



## Indian Council of Social Science Research

National and International Seminars Division

### Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) Seminars

#### Concept Note

ICSSR invites proposals from Indian academicians, researchers and scholars for organising National and International Seminars to commemorate **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary**. Twenty-one outstanding **Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) Seminars** will be shortlisted and funded by the ICSSR in this series as a tribute to Independent India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's enduring legacy of successfully shaping modern India's political reality and national identity as well as building robust institutions for Bharat's democratic polity merits exhaustive and in-depth academic and research engagement. Sardar Patel's contributions to India's anti-colonial struggle—including his leadership during Kheda and Bardoli Satyagraha against British taxation policies and atrocities, support for women's and farmers' rights, unwavering dedication to Gandhian Swarajist ideals and social reformism—were essential to the country's eventual independence from the colonial rule. His exemplary role in the Independence movement is well documented. Nonetheless, his contributions need to be revisited and re-examined in light of the goals and framework of Vision Viksit Bharat 2047.

In the background of Bharat's partition and ensuing horrific violence, Patel's steadfast negotiations with the politically unstable princely states deserve dedicated scholarly attention. His unmatched diplomatic capability of bringing numerous princely states together by getting the Transfer of Power documents signed using diplomatic and military means foregrounds an astute political vision which needs to be contemporised with the vision and challenges of twenty-first-century Bharat.

Rooted in pragmatism and committed to nation-building, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's political philosophy will be revisited through these proposed Rashtriya Ekta (National Unity) Seminars. These seminars are intended to invigorate intellectual discussions in academic and public spaces around Patel's monumental social and political contributions in building modern India.

**ICSSR will publish a multi-volume collection of selected research papers from these seminars on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**

Scholars are requested to submit their proposals on the following themes of Rashtriya Ekta Seminars:

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Anti-colonial Thought
2. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Gandhi and Gandhian Satyagraha
3. Political Philosophy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
4. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Commitment to Social Justice, Gender Equality and Farmer's Rights
5. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the National Polity Before Independence
6. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, National Integration and the Unification of Bharat
7. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Making of Bharat's Constitution
8. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Institutions of Effective Governance and Administration in Modern India
9. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Contributions to National Security and Nationalism
10. The Legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Negotiating the Vision and Challenges of Twenty-first Century Bharat
11. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rashtriya Ekta and Inclusive Governance

Proposals which seek to address additional research themes other than the ones suggested above will also be duly evaluated by the ICSSR.

**The link for submission of proposals opens on 5th November 2024.**

**The last date to apply is 30th November.**

Apart from the special requirements of this call, the general guidelines of ICSSR regarding National and International Seminars will apply to Rashtriya Ekta Seminars.