
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SARDAR VALLABH BHAI PATEL: LIFE, WORKS AND INDIAN MUSLIMS
(HYBRID MODE)
22- 23 DECEMBER 2025
ORGANISED BY:
INDIA-ARAB CULTURAL CENTRE
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA (CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), NEW DELHI, INDIA

Abstract of the Concept Note

This conference seeks to explore the multifaceted and often debated relationship between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Deputy Prime Minister, and the Indian Muslim community. Celebrated as the 'Iron Man' for his monumental achievement of integrating over 560 princely states, Patel's legacy is also deeply intertwined with the tumultuous period of Partition.

Initially a great proponent of Hindu-Muslim unity, Patel's stance evolved into staunch opposition against the Muslim League's Two-Nation Theory, which he saw as a threat to India's integrity. In the violent aftermath of Partition, his role as Home Minister drew criticism from contemporaries who accused him of an anti-Muslim bias due to his firm policies and blunt rhetoric. However, Patel consistently differentiated his opposition to separatist politics from his duty to the Muslim community, taking decisive action against rioters of all faiths to restore order.

Historical accounts reveal a complex statesman who demanded unwavering loyalty from Muslims who chose India, while simultaneously playing a pivotal role in embedding secularism and minority rights into the Constitution. He firmly resisted calls to declare India a Hindu state. This conference proposes a critical examination of Patel's actions, moving beyond simplistic narratives to understand his policies through the primary lens of his unwavering, and at times severe, commitment to the unity and security of the nascent Indian nation.

Themes of the Conference:

- India's Struggle for Independence and Sardar Patel.
- Political Integration of India and Sardar Patel.
- Sardar Patel and Congress Party.
- Sardar Patel: The first Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- Sardar Patel and Secularism.
- Sardar Patel and Muslims of India.

- Partition of India and Sardar Patel.

Those desiring to participate in the conference are requested to send their paper titles and 500-word abstract by **30 November 2025** to the following email address nrkhan@jmi.ac.in, and conference.iacc@gmail.com

Proposed Dates:

- Last date for sending abstract: **24 November 2025**.
- Abstract confirmation: **05 December**
- Last date for submission of full paper: **12th December 2025**

Prof. Nasir Raza Khan
Conference Convener
India-Arab Cultural Centre
Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University)
New Delhi-110025