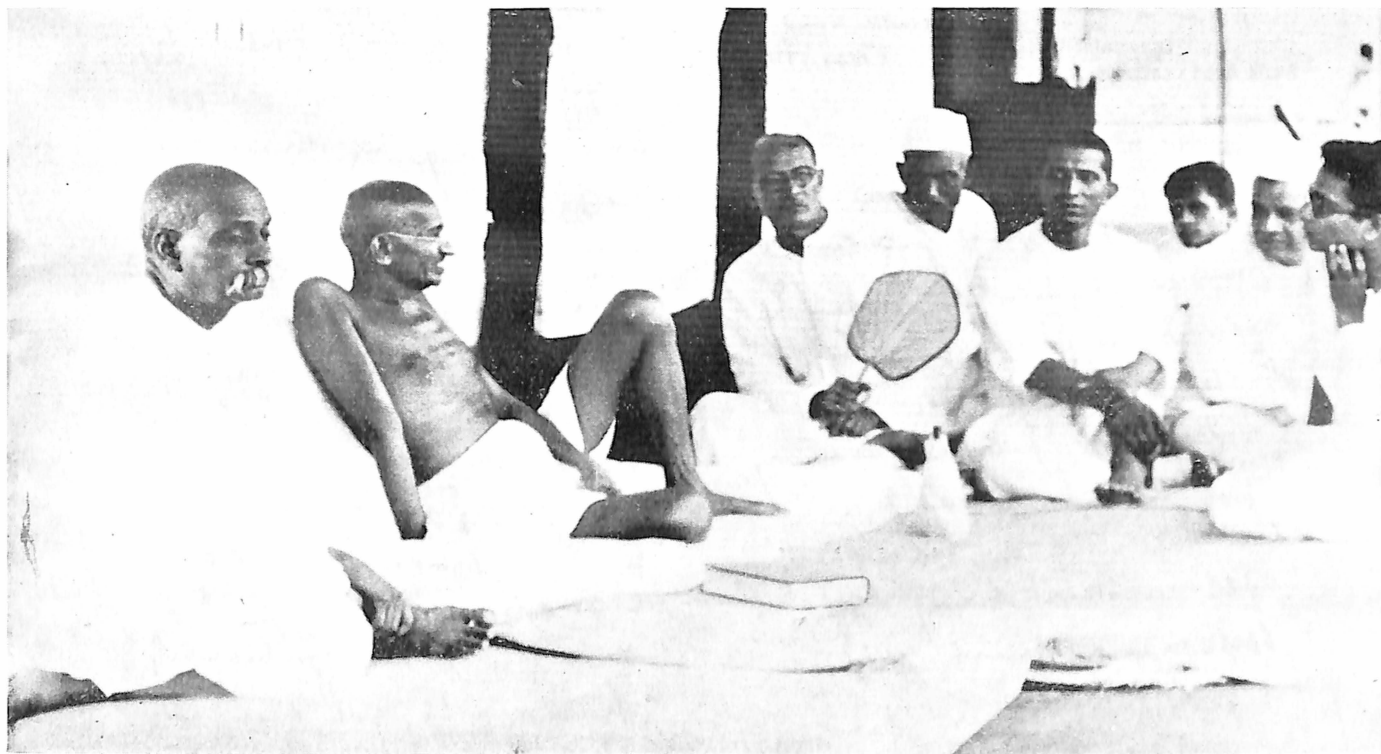
In 1931

← Letter dated September 7, 1931 to Gandhiji in the Sardar's own handwriting regarding the enquiry into hardships of Bardoli peasants



With Bhulabhai Desai, November 14, 1931
Bhulabhai presented the case of the peasants.
Standing behind Sardar Patel is his daughter
Maniben Patel.

With Gandhiji at Borsad



485

The Sardar's letter dated May 29, 1933 to Gandhiji when the latter broke his fast.

"At this auspicious moment both of us [Vallabhbhai and Chhaganlal Joshi] seek your blessings. God has indeed been immensely kind, but now I beg of you, be kind to us."

Superintendent,
Yaravda Central Prison,
(Poona)

W³ Central Prison.
Nasik Road
Superintendent,
Nasik Road Central Prison.
8th Nov. 1933
My Dear Jalsabhai

I had received the
your message for of Ambalase
from you Kamala and Sasagani Devi
and I must Thank you all for
the same

This time fate has been very
very unkind to me and I have
had some terrible blows one
after another ~~leaving my~~
~~happy marriage~~ ~~home~~ At first
my dear old mother died
in May 1932 and soon after¹⁷

wife? After that he himself
 was laid up with typhoid for
 a very long time and as one
 time during his illness we
 had all lost, hopes when
 some of our Ahmedabad friends
 were so unnerved that they
 tried to sue for allowing
 them to secure his release
 of Maniben on parole for
 some time. I could not agree
 to their proposal and Maniben
 was also not willing to go
 out on parole. Fortunately
 however he got over his
 illness and although ~~it~~ ^{he} took
 a long time to recover his nor

strength he is now quite calmer
again. Now comes on top of all
this his hands, blown by
my brother's death in a foreign
country. It is so sad to think
that he shall meet no more.
He was very unwilling to go
out of India this time but
fate took him away and
~~although he was in the hospital~~
~~for four days before his departure~~
~~but then - he was only a weakly~~
~~man and he was never very~~
~~strong. (X) but~~
more for his death at a
place where there was
none of the things he loved.

The abundance of deep sympathy
from my dear friends sustains
me here in my tribulation and
your message has given me
great consolation. Please convey
my thanks to Kamala. Also to
Lala Girdharilal for his very touching
letter.

How is mother now?
I am so glad Krishna has
found her permanent home in

Gujarat and you have now been
relieved of one of your heavy
responsibilities.

Her Lady Grace is still at Allahabad
or is she still at Allahabad?

I hope Kamala has now
recovered and is able to
move about freely.

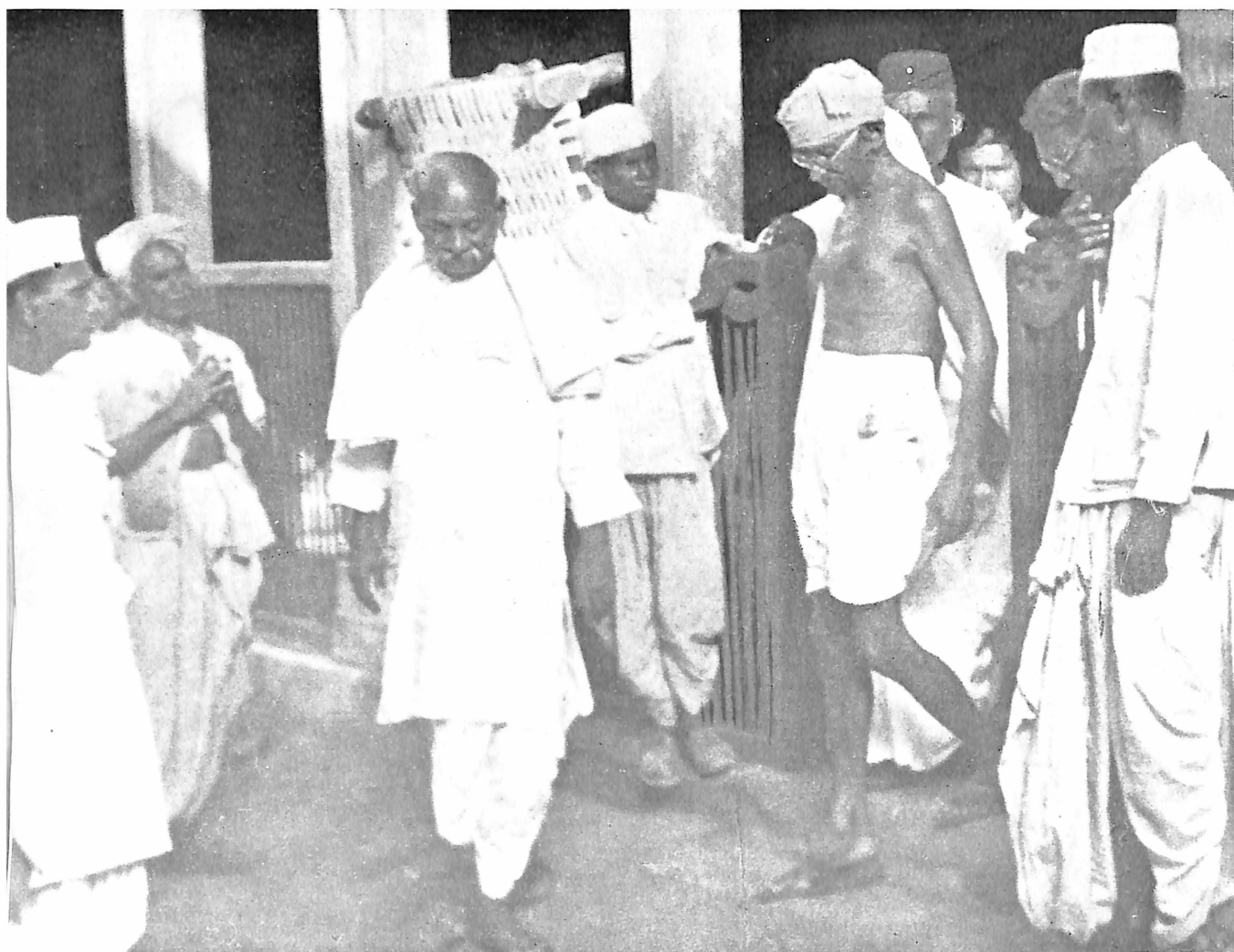
How is your health?

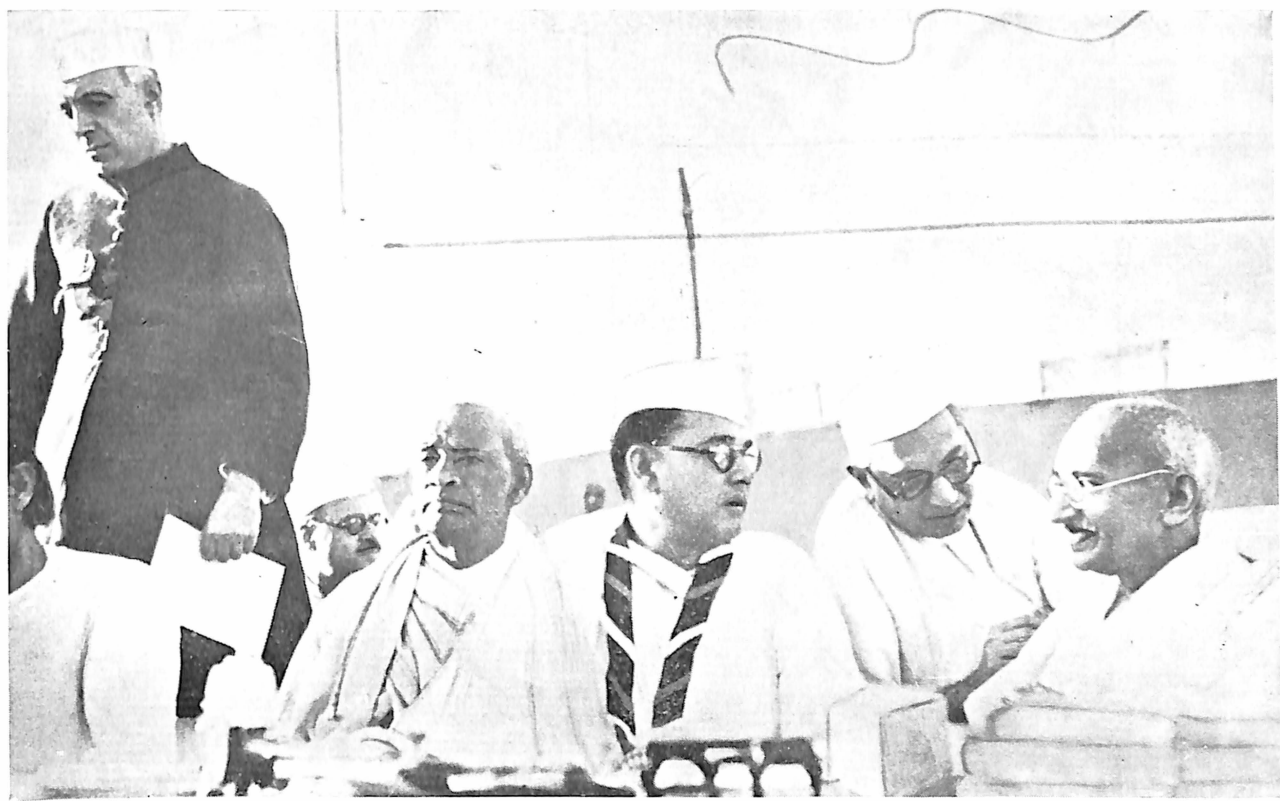
Do write to me all
about you and your family
tell you are free to do so.
I am alright.

Yours
Vallabhbhai.

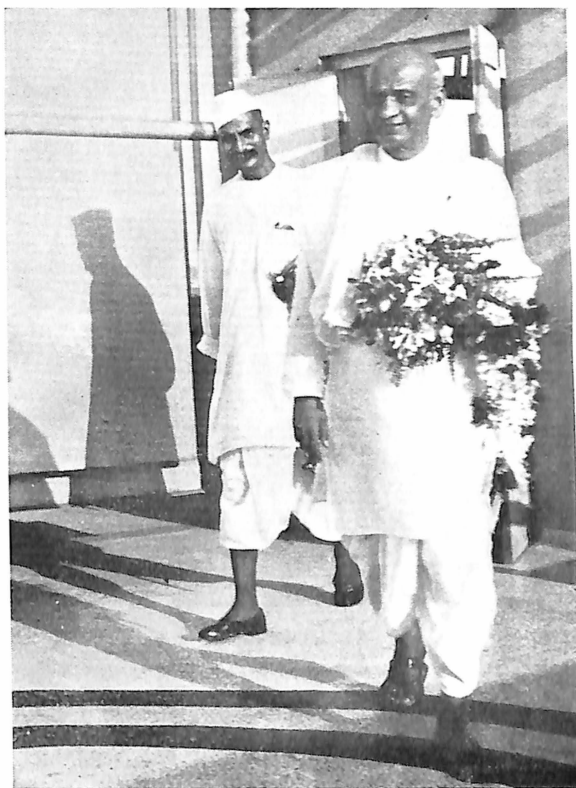
Sardar Patel's letter to Jawaharlal Nehru

With Gandhiji on a tour of villages in the Borsad taluka in Gujarat during a plague epidemic, May 1935



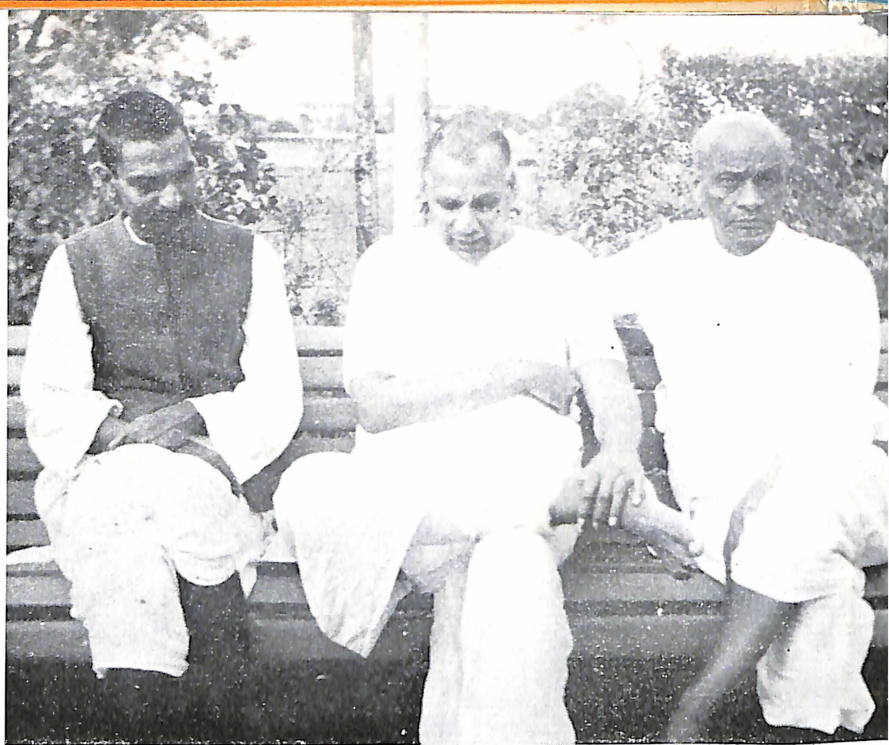


At the Harijans Congress, February 1938



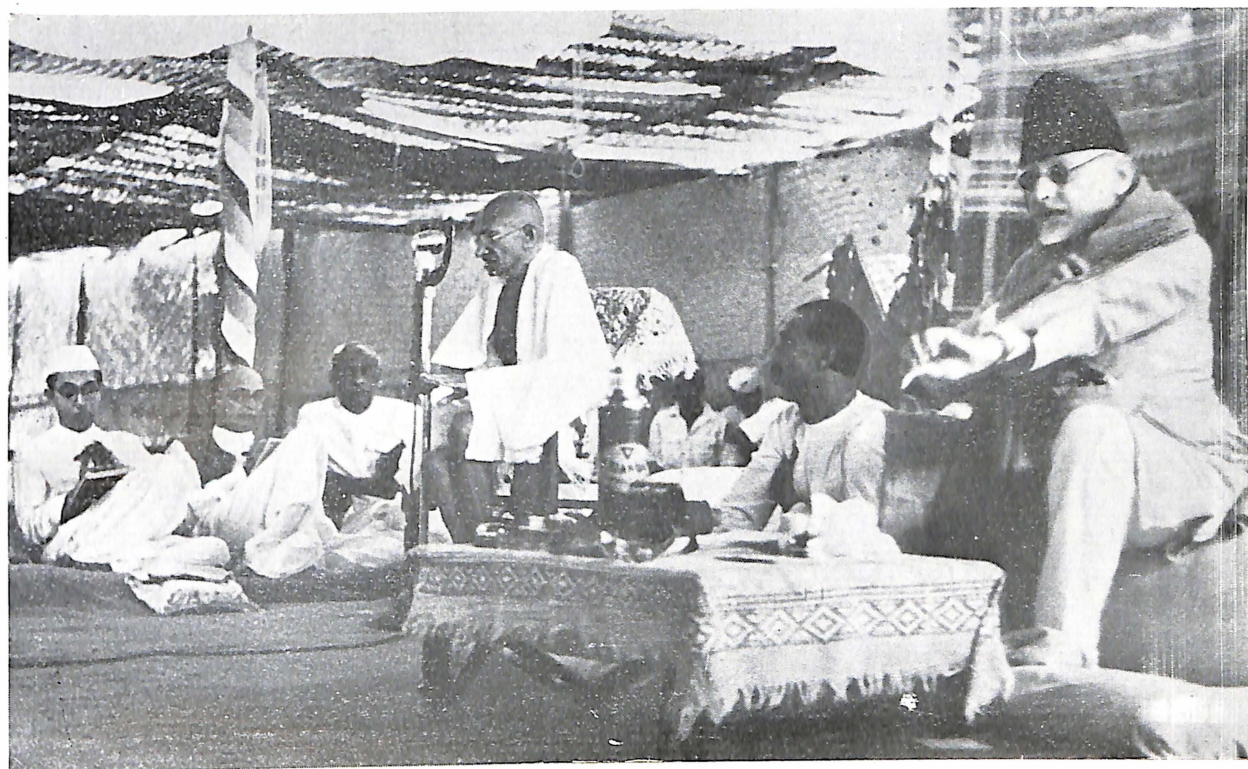
With Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
June 6, 1939

With Dr. Rajendra Prasad
and Jamnalal Bajaj at
Wardha, August 8, 1939



With Gandhiji and Dr. Rajendra Prasad at the Delhi Railway Station, 1940





At the Congress Working Committee meeting, Wardha, February 1942

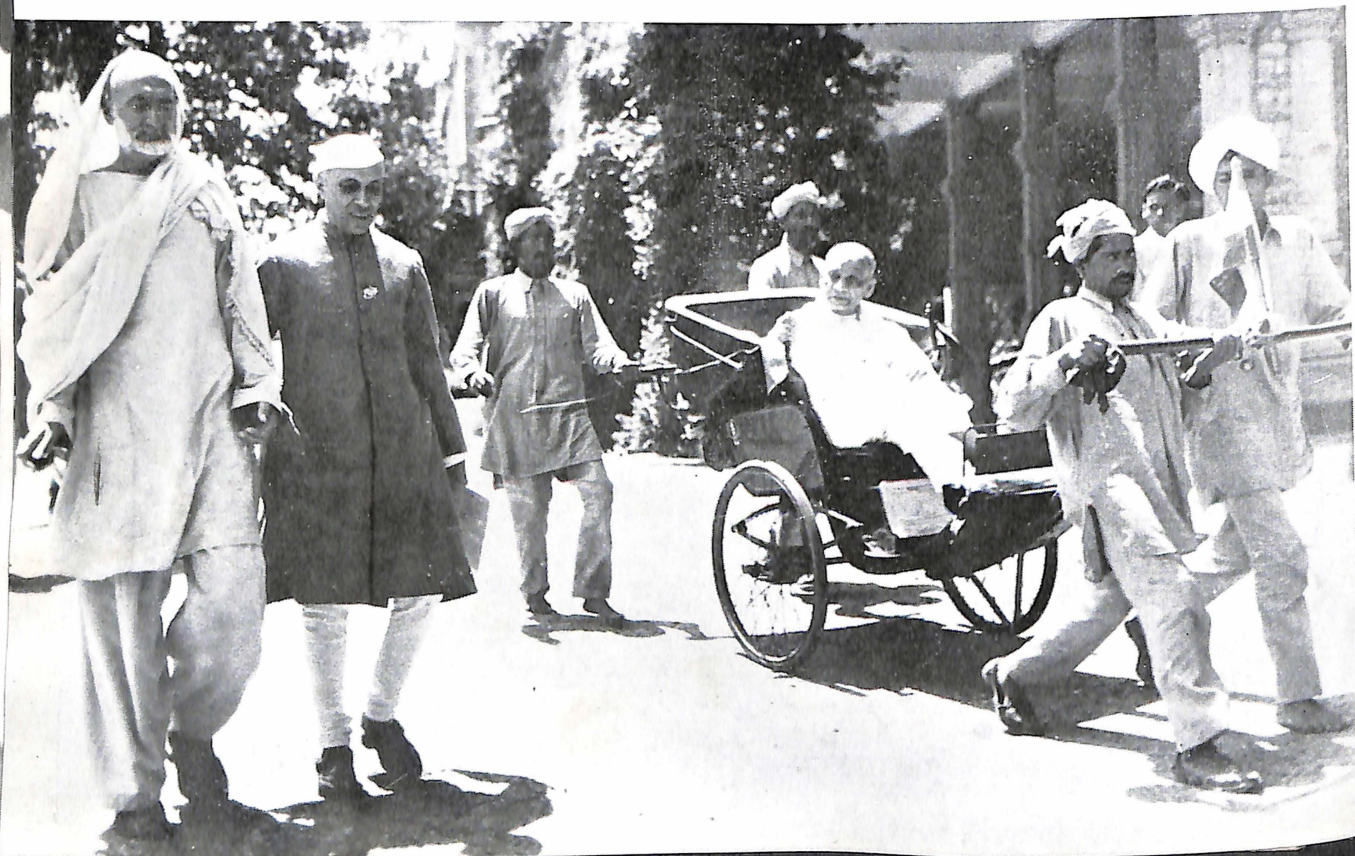
With Gandhiji

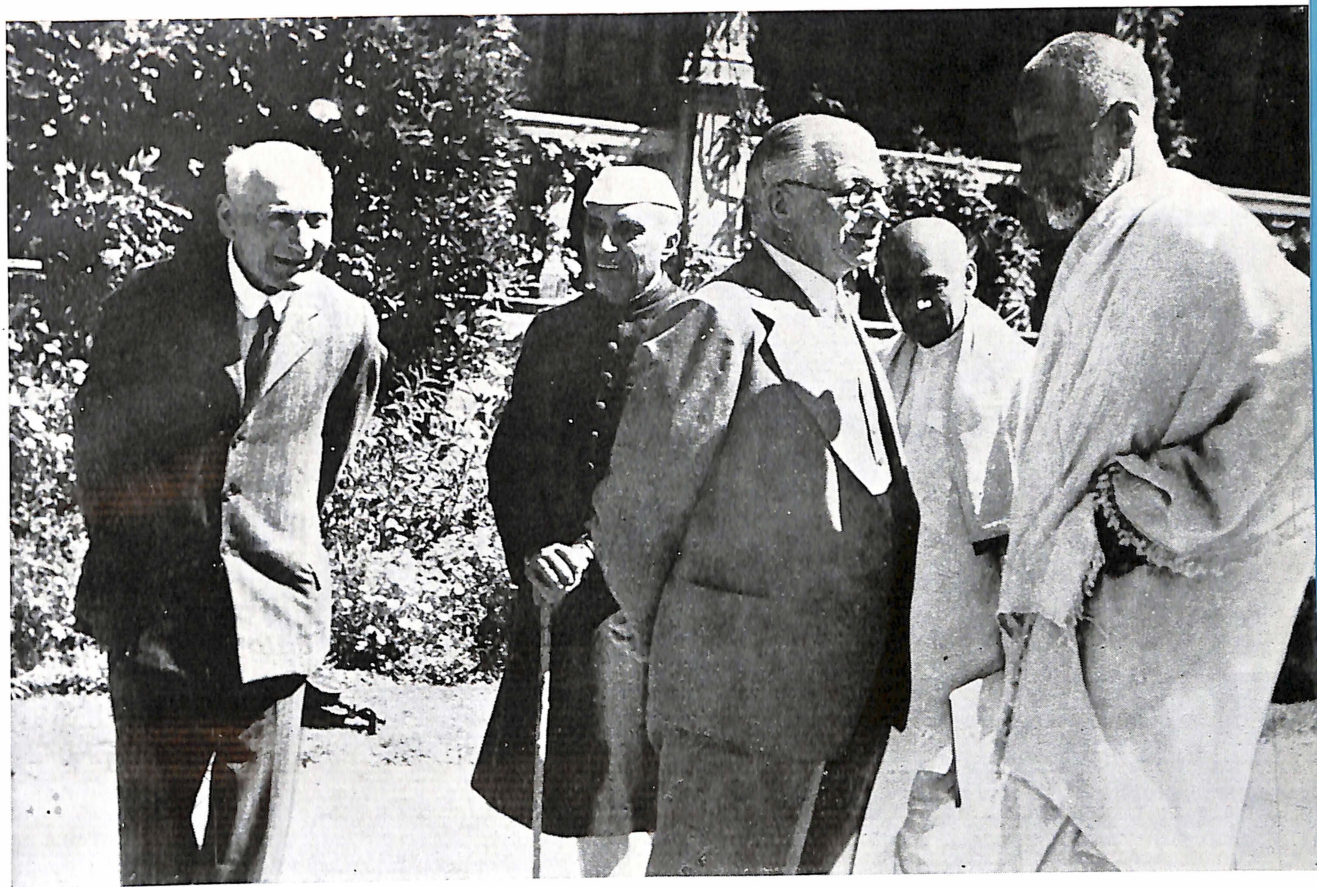


With Gandhiji during the
Simla Conference, July 1945



Leaving the Viceregal Lodge in Simla after discussions, May 1946



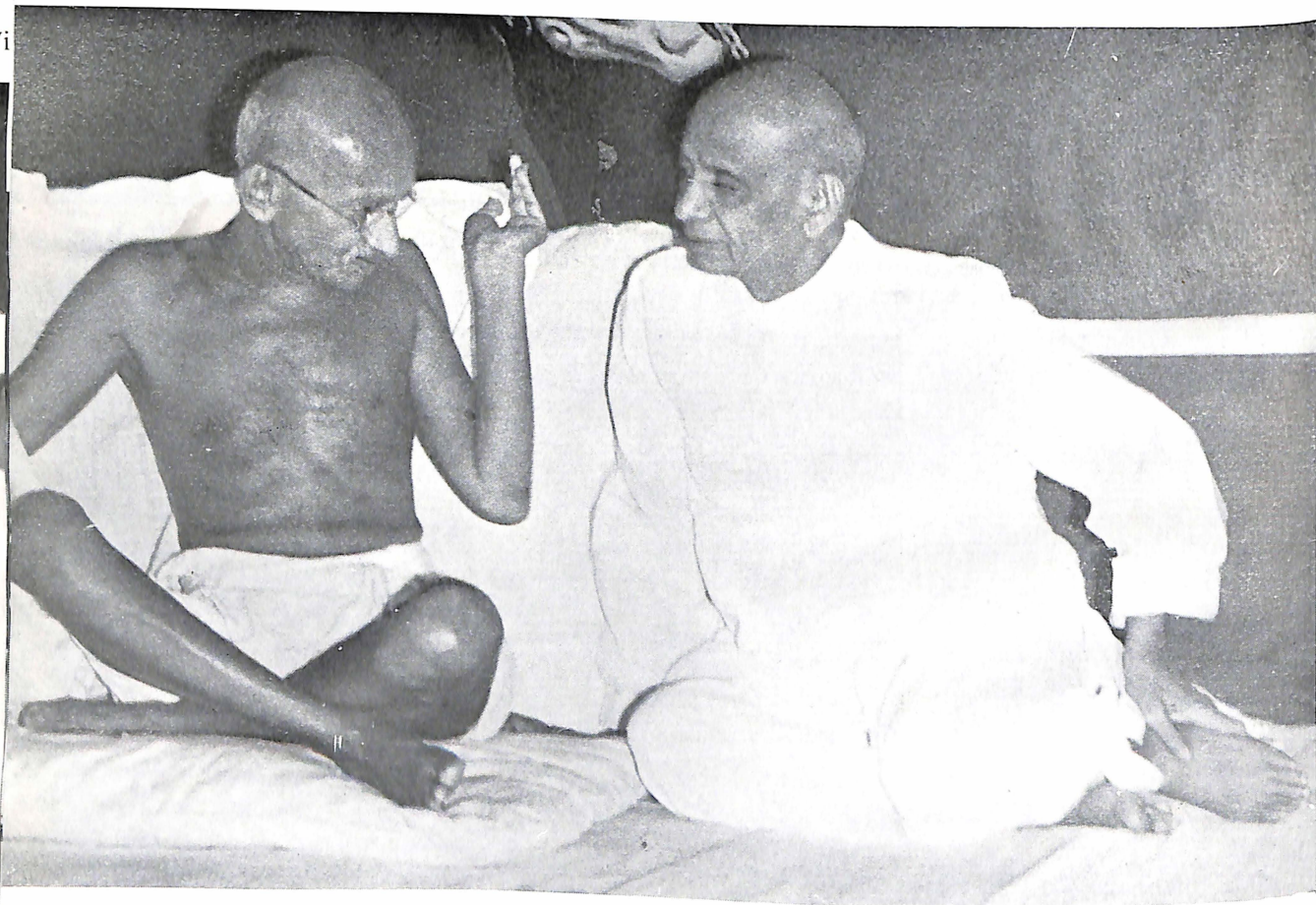


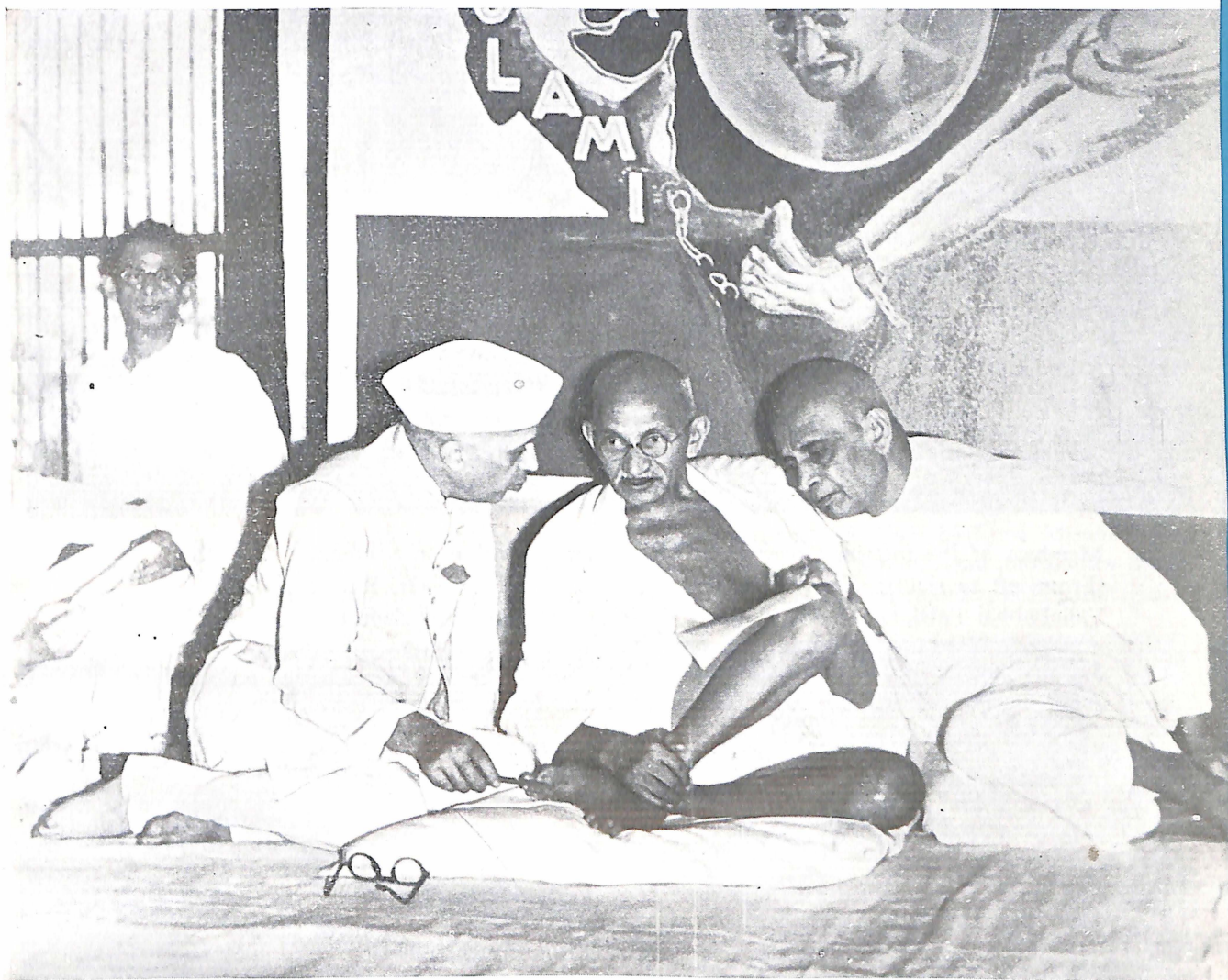
With Lord Pethick-Lawrence (extreme left) who led the Cabinet Mission, Simla, May 1946



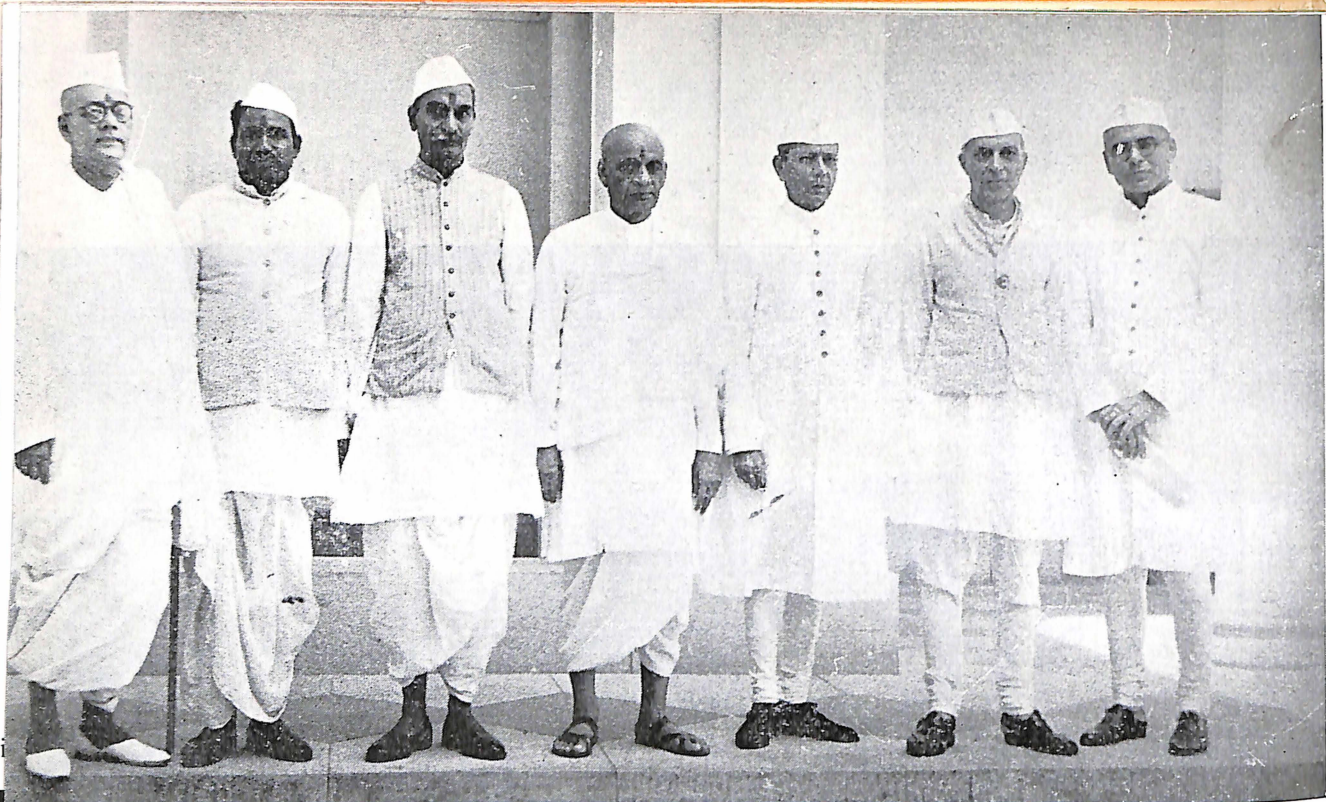
With Acharya Kripalani,
Congress President, 1946

With Gandhiji at the All India Congress Committee session held in Delhi in 1946
to consider the Interim Government proposal



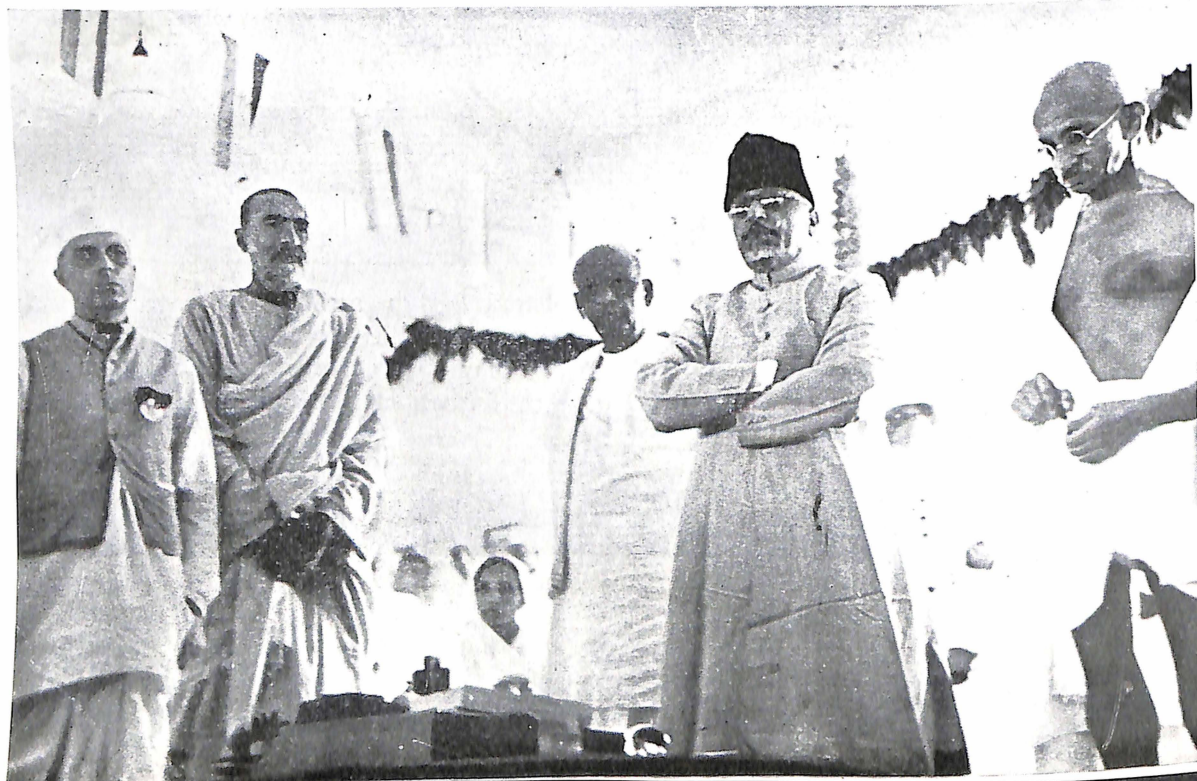


The Triumvirate—Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Patel—in intimate conversation at the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay, July 1946. Following the discussions, the Congress agreed to participate in the formation of an Interim Government.

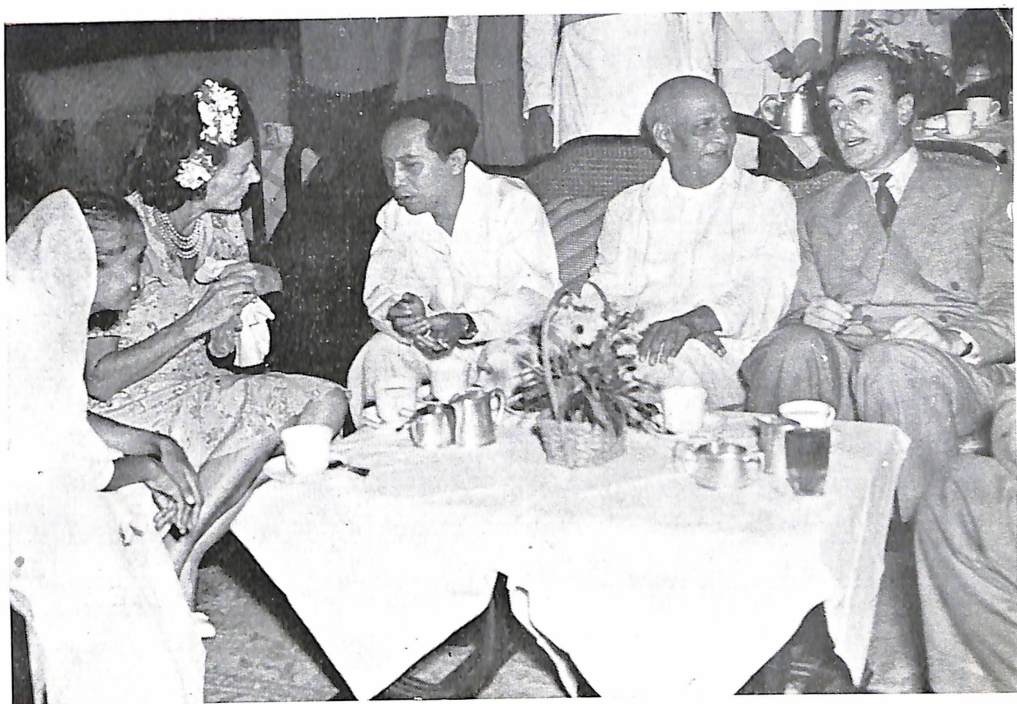


Members of the Interim Government after assuming office on September 2, 1946
(From left to right): Sarat Chandra Bose, Jagjivan Ram, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Vallabhbhai Patel, Asaf Ali, Jawaharlal Nehru and Syed Ali Zaheer

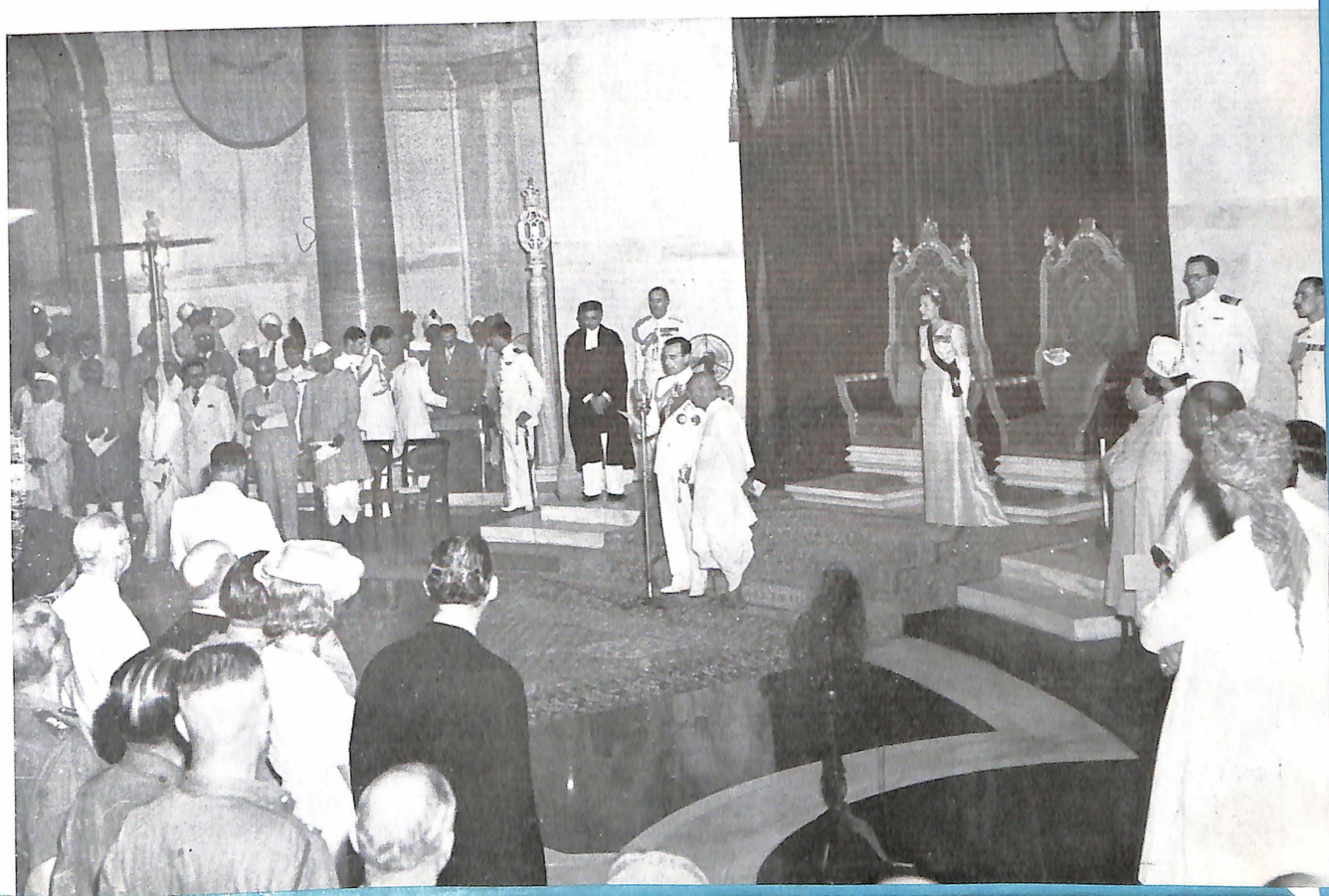
Jawaharlal Nehru, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Sardar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Gandhiji at the All India Congress Committee meeting, Delhi, June 1947



With Lord
Mountbatten,
July 1947



Being sworn in as a member of the Union Cabinet on August 15, 1947 by Lord Mountbatten, Governor General. Also seen are Lady Mountbatten, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Baldev Singh (right); and Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Jawaharlal Nehru and the Chief Justice of India, H.J. Kania (left).





At the Khasi States Peoples' Conference during his visit to Assam, January 1948

At a public meeting in Shillong in January 1948, Vallabhbhai said: *"There is no room here for provincial parochialism."*





Planting a mango tree in Government House, Lucknow, January 1948

Replying to Bombay Municipal Corporation civic address on January 16, 1948, he said: "*So long as we are in Government we have to govern.*"





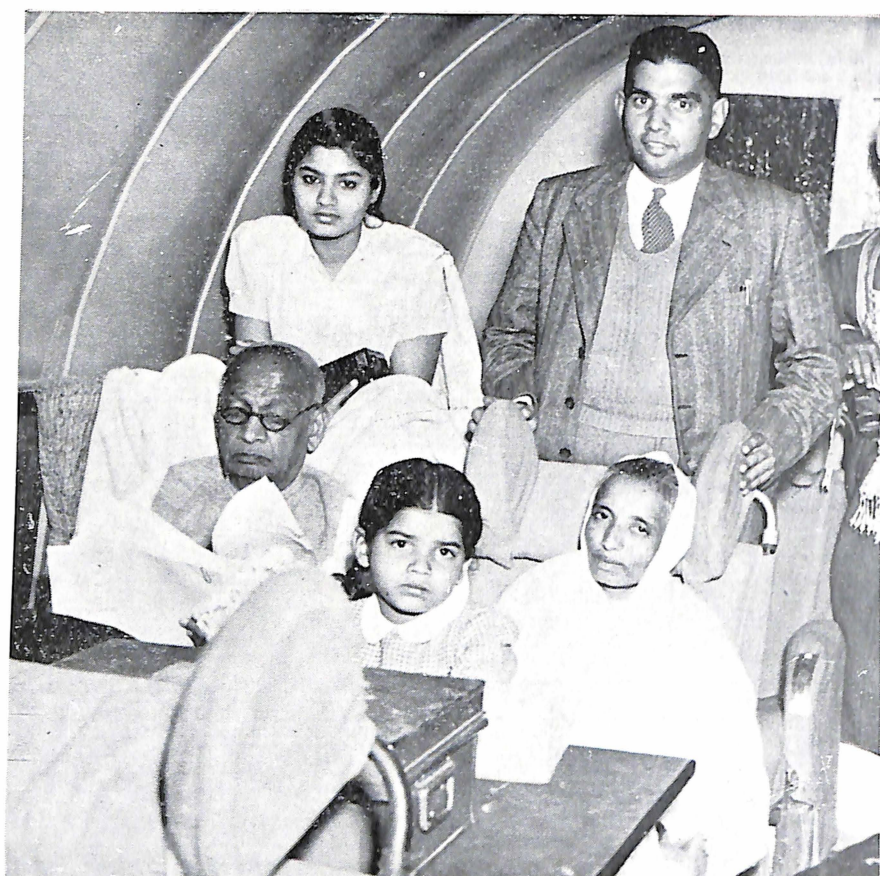
Sardar Patel made an impassioned appeal for unity and peace at a public meeting in Patna, January 26, 1948

At a press conference in New Delhi, reviewing constitutional progress of the Indian states, January 29, 1948





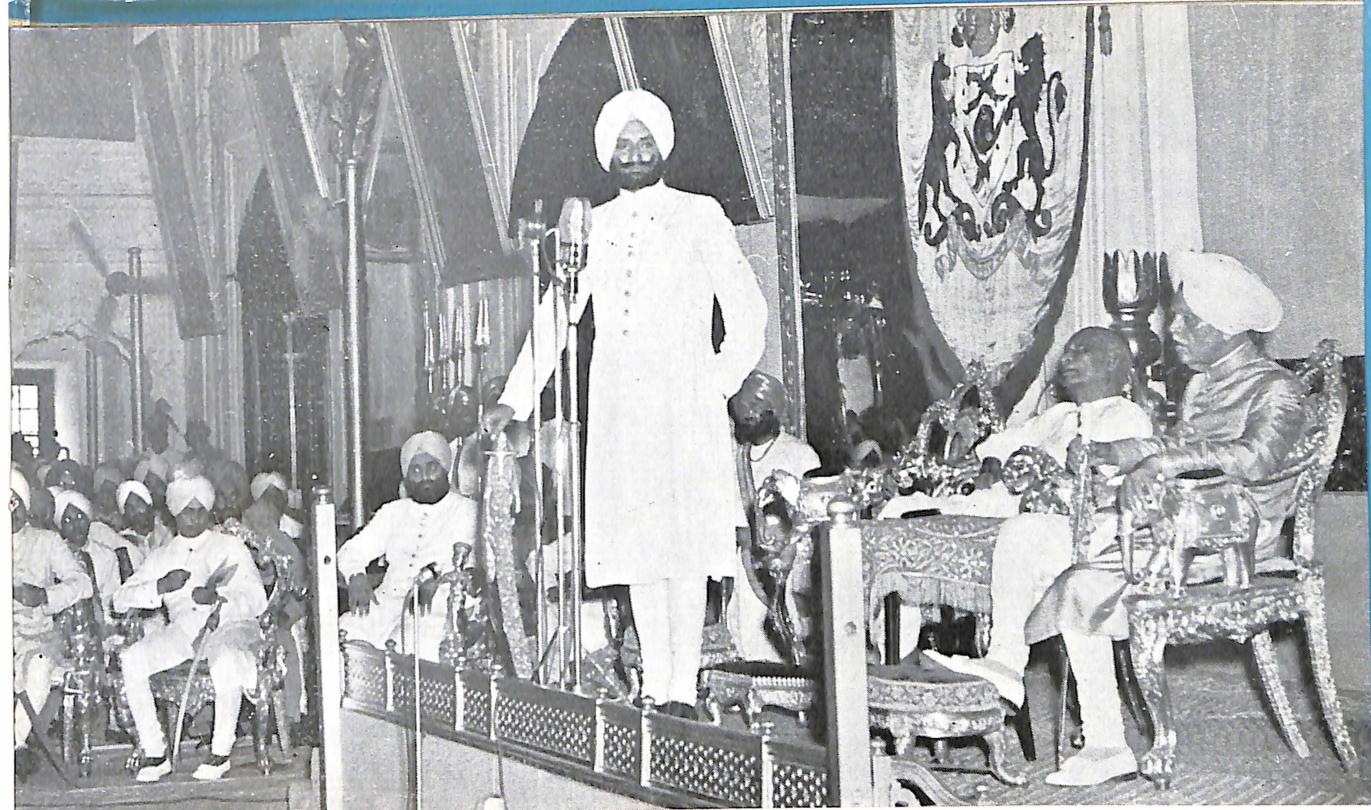
January 31, 1948 During Gandhiji's last journey



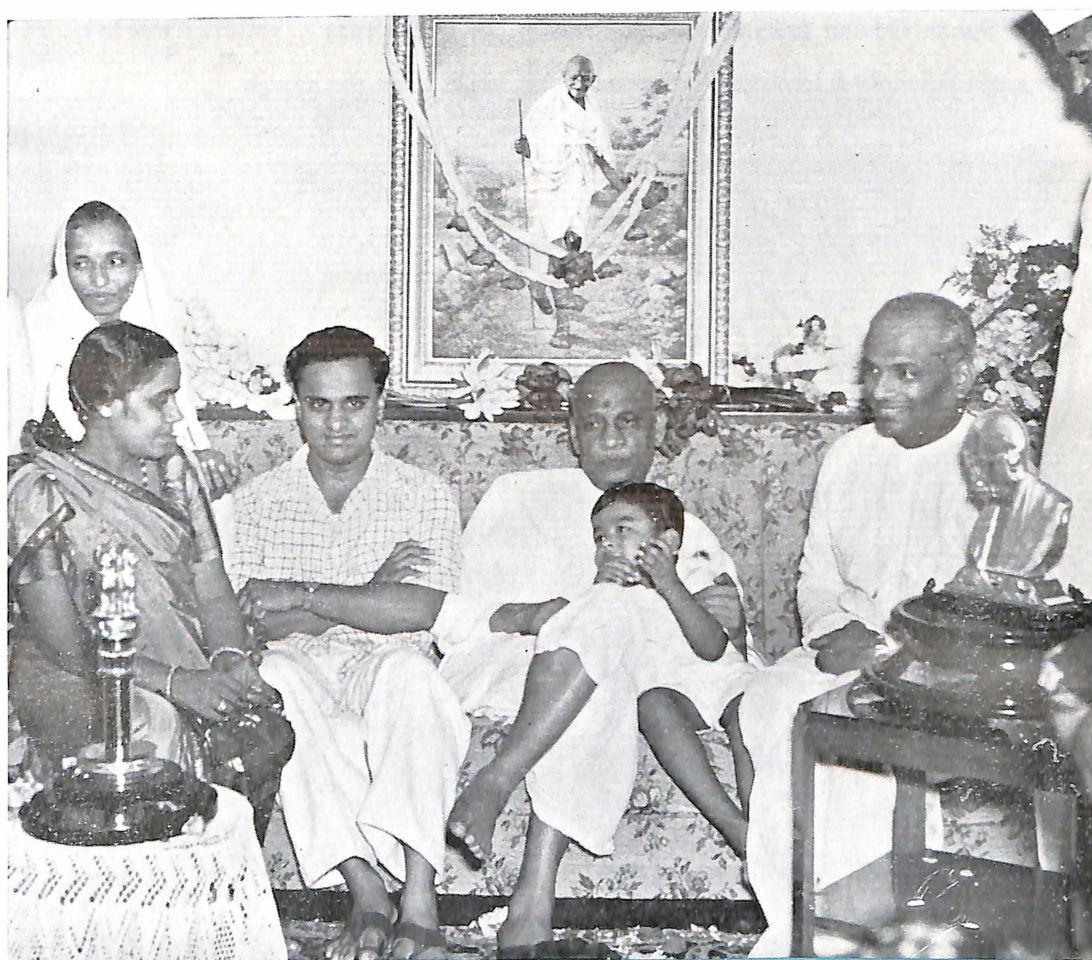
Studying files during a plane journey



Administering the oath of office to the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar as the Rajpramukh of the new Saurashtra State, Jamnagar, February 15, 1948



At the
inauguration
of the Patiala
and the East
Punjab
States Union
(Pepsu) in
Patiala, July
15, 1948



With
members of
his family on
his birthday,
October 31,
1948



Receiving the Abhinandan Granth (Felicitation Volume) from
Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Allahabad, November 1948

At Allahabad University, November 27, 1948, when the degree
of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him.





Sitting for Mrs. Clara Quein, a Dutch sculptor, November 1948

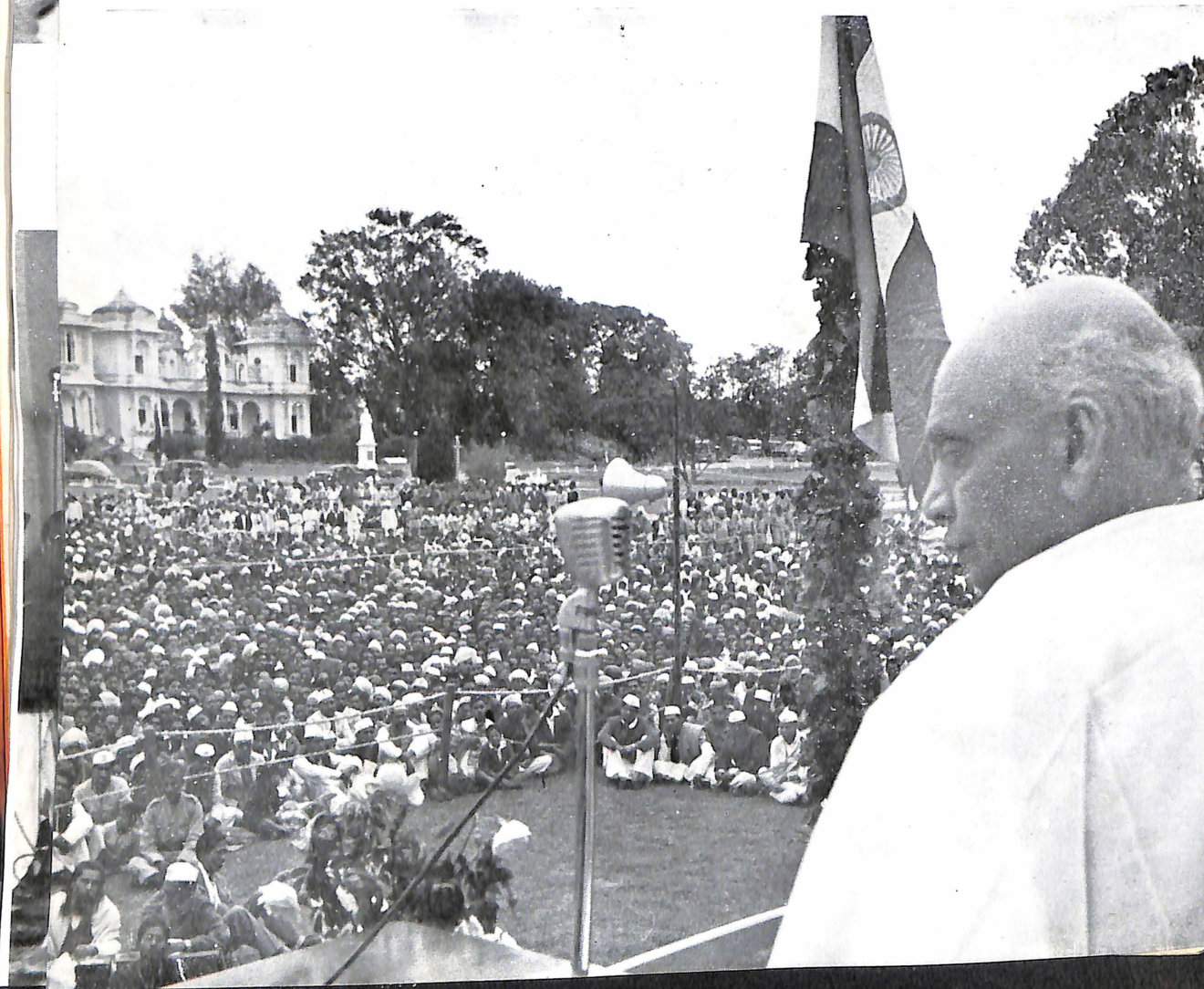
Inaugurating the Legislative Assembly of the Malwa Union,
Gwalior, December 4, 1948





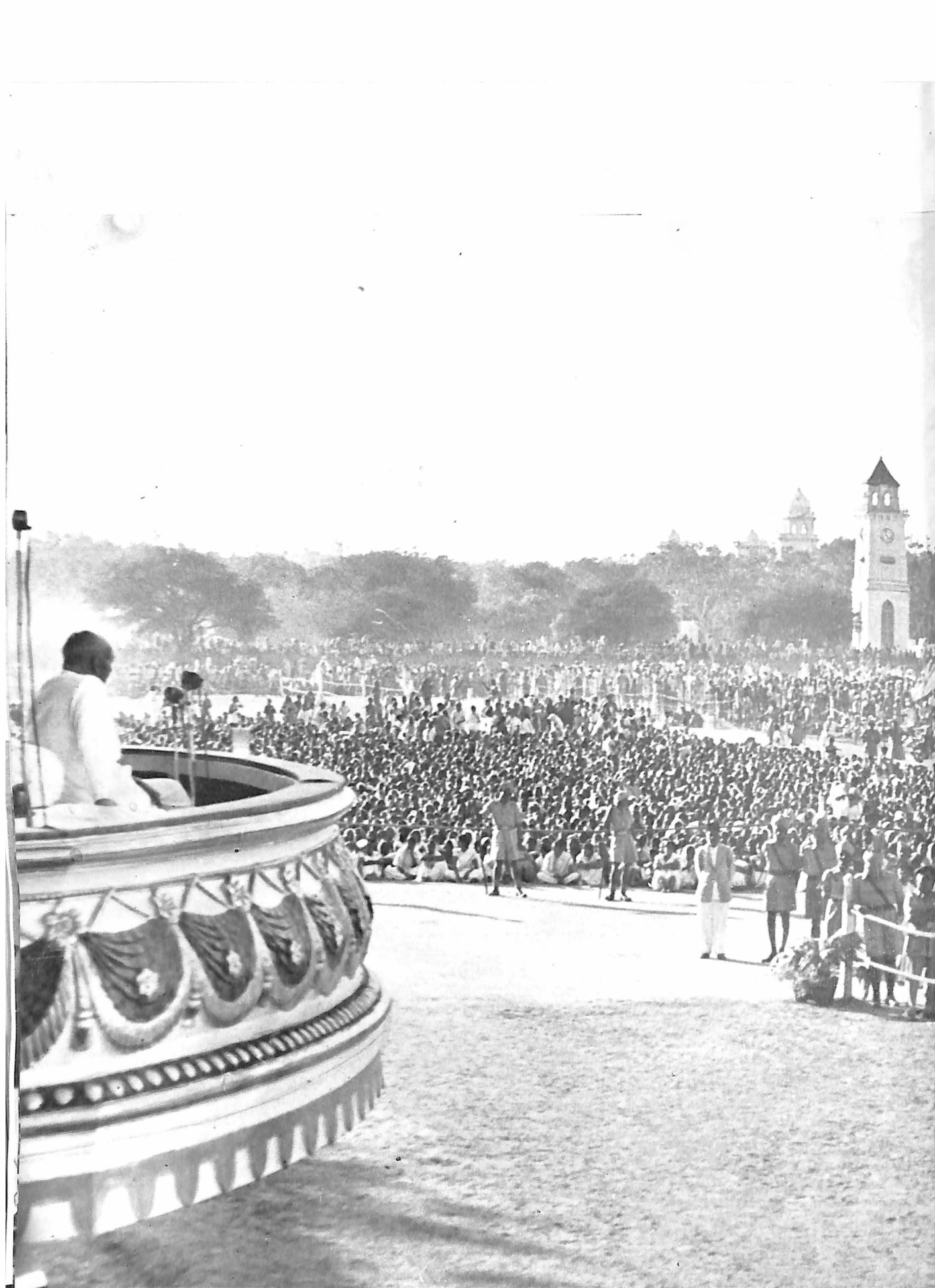
At a Montessori
school, Pilani,
December 1948

Addressing a public meeting at Udaipur, January 14, 1949





Spinning at the Bardoli Ashram, January 1949



Addressing a mammoth meeting at Fateh Maidan, Hyderabad, February 27, 1949





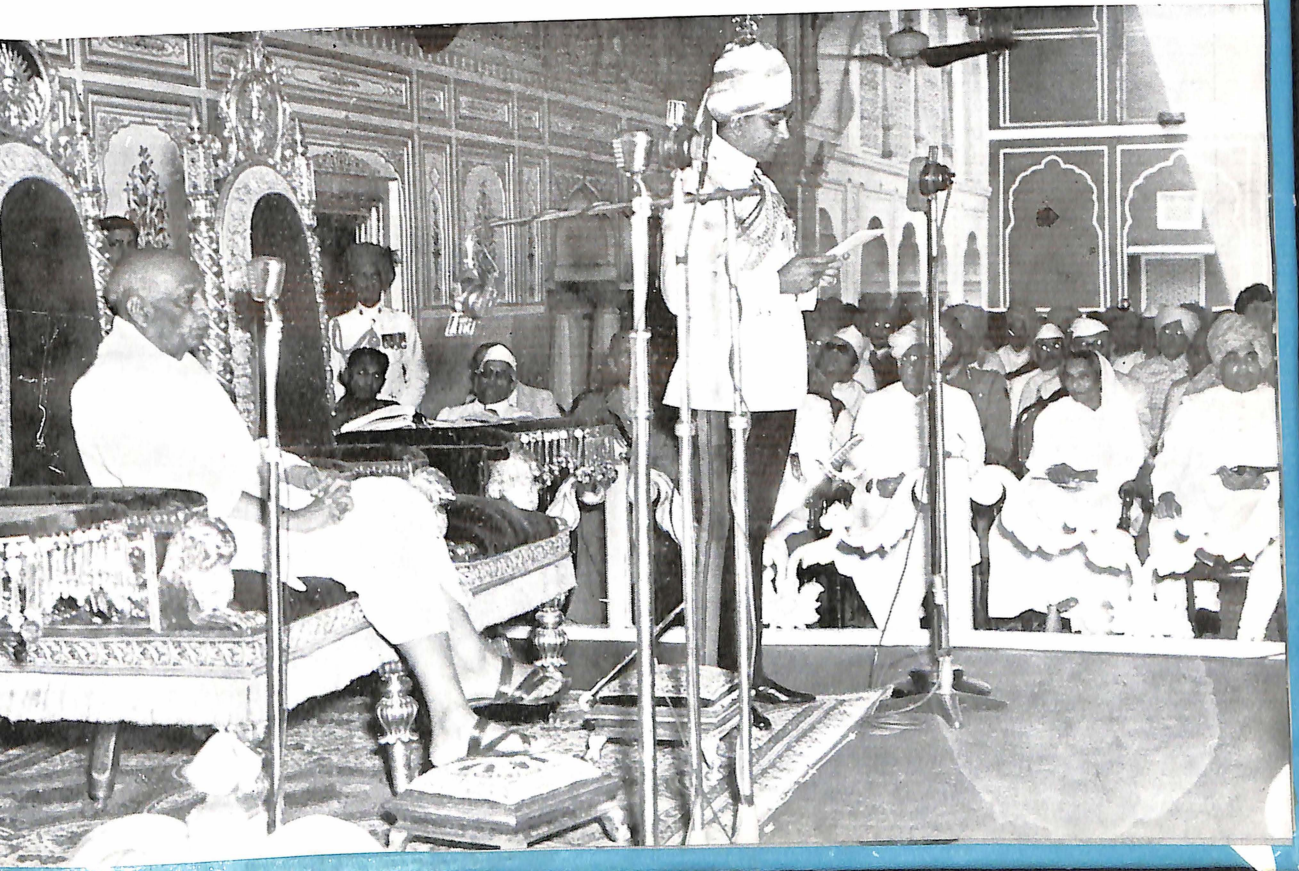
Arriving to inaugurate the
Saurashtra Constituent Assembly
at Rajkot, January 24, 1949



With peasants at Chittor,
January 1949



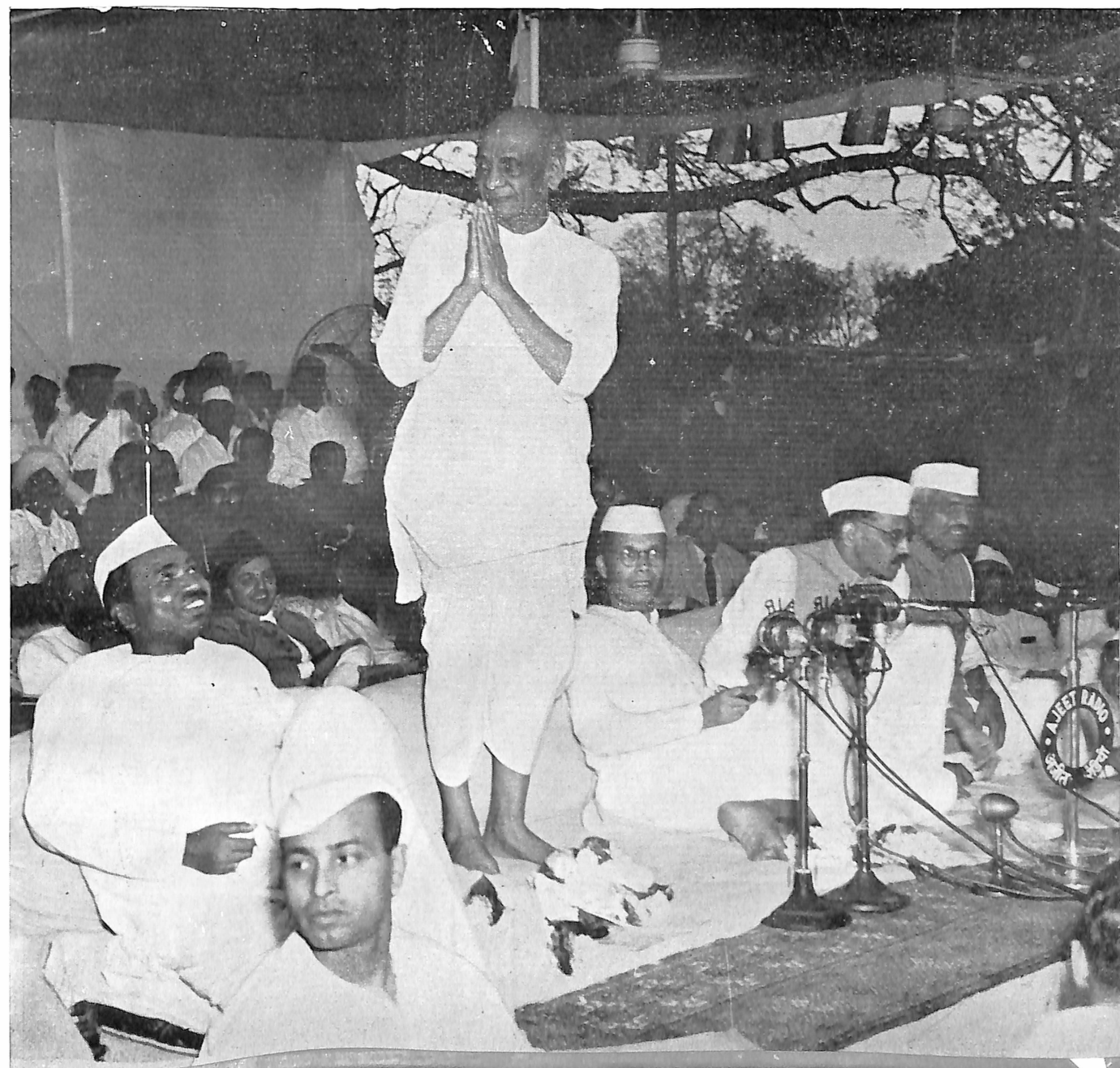
Receiving the degree of Doctor of Laws at Osmania University, Hyderabad, February 26, 1949
 At the inauguration of the Greater Rajasthan Union, Jaipur, March 30, 1949

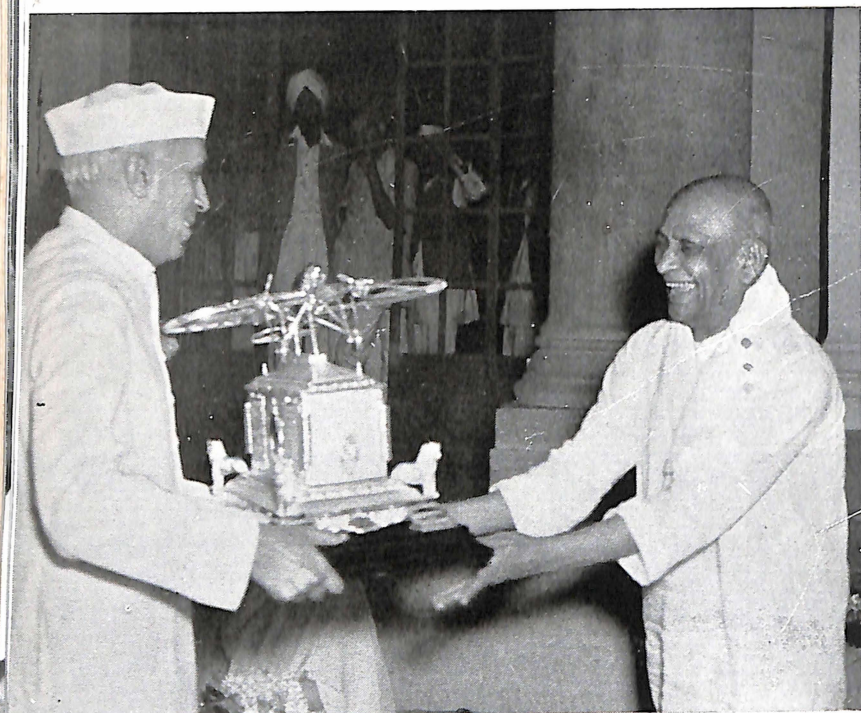




Broadcasting to the nation, March 14, 1949

Addressing a session of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, Indore, May 6, 1949





A replica of the plane carrying Sardar Patel which forced landed near Jaipur on March 29, 1949. This souvenir, here being presented by Jawaharlal Nehru to Sardar Patel at a reception in the Constituent Assembly, New Delhi, April 7, 1949, was later presented by Sardar Patel to the Indian Air Force.

With Jawaharlal Nehru, N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad in Kashmir, 1949



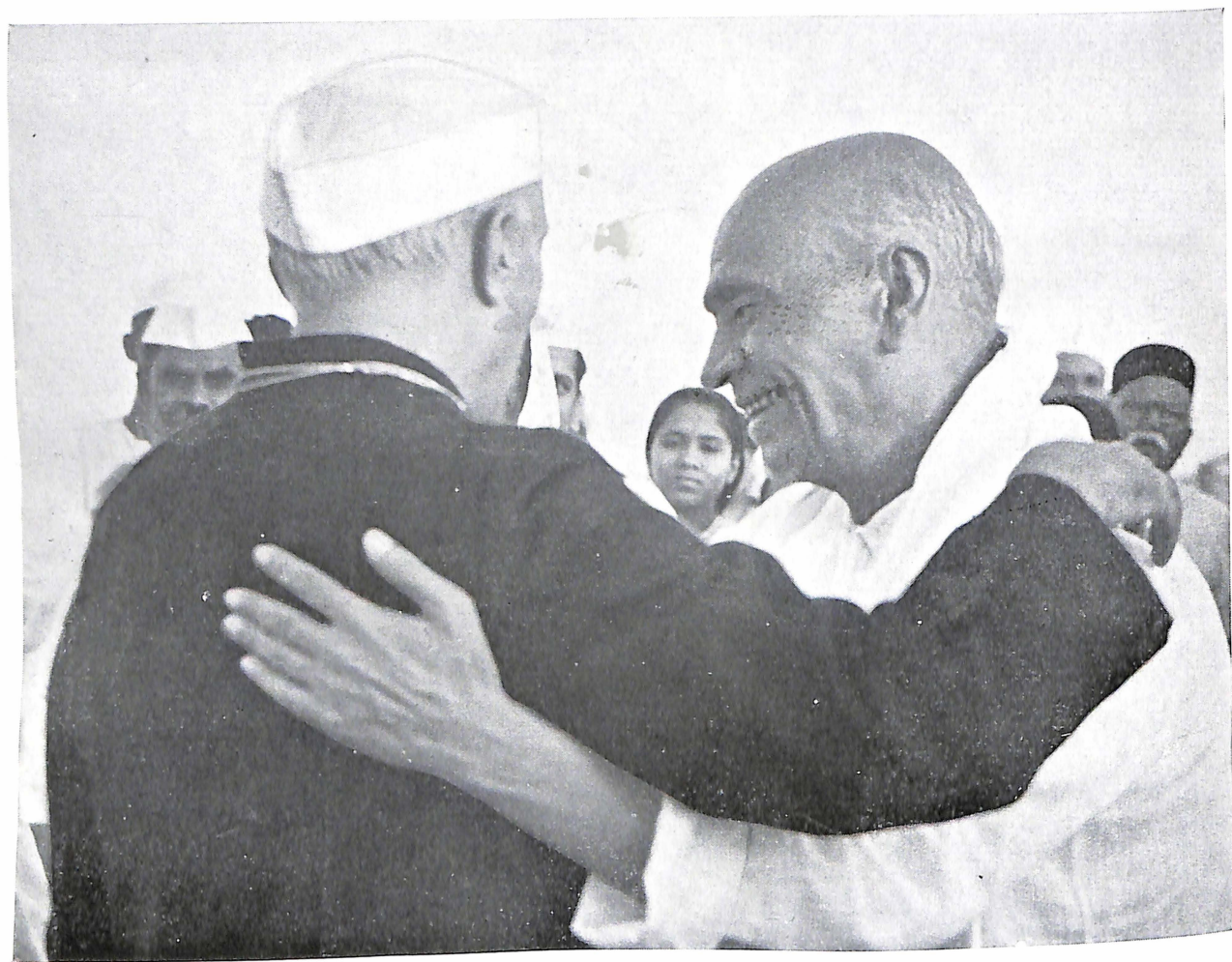


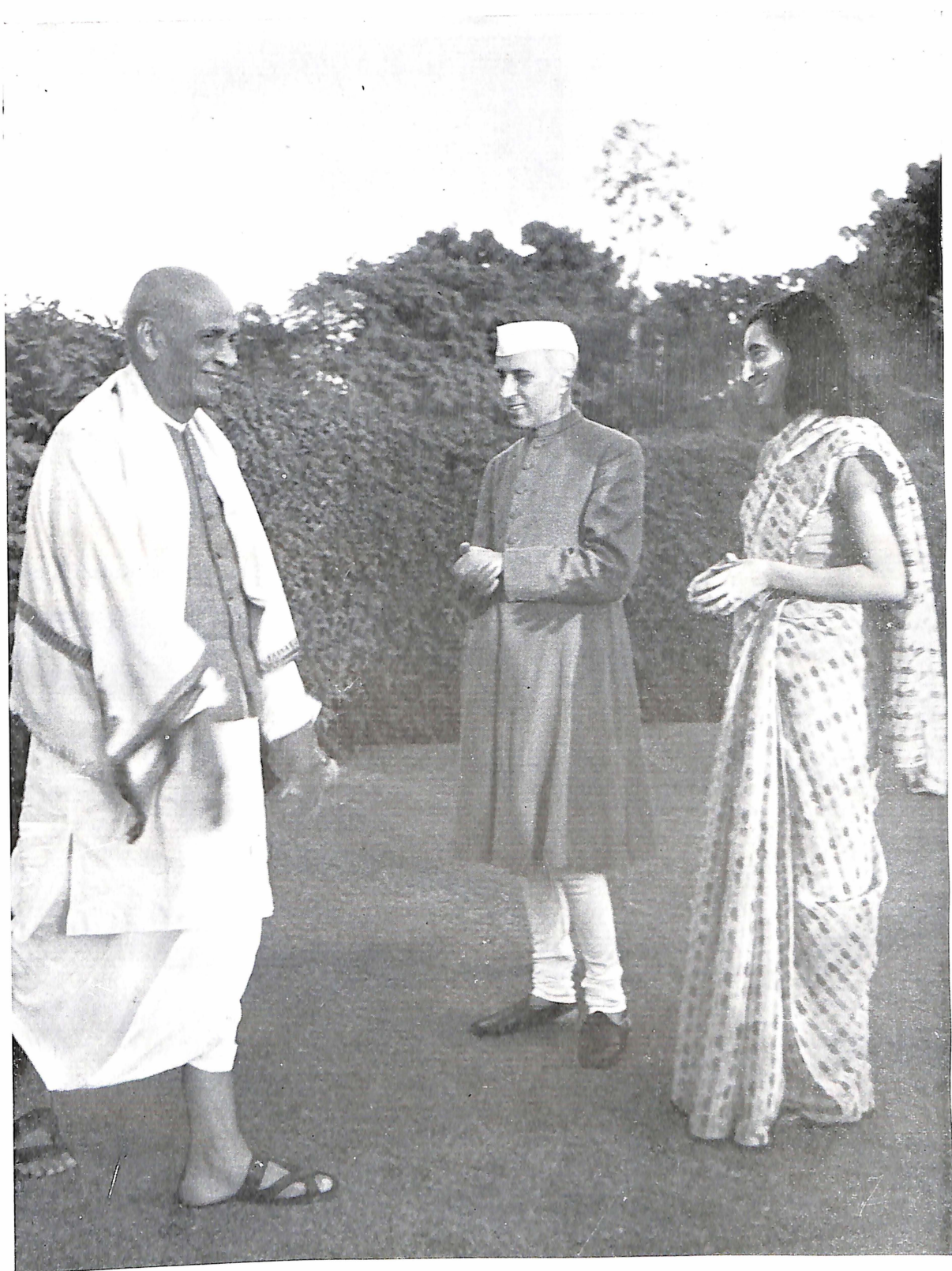
Glancing through messages of felicitations on his birthday, October 31, 1949

“ . . . a friend and colleague on whom
one could invariably rely . . . a tower
of strength which revived wavering
hearts . . . ”

—Jawaharlal Nehru

With Jawaharlal Nehru





With Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi



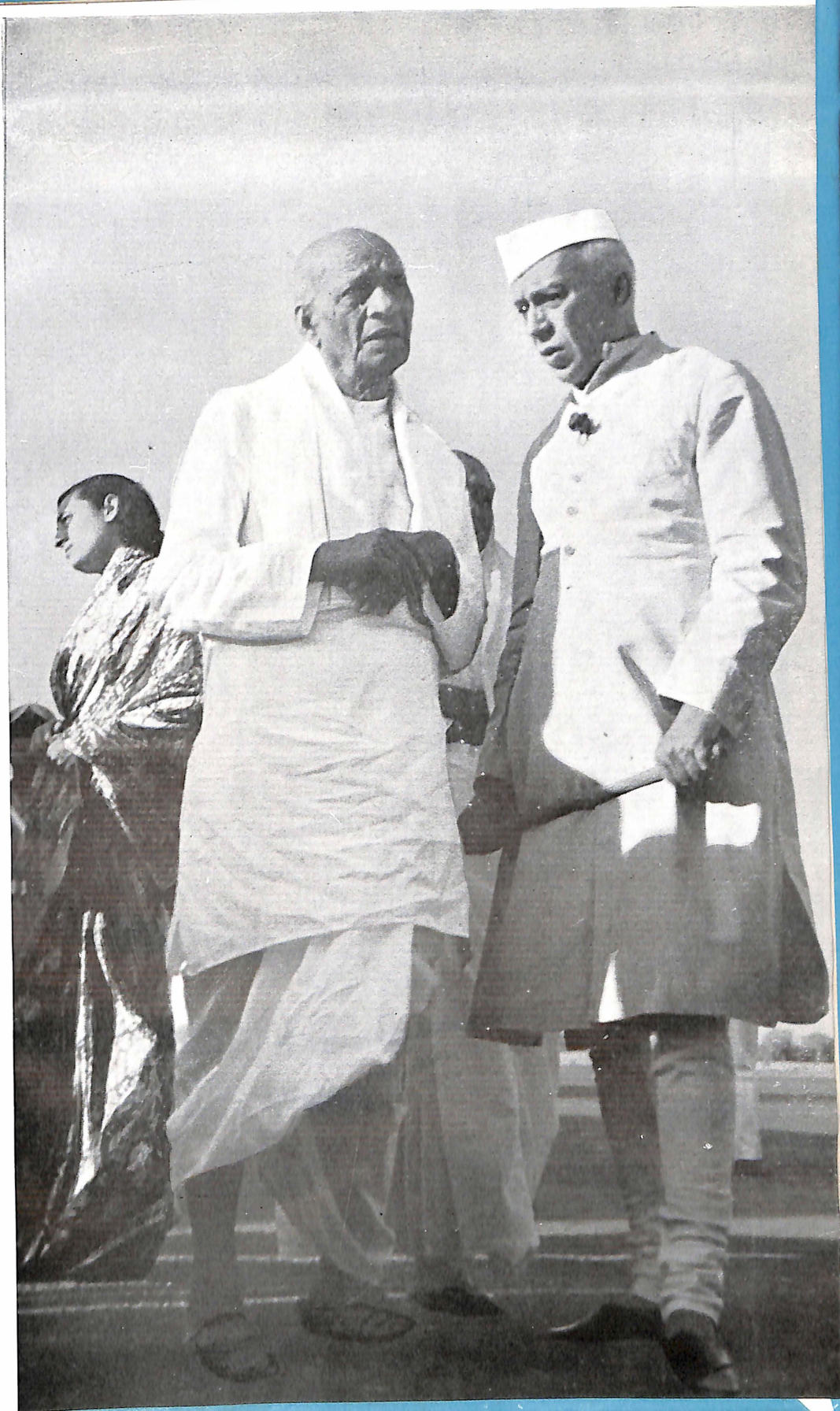
With C. Rajagopalachari

With Thakkar Bapa

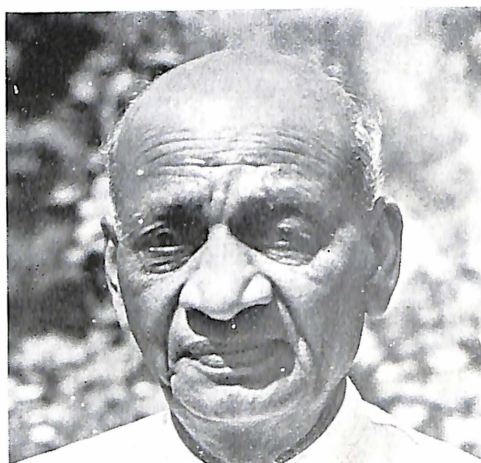
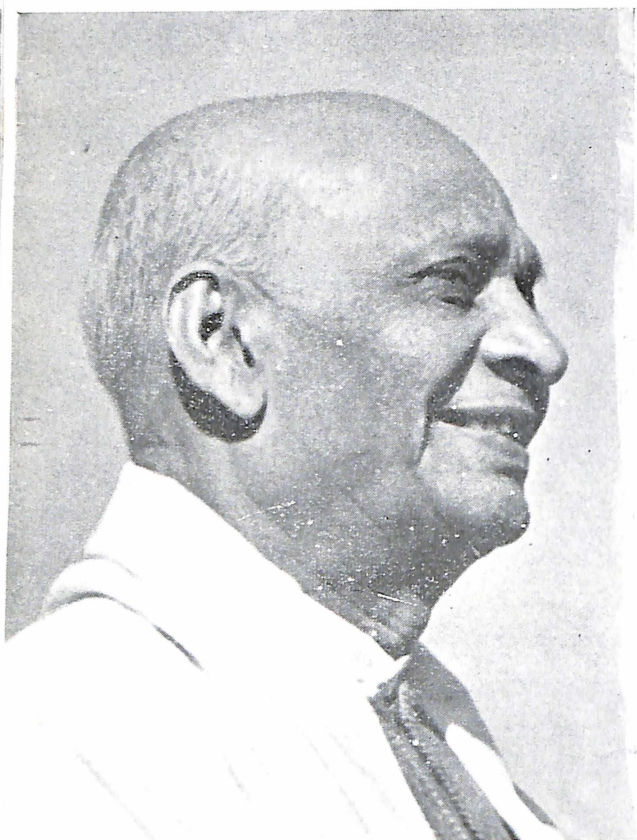


With Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

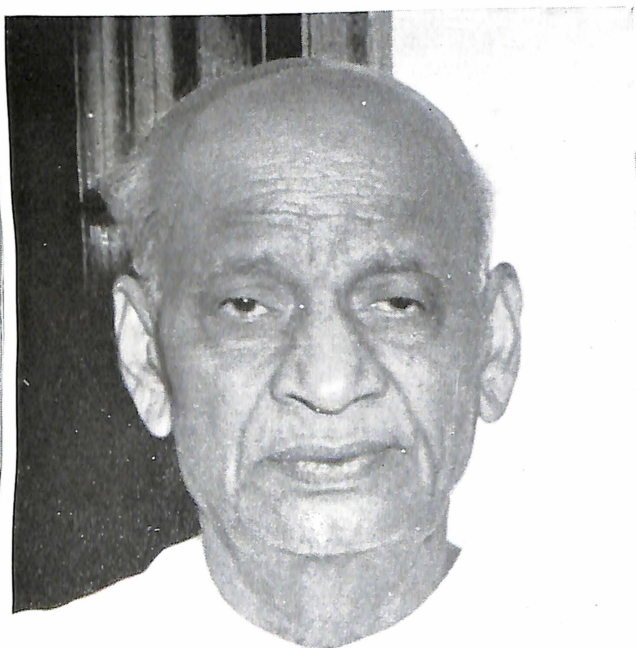




With
Jawaharlal Nehru
and
Indira Gandhi

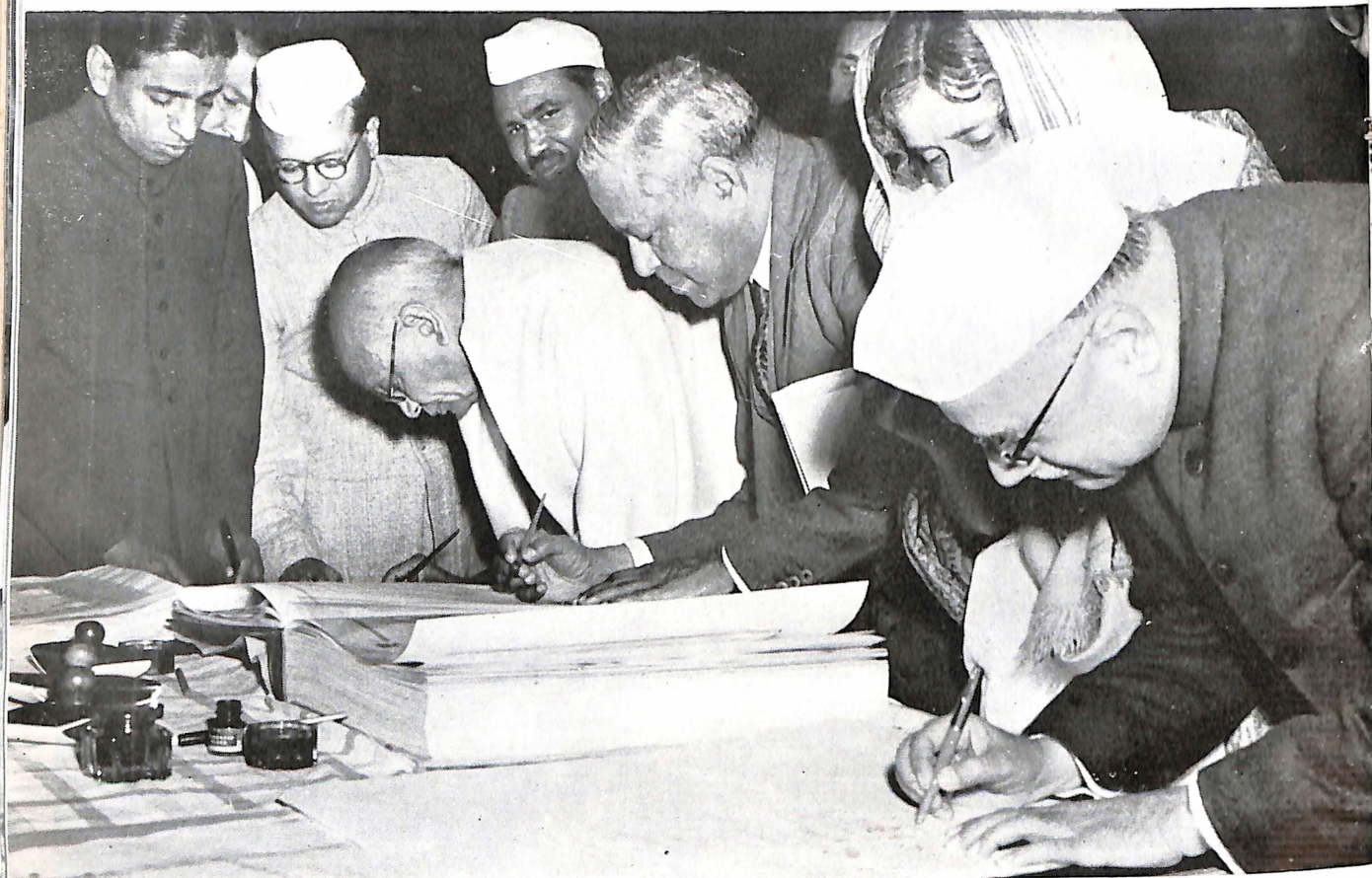


Studies





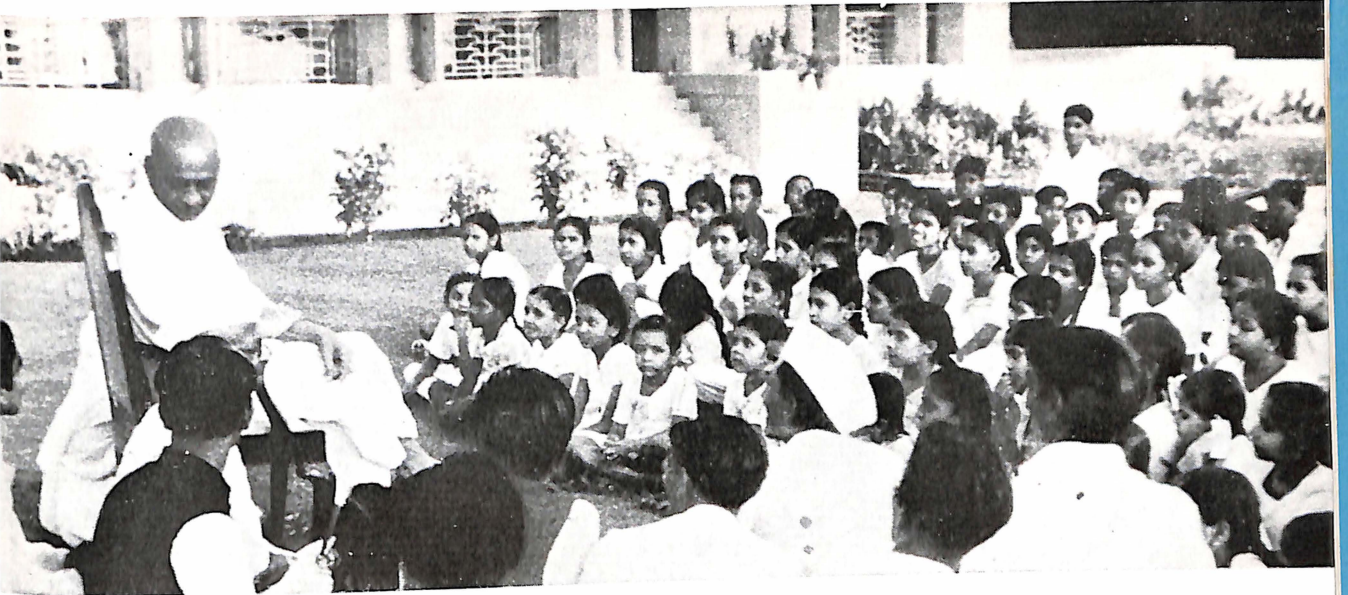
In a garden



Signing the Constitution of India, January 24, 1950



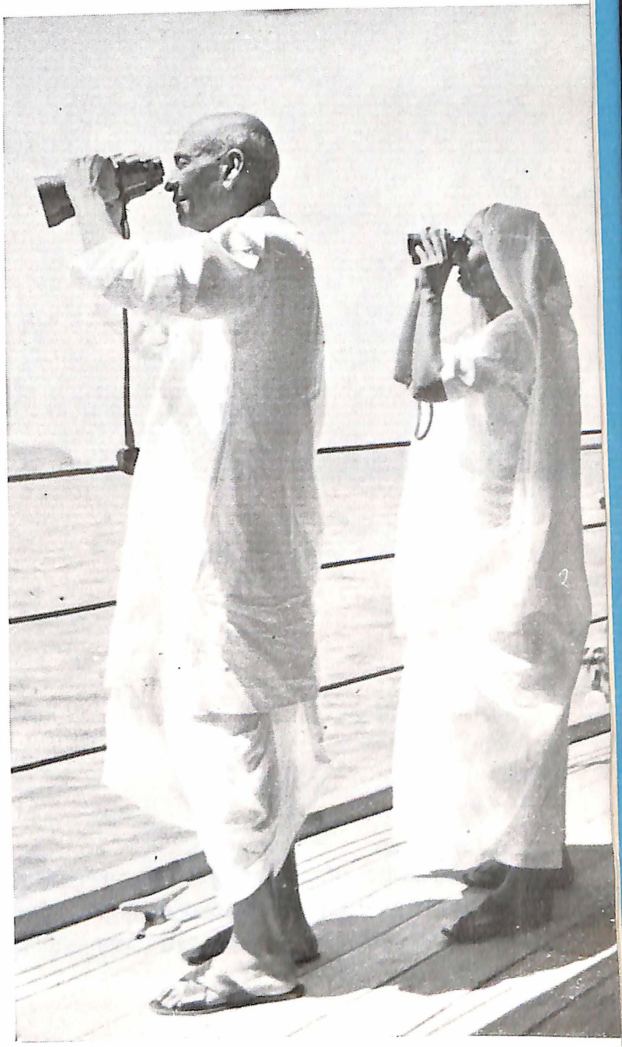
With
Dr. Rajendra Prasad
and
Maulana
Abul Kalam Azad



"In the midst of my onerous responsibilities and heavy pre-occupations, I delight in the company of children."
—Sardar Patel

On board the I.N.S. *Delhi*, May 18, 1950

In the Kanyakumari temple, May 1950

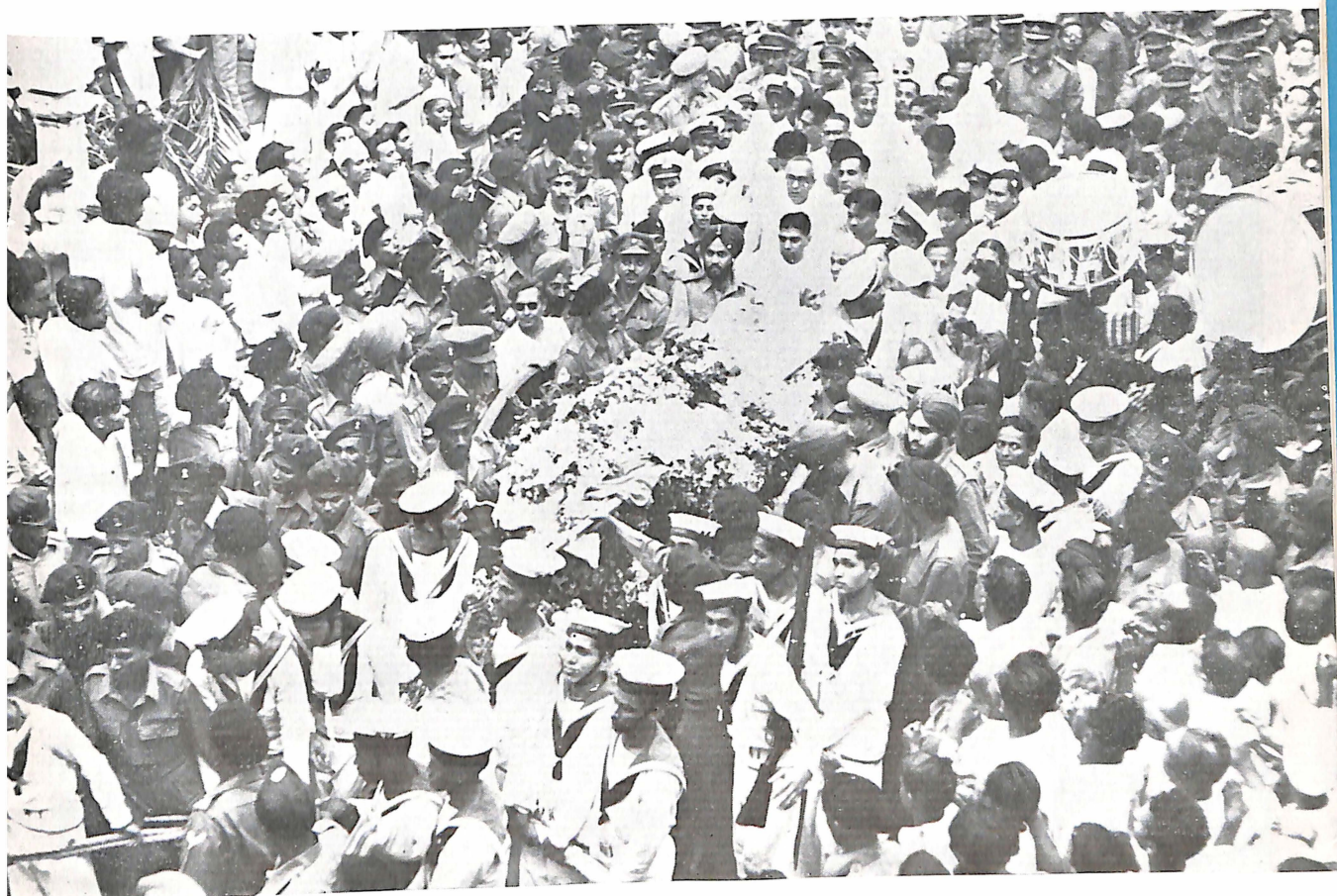




At rest
(December 15, 1950, Bombay)

“....By many of us here he will be remembered as a great captain of our forces in the struggle for freedom, and as one who gave us sound advice in times of trouble as well as in moments of victory....”

—Jawaharlal Nehru



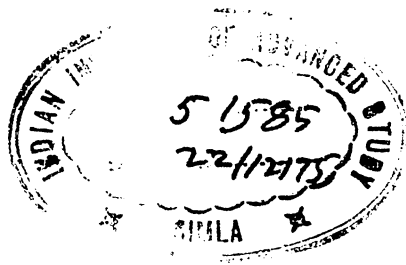
The last journey

“Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was one of those leading figures and nation builders who gave a new direction to our struggle for freedom under the unique leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. His complete dedication to the cause of the nation will for ever inspire the coming generations.”

—Indira Gandhi

"Work is undoubtedly worship but laughter is life."—Sardar Patel





PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

