

Concept Note

Online Certificate Course on the Leadership of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel for Indian Mission at **Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Belarus, Turkey, Romania, Cyprus, Greece, UAE, and Oman**

Conducted by Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna

Hosted by Indian Mission & ICCR

(As part of the commemoration of 75th Years of India's Independence)

Introduction:

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's legacy is associated with the unity and integrity of India, his crucial role in integrating the princely states and in furthering national unity in the aftermath of India's Independence. His negotiating skills, precision, firmness, and administrative efficiency facilitated to achieve this remarkable feat. Equally, he stands out as the first major leader of the independence movement who came from a rural background whose leadership in the various satyagraha and nonviolent civil disobedience movements is remarkable. His statesmanship and the vision of modern India in the contemporary world are very much relevant today.

The Government of India is celebrating 75 years of India's independence and the idea is to create a vision for India@2047. Apart from social and cultural events, scientific achievements and technological advancements will be showcased. It will highlight the contributions of freedom fighters.

Speaking in the occasion of National Unity Day on 31st October 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji reiterated that 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, dedicated every moment of his life for 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Supreme India) ...Sardar Patel ji is not just a historical figure but lives in the heart of our countrymen...Sardar Patel always wanted a strong, inclusive, sensitive, alert, humble and developed India. He always put the interest of the country first. Under his inspiration, India is becoming fully capable of dealing with all kinds of challenges, both external and internal.

Sardar Patel's characteristic strength, resolve, wisdom, vision, nationalism, and understanding of the need for India to be united nation helped in enabling India to achieve progress in its stature and growth from poverty to prosperity as a robust nation. His inclusive approach was focused with laser like intensity on the essentials and the goal that had to be achieved. He undertook all the actions with total dedication with no halfway measures. He achieved this because of his mastery of personal leadership and institutional management.

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it is proposed to introduce an online certificate course on the leadership of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel for the Indian diaspora and international participants in collaboration with the Indian Mission/Post in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, GoI.

Sardar Patel's negotiation and reconciliation skills, humane approach and kindness coupled with sympathy hold key lessons for guiding and inspiring modern leaders to explore all options to ensure a win-win situation in any challenging condition.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra laid down a vision for India's foreign policy during the 10th heads of mission's conference, on 20 October 2022 at the Statue of Unity, Kevadia, Gujarat. The Prime Minister attended a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, and subsequently launched Mission LiFE at the Statue of Unity. The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of unity in the fight against climate change, Prime Minister said that the launch of Mission LiFE is taking place before the Statue of Unity, a colossal statue of the pride of India, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. "The world's largest statue will be a source of inspiration in achieving the set targets".

The aim of this online certificate course is to enhance the understanding of the Indian diaspora and foreign nationals about the tremendous contribution made by Sardar Patel; his vision of the contemporary world; his philosophy, his leadership style and the idea of nationalism, his political ideas and policies and his role in and after the freedom struggle. All these dimensions of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's life and times, their practical application is the way forward in a world that echoes various challenges of the present time.

Background:

As part of the worldwide celebration of the 150th Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2018 to 2021, Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna gave 267 Gandhi Katha and lectures in 135 countries organized by respective Indian Mission and facilitated by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

On the UN International Day of Nonviolence, she has given the keynote addresses at the UN office, Bangkok in 2014; in the Peace Palace, The Hague in 2017; in the King Faisal Center, Riyadh in 2018; UN office Vienna in 2019; and UN Office Nairobi in 2020, organized by Indian Mission in respective countries. In 2021, the Indian Mission in 55 countries and in 2022 the Indian Mission accredited to 114 countries hosted tributes by her on Gandhi Jayanti.

During the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence-Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Dr Radhakrishna is conducting a series of 'Online Certificate Course on Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy', which are hosted by 80 Indian Mission for the international participants till November 2022. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, supported the courses from 2021 to 2022. We have received highly positive feedback for the courses, and we are certain that the participants have imbibed and followed Gandhiji's teachings.

She has delivered special homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his Martyrs Day in 2021 and 2022, the 86 Indian Mission hosted her tribute. To commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of Salt Satyagraha, 94th Anniversary of Bardoli Satyagraha, and 80th Anniversary of Quit India Movement, the Indian Mission covering 90 countries hosted her talks in 2022.

Dr Radhakrishna gave talk on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on National Unity Day 2022, which was hosted by 120 Indian Mission/Post supported by ICCR.

Following the interest and awareness generated in a large number of participants, it is proposed to conduct an online certificate course on the leadership of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel in collaboration with the Indian Mission/Posts in collaboration with the

This will step further in enhancing the understanding of the participants to get acquainted with the philosophy and leadership of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel and its relevance to the contemporary world. This will also reinforce Sardar Patel's contribution to the indebted nation which is celebrating 75 years of independence - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM).

Course Details:

This online course will be of approximately 4 hours duration, spread over three weeks (*on Saturdays*) on a virtual platform of Cisco WebEx provided by ICCR. The purposed dates are Saturday, 25th February 4th March and 11th March 2023 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM (IST), [Time Zone: 2:30PM (GMT+2), 3:30PM (GMT+3), 4:30PM (GMT+4), & 6:00PM (GMT+5:30)]

It is proposed that the certificate course will cover 12 Indian Mission. We would request each of the Mission and Consulate to publicize and register approximately 30 participants for the classes.

The courses will be conducted on a Pro Bono basis by Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna and her team. The course will be interactive and participatory. Being a non-credit program, there will be no course end examination.

The overall purpose of the online course is to give its participants orientation in the theoretical and practical dimensions of leadership of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, India's Iron man; life and times of Sardar Patel; his legacy; his genius; the superb administrator; the secularist with a difference; making of a Gandhian nationalist; his role in leading the satyagraha; his economic ideas; his effort to reorganize the states for unification of India after freedom and national reconstruction following independence.

The topics of the course will include life and times of Sardar Patel; his legacy; his genius; his administrative skills; his role as the secularist with a difference; his transformation into a Gandhian nationalist; his role in leading the satyagraha; his effort to reorganize the states for unification of India after freedom and his economic ideas

After the course, the participants comprising the Indian diaspora and foreign nationals will have enhanced knowledge and understanding about the tremendous contribution made by Sardar Patel; his vision of the contemporary world; his philosophy, his leadership style and the idea of nationalism, his political ideas, and his role in and after the freedom struggle. All these dimensions of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel's life and times, their practical application is the way forward in a world that echoes various challenges of the present time.

After completion of the course, Indian Mission will give the participants a digitally signed Certification of Participation (*signed by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna and Ambassadors/High Commissioners/ Consul General of respective countries/mission*) and will be given to the participants through digital transmission or distributed in an event.

Outline of course contents would be:

- Sardar Patel's leadership, administrative and organizational skills
- Sardar Patel's role in leading various satyagraha in the freedom struggle
- Sardar Patel's philosophy/ideology, vision, and national reconstruction

The suggestions from the Indian Mission will also invite diaspora-led Social Organizations, ICCs and Hindi Chairs of ICCR, local Universities, and institutes.

It is expected that the participants will try to contextualize the leadership lessons, values, vista, and vision in their life and mission. The certificate course will create awareness about the life and thoughts of Sardar Patel, along with its usefulness in today's world.

Seventy-two years after Sardar Patel passed on, his relevance still matters. His pioneering vision, administrative and selfless efforts for unifying India is needed now even more than ever before. He took a holistic view of human life and wanted all aspects of life - social, economic, and political- to be dovetailed for the creation of a just society. Sardar Patel's humanism and its practical application are the way forward in a world that echoes various challenges of the present time.

Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna

*Chief Functionary, Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate
Governance, SCOPE, Lodi Road, New Delhi
Trustee, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Memorial Trust, India
WhatsApp No.: +91-9810078620
www.shobhana.org www.gandhianforum.in*

New Delhi
16/01/2023