

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

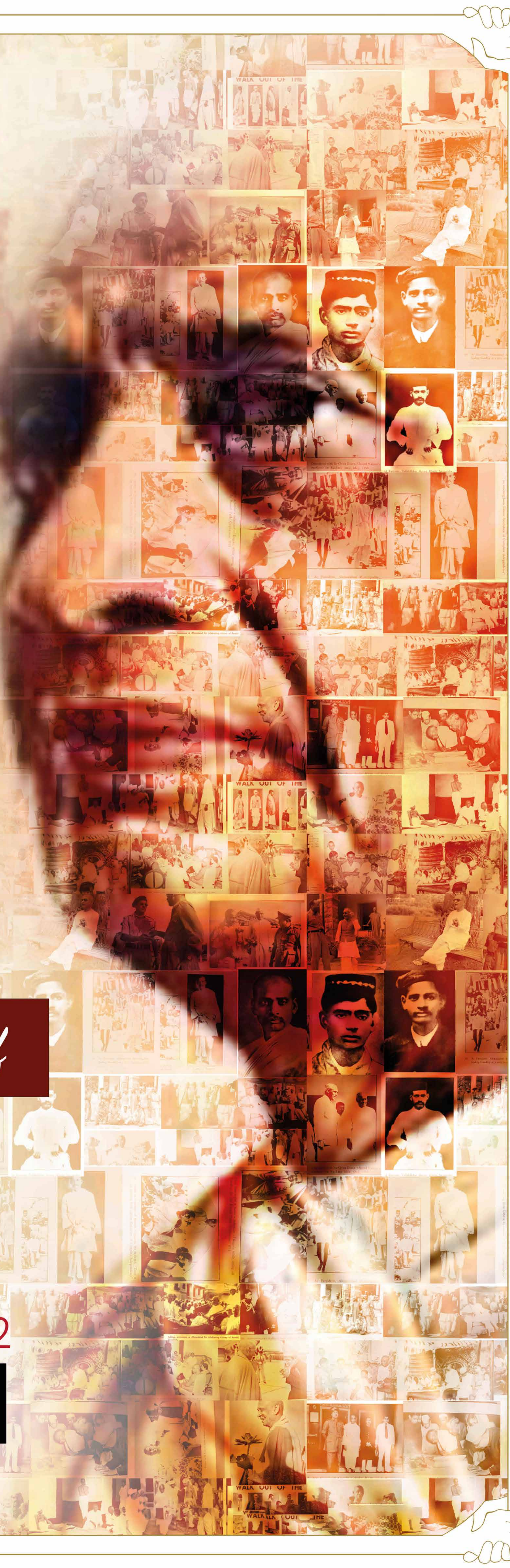
'Sardar Patel The Architect of Unification'

On the occasion of

NATIONAL UNITY DAY

31 OCTOBER 2022

EXHIBITION





SARDAR PATEL

THE ARCHITECT OF UNIFICATION

India was invaded and ruled by the foreigners who tried to divide India in the name of religion, region, language, caste, creed and culture. India's struggle to retain its united identity has been phenomenal. Our freedom fighters realised the importance of unity during their fight against the colonial imperialism and worked hard to enlighten the masses about the strength of Unity. Being born on this ancient land, we all should remember and cherish the ancient roots of our culture, which says ***“Ekoham Bahusyam”*** which means

“I am one expressed through many.”

On the occasion of National Unity Day, it's our solemn duty to remember the important contributions of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel-the Architect of Unification, who played a leading role in India's freedom struggle, guiding its integration into a united, independent nation. Many thought, a diverse country like India can never remain united. It will fall apart. But, Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel showed the way how India would remain strong and united. We, as citizens of India should learn how to grow from strength to strength and stay united.

As we all know, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi in his speech on 15th August, 2022 at Red Fort had mentioned about the strength of Unity and Integrity as one of the “Panch Pran”. In the first year of Amrit Kaal, 31st October is being celebrated as National Unity Day to remember the pran of unity and integrity and vow for it.



Government of India



Introduction

Before independence India was divided into two types of territories: the British India provinces— governed directly by British, and the princely states- who recognized British suzerainty in return for local autonomy. The State were free to accede with whichever dominion they wished keeping the principle of geographical contiguity in consideration or to remain independent. The problem seemed a gigantic one but, as Lord Mountbatten said in his address to the Indian Constituent Assembly on August 15, 1947, “it was tackled successfully by the "far-sighted statesman," Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A separate States Ministry was formed on 5 July 1947 with an objective of political integration of 565 princely states, comprising 2/5th of the territory, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel assumed charge as the States Minister and later as Home Minister of independent India.

Between 1947 and 1950, three princely states- Hyderabad, Kashmir and Junagadh signed Instrument of Accession and their territories were politically integrated into the Indian union. The others which had merged into the existing provinces were organized into new provinces, such as Rajputana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

31 October 1875– 15 December 1950

A brief biography



Born on 31 October 1875 at Karamsad in Kaira district of Gujarat, Vallabhbhai Patel received school education at Karamsad, Petlad and Nadiad. He passed the District Pleader Examination in 1900, started practice at Godhra and became a successful criminal lawyer, later shifted at Borsard in 1902. On return from London in 1913 with a degree of barrister, he shifted to Ahmedabad and established himself as foremost criminal lawyer.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel:

31 October 1875– 15 December 1950

A brief biography

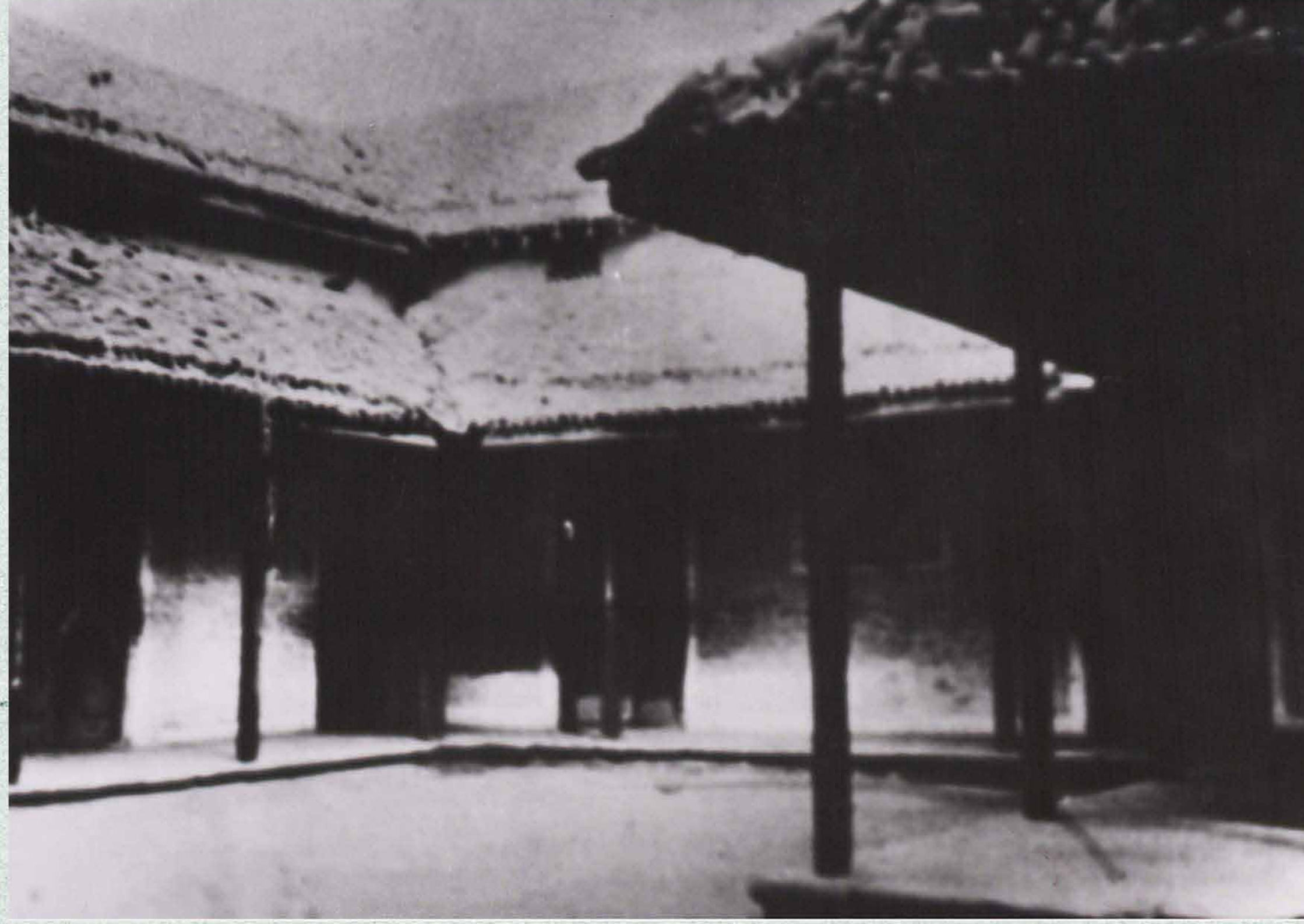
His political journey started in 1915 by becoming the member of Gujarat Sabha that was later converted into Gujarat Provincial Committee in 1919. Being President of the Gujarat Provincial Conference, Mahatma Gandhi appointed Vallabhbhai Patel as the Secretary of its Executive Committee in 1917. Since then Vallabhbhai Patel remained with Gandhiji in all his agitations and social works. He successfully led the agitations of Ahmedabad Mill workers and the peasants of Kheda in 1918. In 1924, he was elected as President of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation. As leader of Bardoli Satyagraha in 1928, Patel's determination brought the brutal and tyrannical British authorities to their knees. He was given the title of 'Sardar' by the local peasants of Bardoli. He spent over 9 years in jail in different terms during the struggle for freedom.

The years 1947 to 1950 when India marched towards freedom and democracy after partition and mass upheavals, Sardar's brilliance as Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister overcame these troubles. As he said on the eve of the first independence anniversary, '**In free India there is no room for divided loyalties**', his determination brought 565 princely states under one India and reorganised them into an new administrative set up.

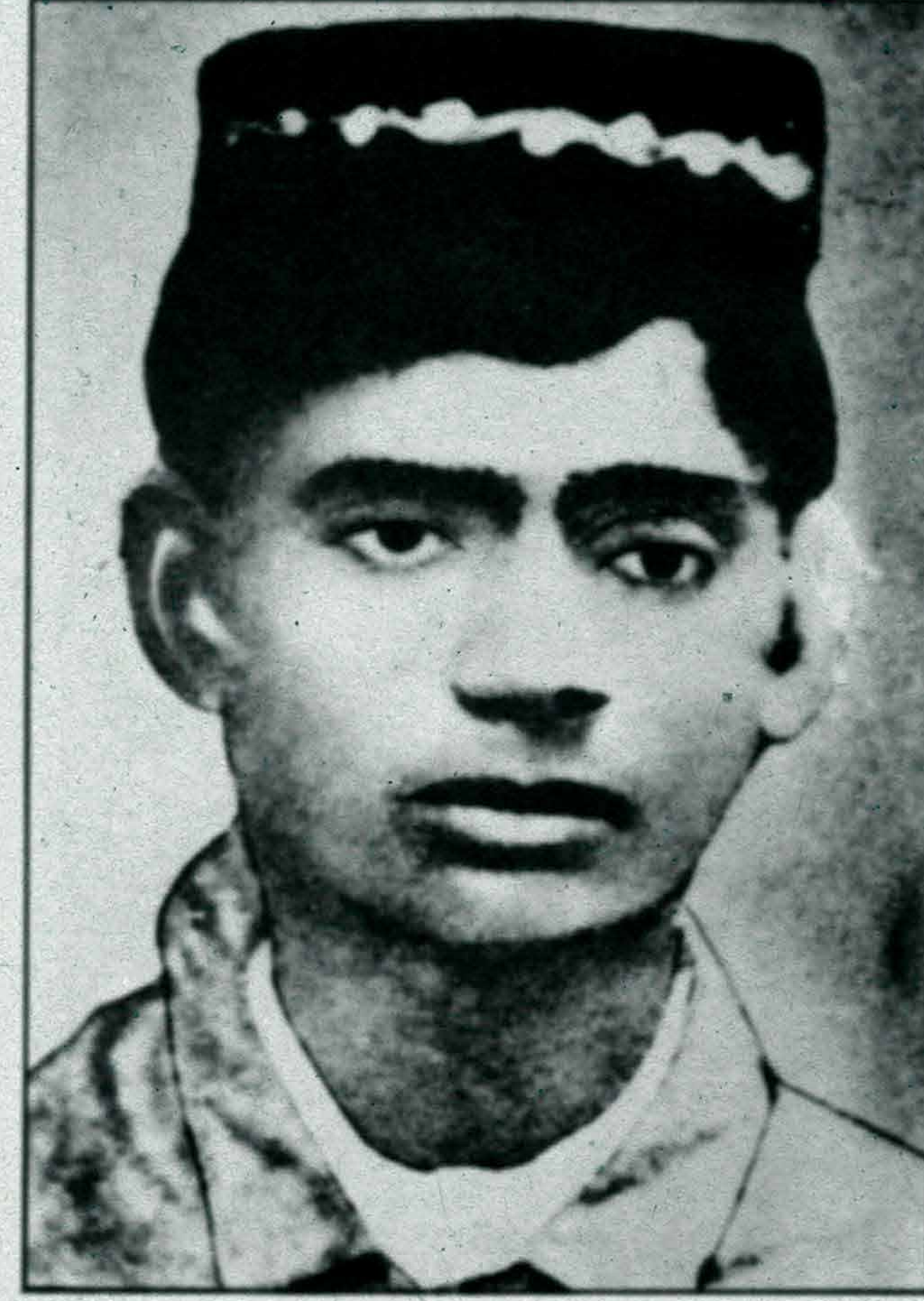


सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Village school at Karamsad where Sardar Patel took his first lessons



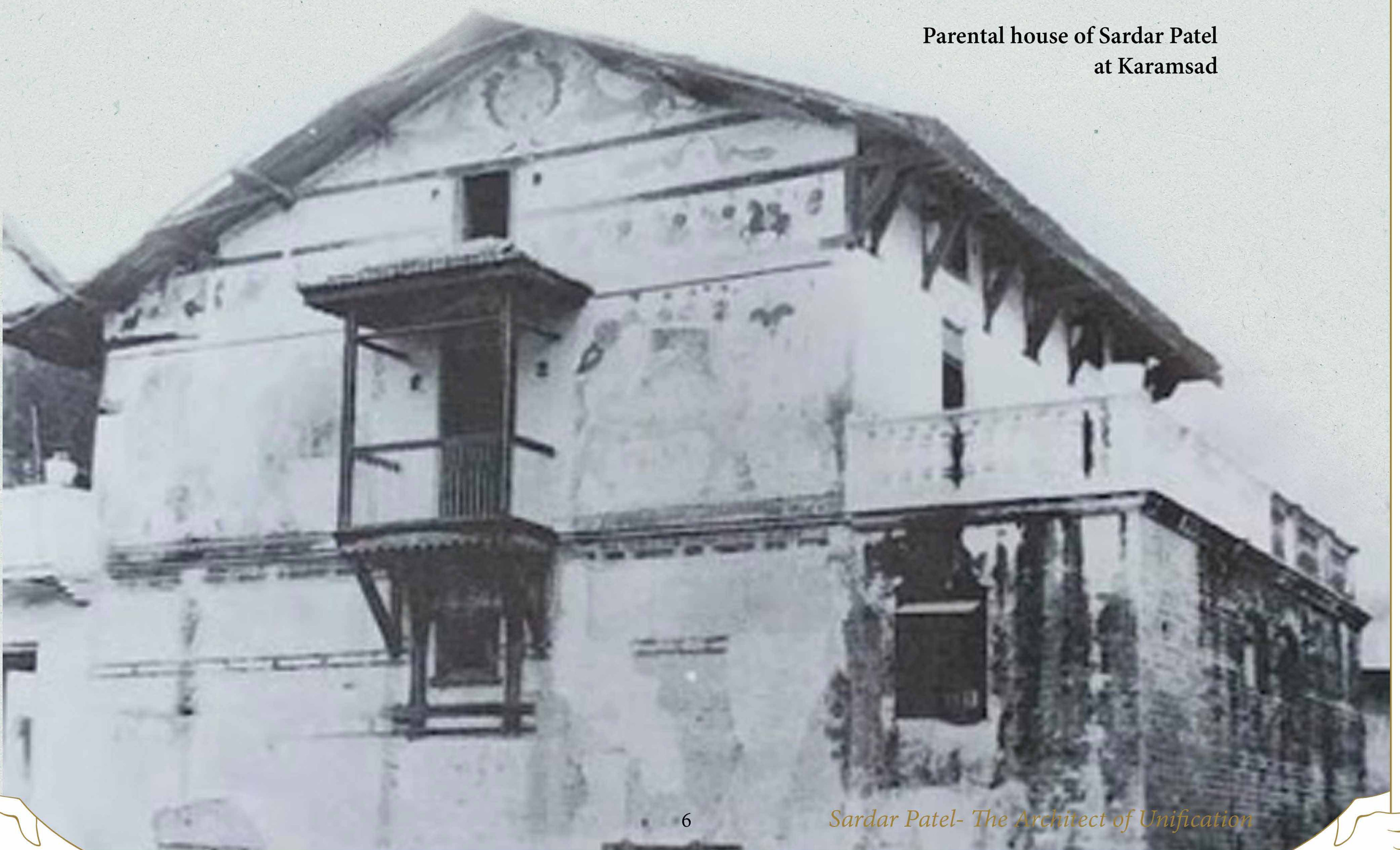
Vallabhbhai Patel as a school boy



Leaving for London to study
Barrister of Law, 1910



Patel as District
Pleader



Parental house of Sardar Patel
at Karamsad

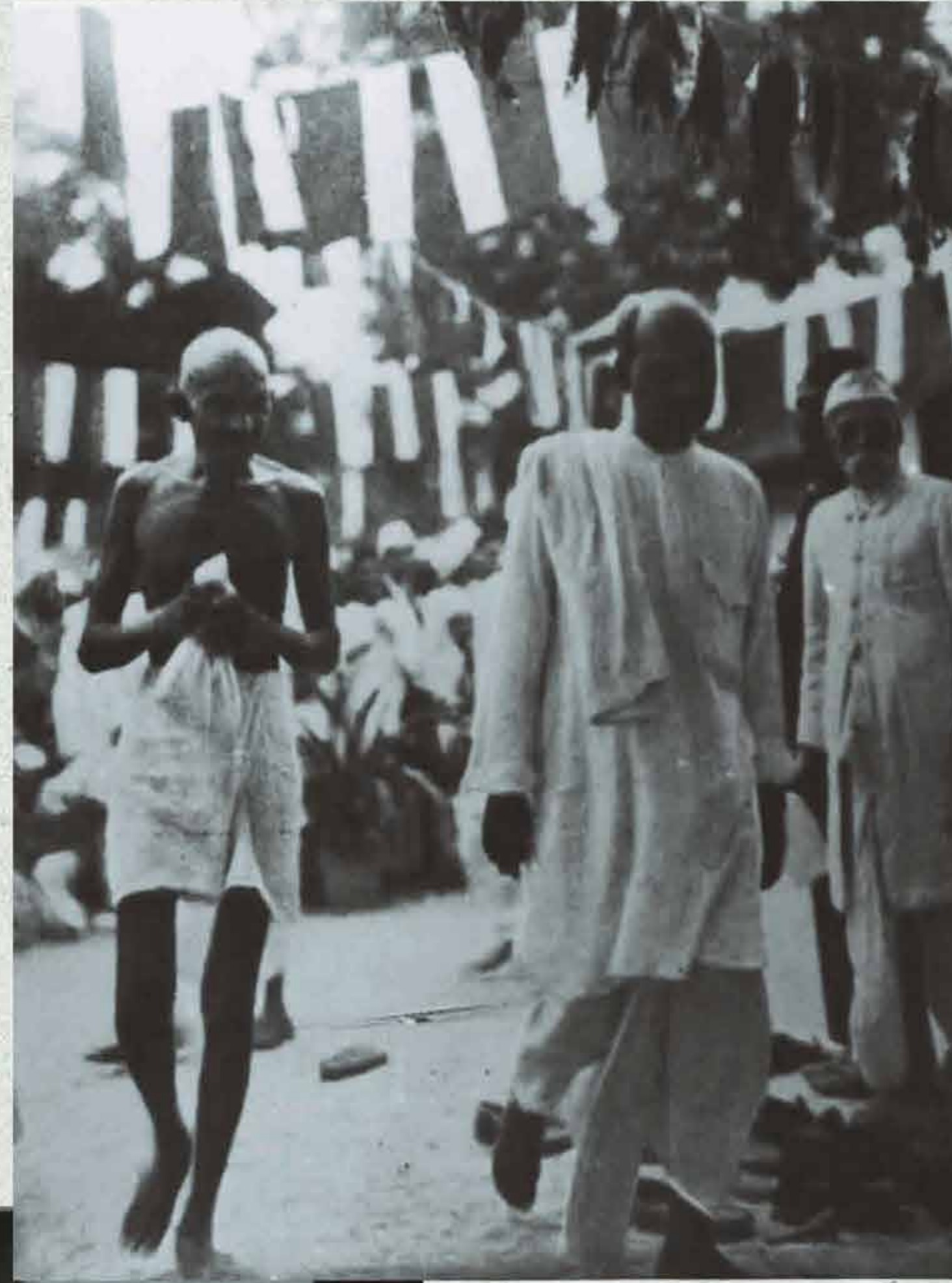


सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

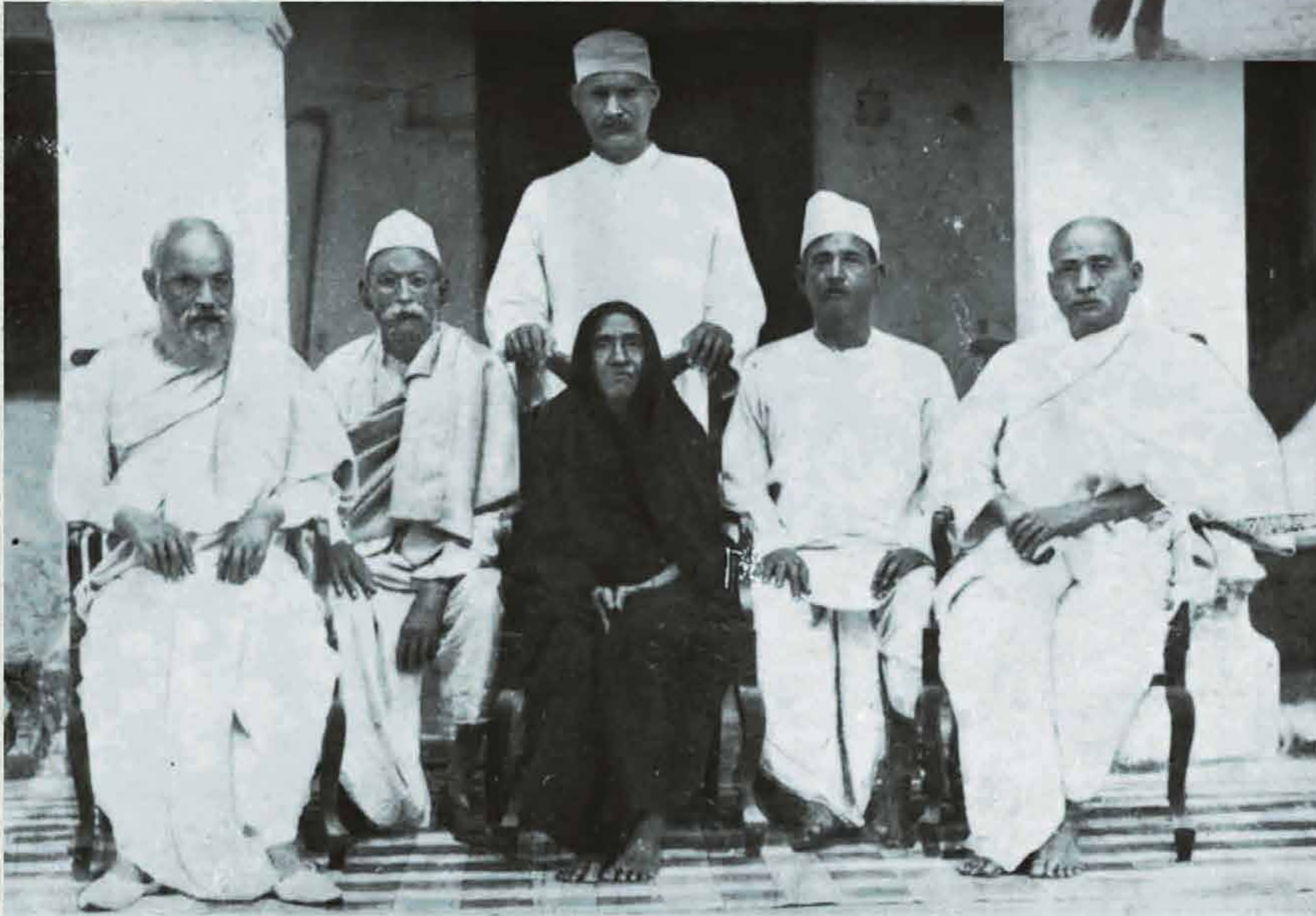
75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



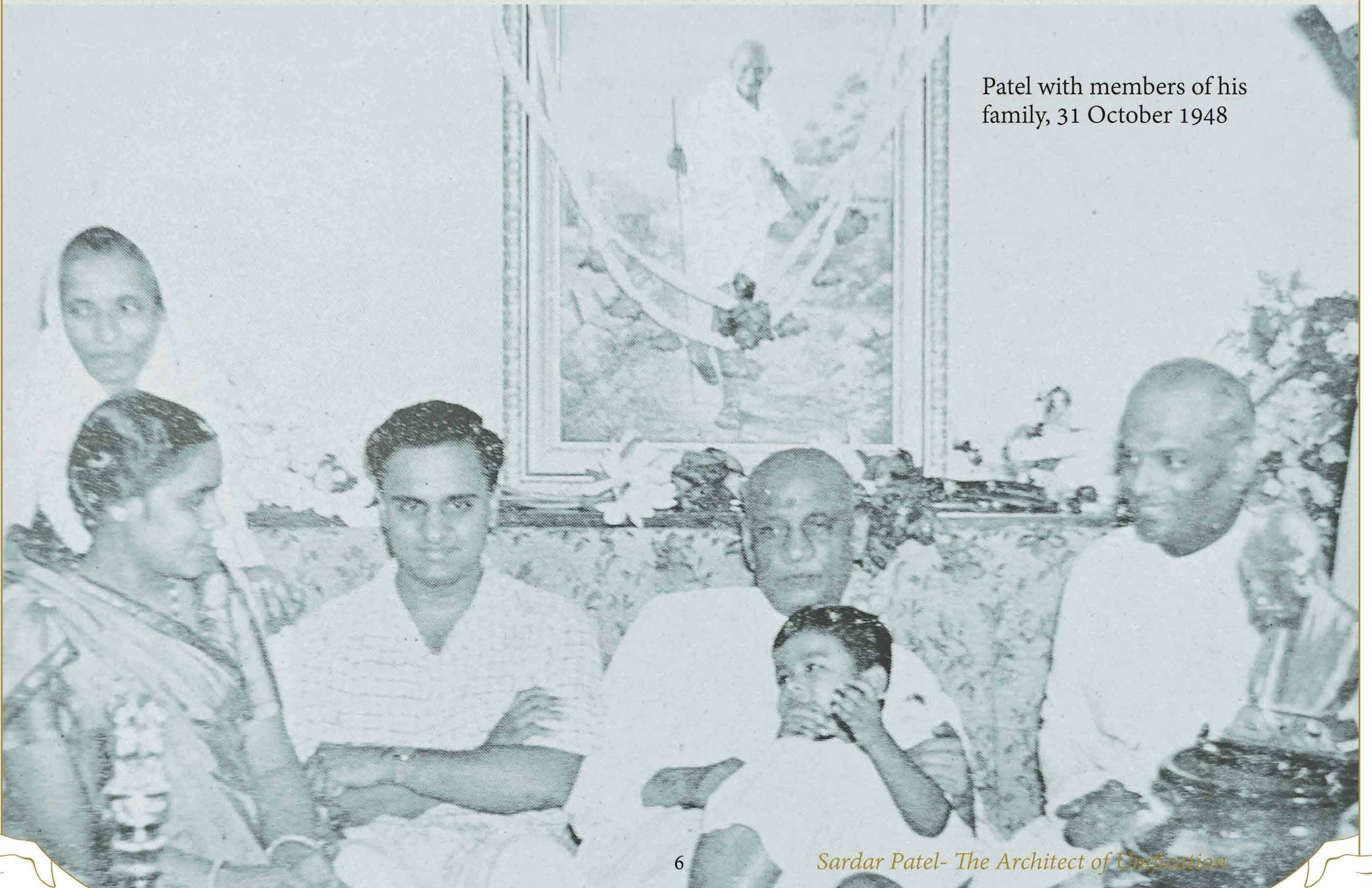
Two Barrister brothers:
Vithalbhai Patel and
Vallabhbai Patel on
return from London, 1913



Patel as
President of
Ahmedabad
Municipality
leading
Gandhiji at a
civic
reception, 1925



Sardar Patel's mother Ladba with her
five sons: Vithalbhai, Somabhai,
Kashibhai (Standing), Narsingh and
Vallabhbai, 1927



Patel with members of his
family, 31 October 1948



During Kheda
Agitation, 1918

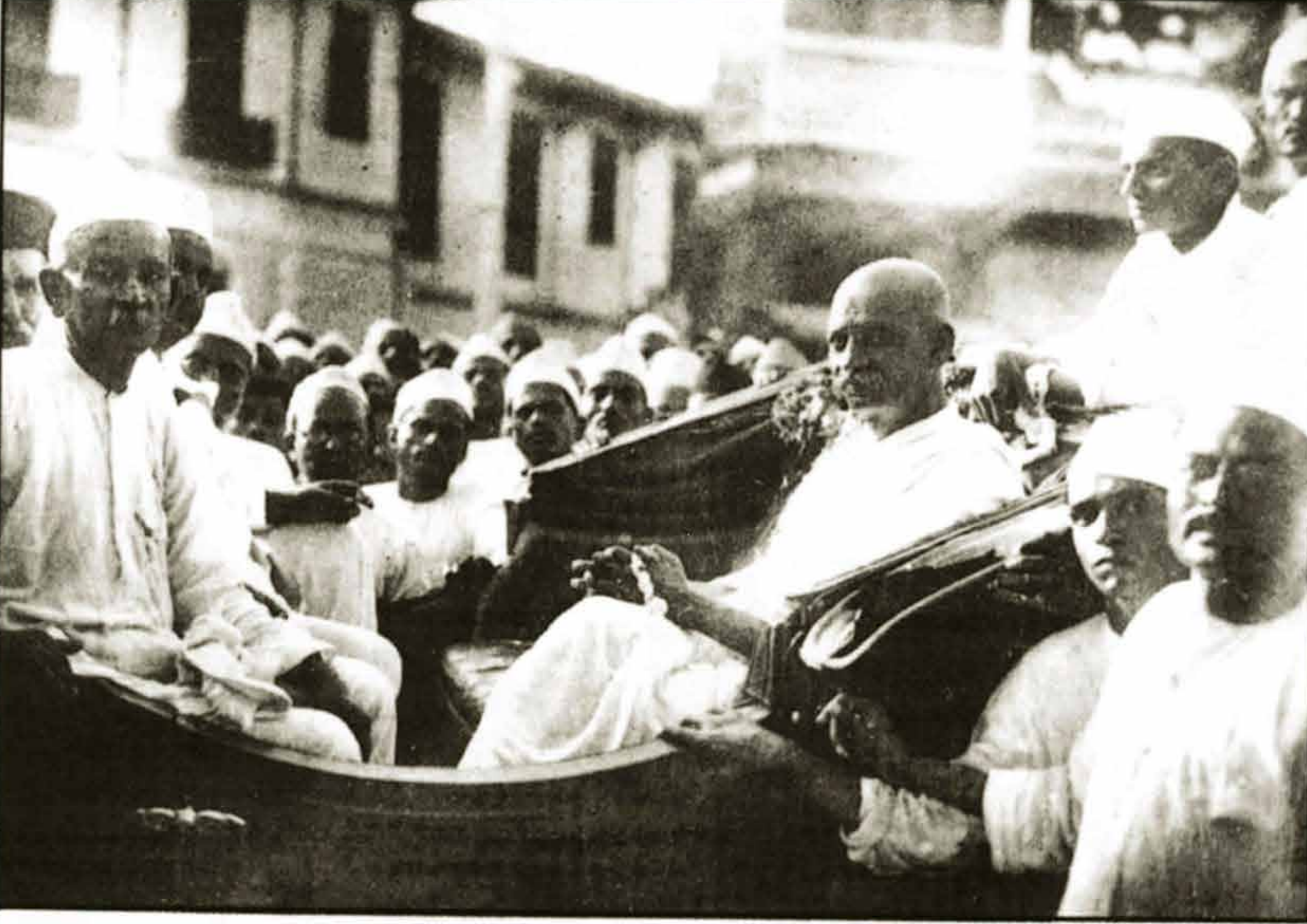
During Borsad Satyagraha, 1923



Sardar Patel with Gandhiji during Bardoli Satyagraha, 1928

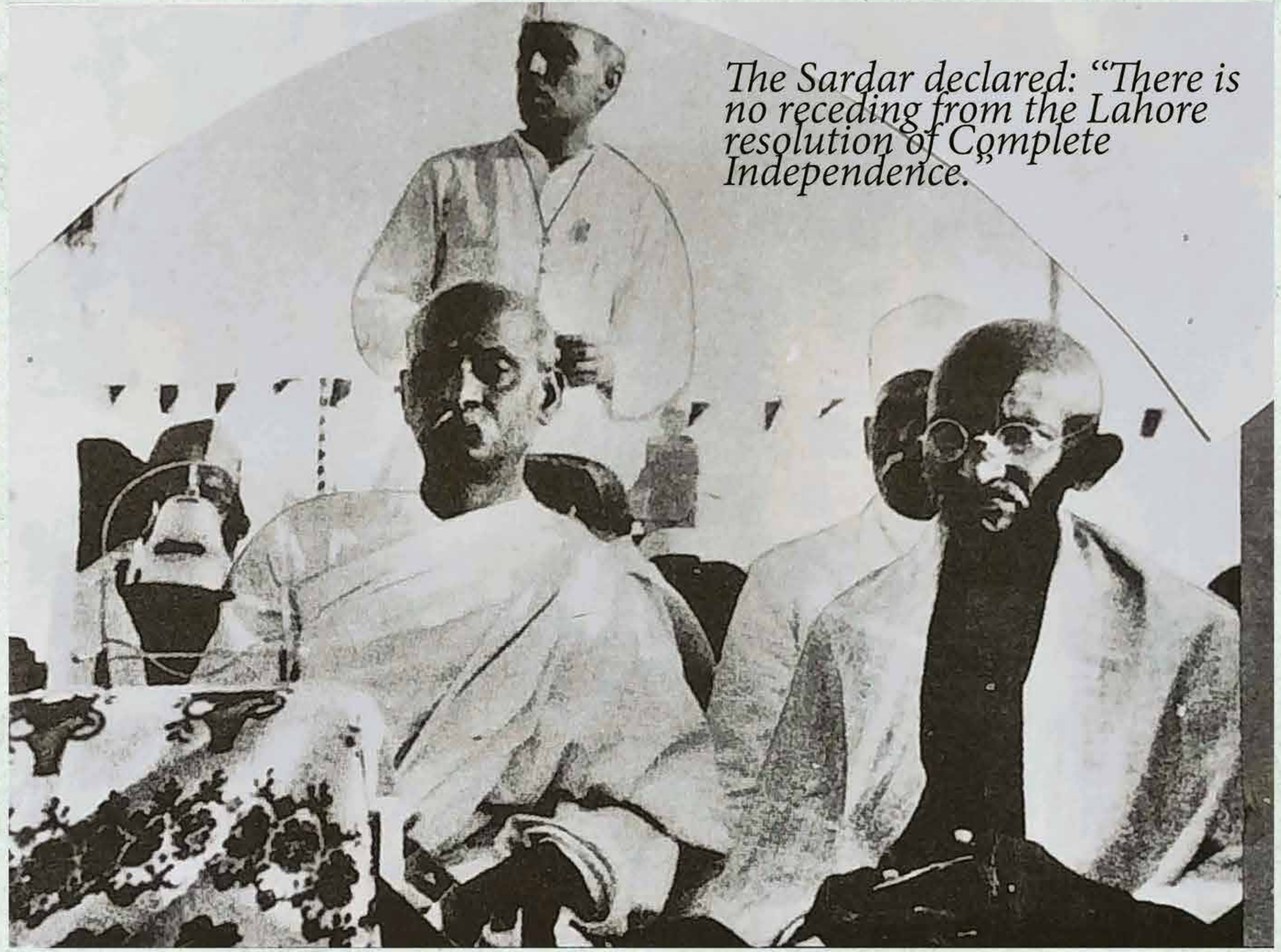
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Kheda Satyagraha with his colleagues Hariprasad, Jivan Lal Diwan, Indulal Yagnik, Ganesh Malvankar, Mohanlal Pandya and others, 1918



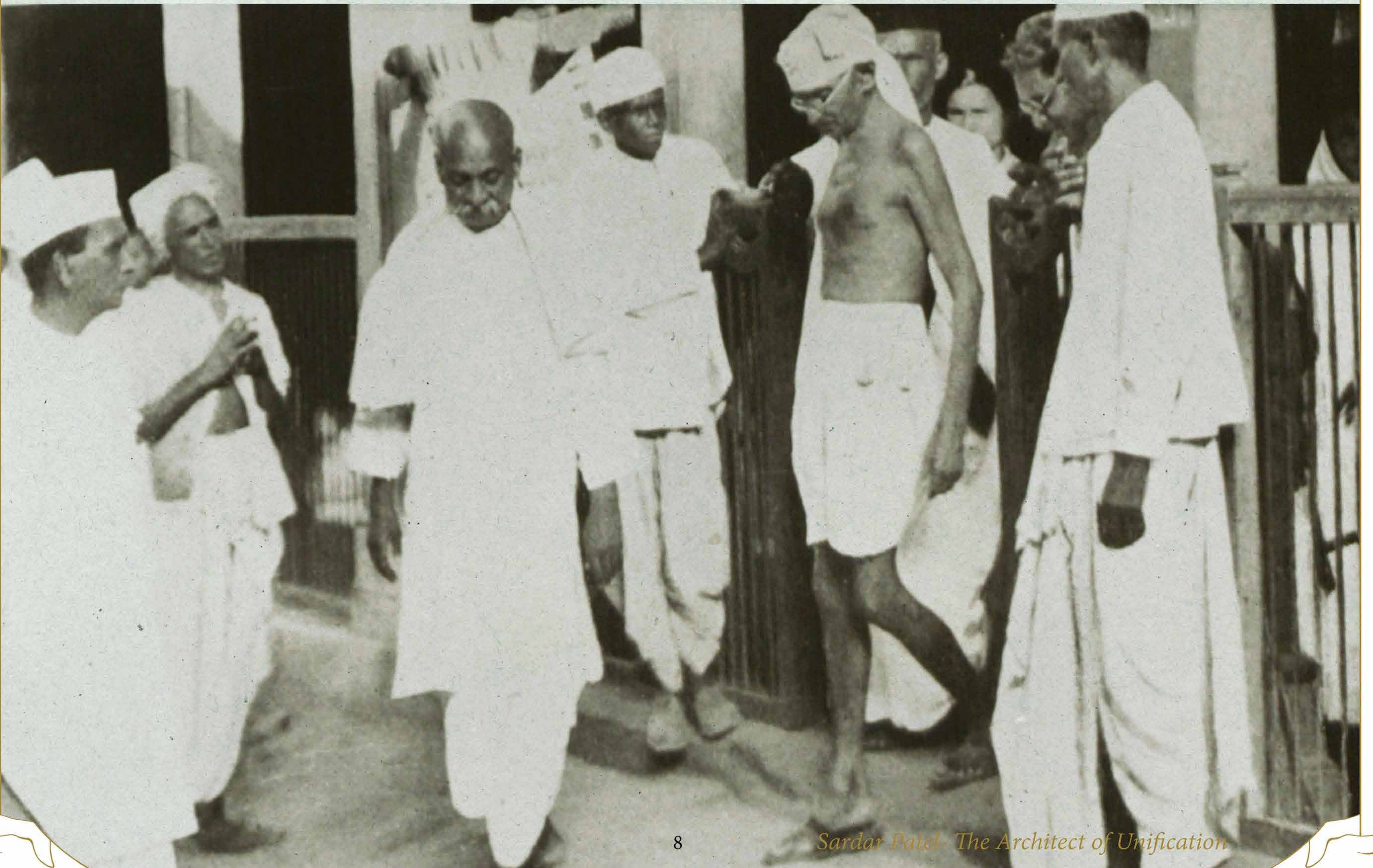


Patel during Jubilant Procession
at Ahmedabad for celebrating
the victory of Bardoli
Satyagraha, 1928

Sardar Patel as President of
Karachi Congress Session, 1931



Sardar Patel with Gandhiji visiting Borsad during plague in 1935





Sardar being arrested on 9 August 1942 during the Quit India Movement



Sardar Patel walking out of the prison with Azad, Nehru, Shankar Rao Deo, Kriplani, Rajendra Prasad, 16 June 1945



Sardar engaged in thoughtful discussion with Gandhiji during Simla Conference, 1945

Sardar Patel's speech on first anniversary of independence.
The Statesman, 15.08.1948



Accession, Integration and Reorganization of States

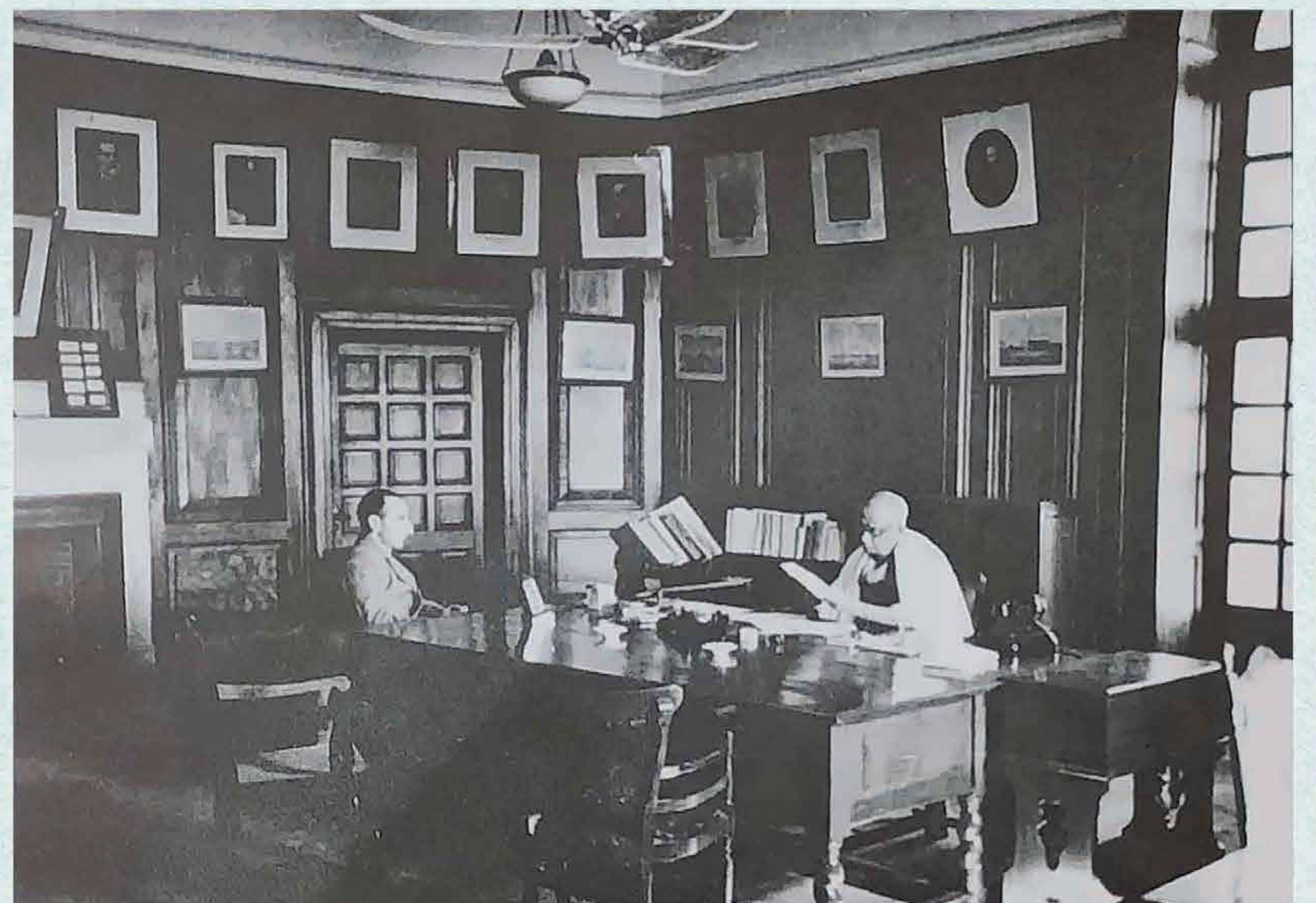
'The masterly handling of the rulers (Princes) by Sardar was the foremost factor in the success of the accession policy. The rulers soon came to recognize him as a stable force in Indian politics and as one who would give them a fair deal. Added to this, his unfailing politeness, the rulers viewed against his reputation as the 'Iron Man of India', endeared him to them and created such confidence that all accepted his advice without demur'.

V.P. Menon



With Rajendra Prasad, Jagjivan Ram, Sardar Patel receiving the auspicious coconut prior to proceeding to Viceregal Lodge for the swearing in ceremony of Interim Government, 2 September 1946.

Sardar busy at work in Home Ministry, 1947.



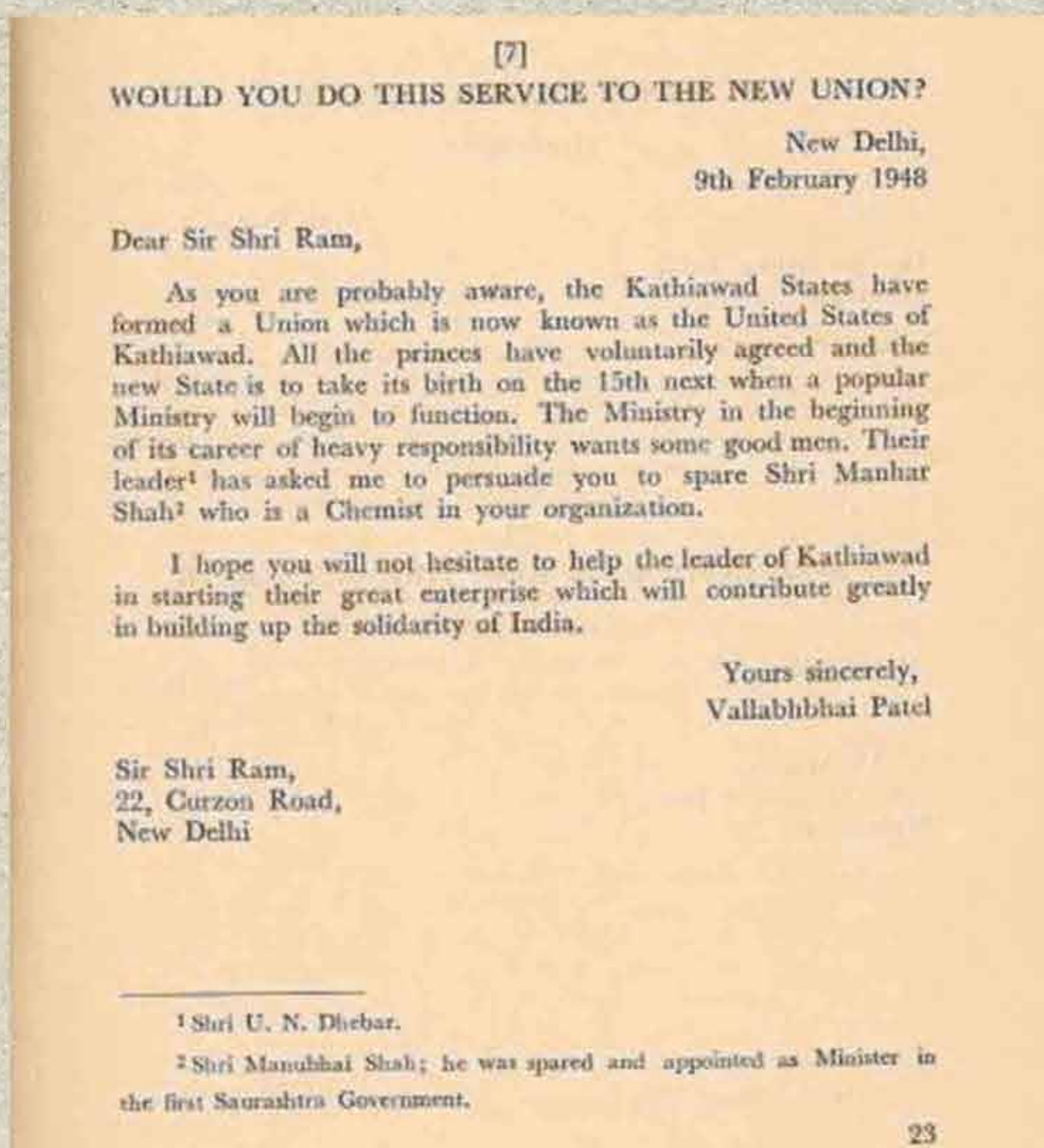
July 25, 1947; When Mountbatten addressed The Chamber of Princes to choose either of the 2 dominions; India or Pakistan, there was no third option.





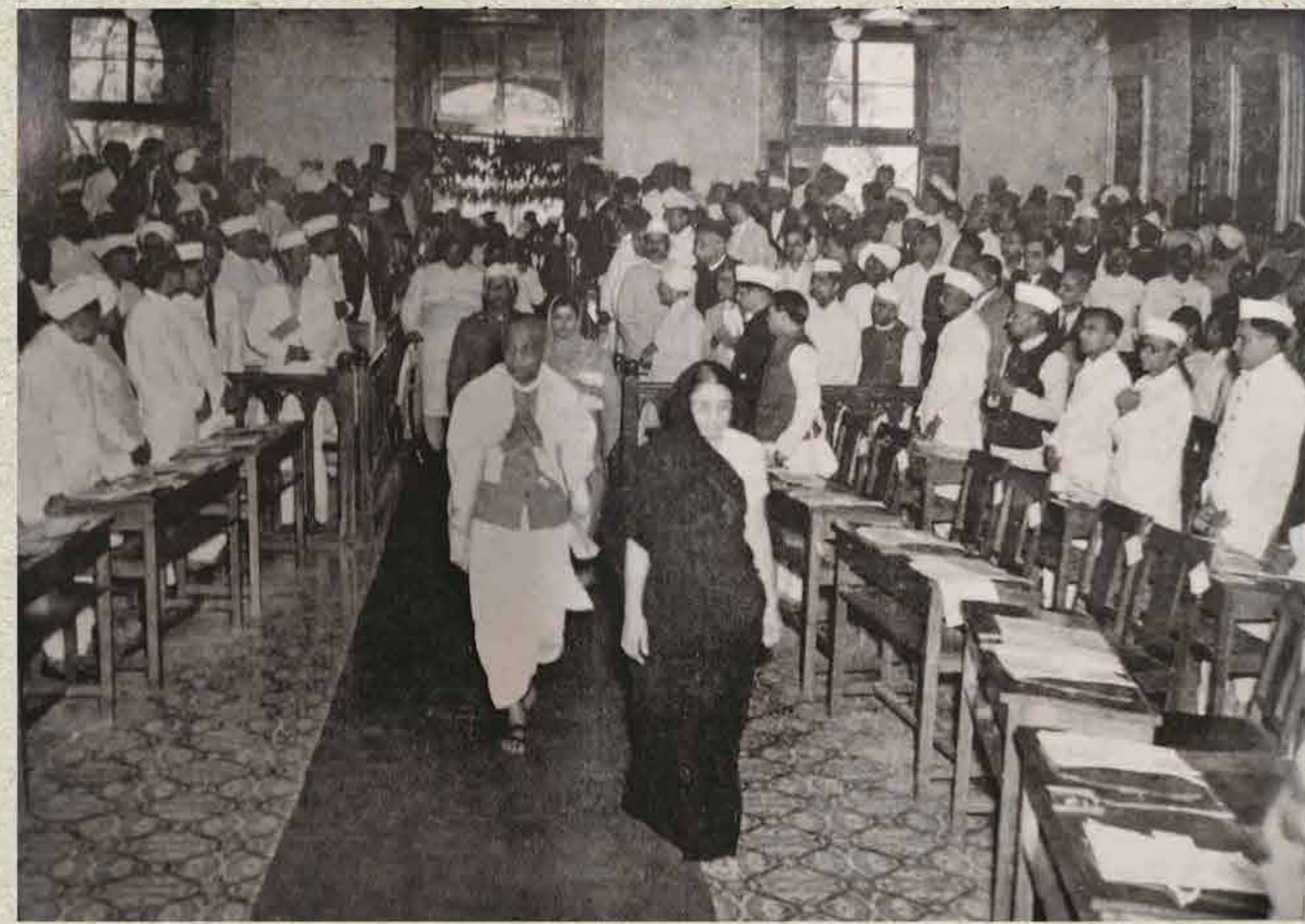
Sardar Patel addressing a conference of representatives of states and provinces called to discuss the refugee problem, from left to right : Maharajas of Alwar, Bharatpur & Patiala, Sardar Patel, V.P. Menon, Premier G.B. Pant of U.P, Premier Bhargava & Minister Swaran Singh of East Punjab.

Saurashtra/Kathiawar



Letter from Sardar Patel to Lala Shri Ram 9 Feb 1948.

Unification of Saurashtra: the dream of the Mahatama & Sardar fulfilled; Standing ovation to Sardar at Saurashtra Union Legislative Assembly, 1948; In picture Pushpabehn Mehta, Speaker in front and



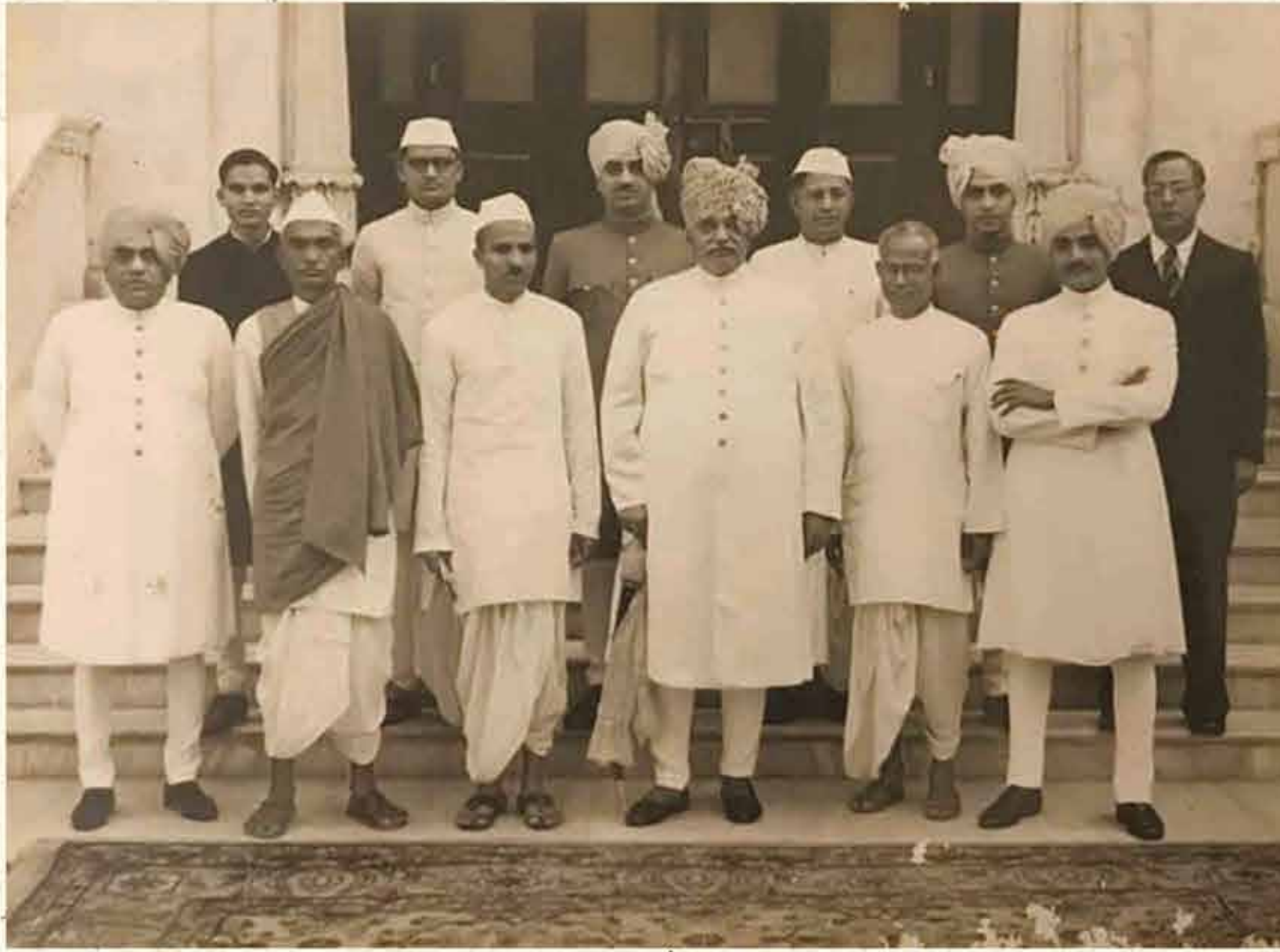
Sardar Patel administering the oath of office to the Jamsaheb of Nawanagar as the Rajpramukh of the new Saurashtra State in Jamnagar, February 15, 1948.

The Rajpramukh of Saurashtra, The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, Administers the oath of office to Premier U.N. Dhebar. The Sardar is seated on the left.

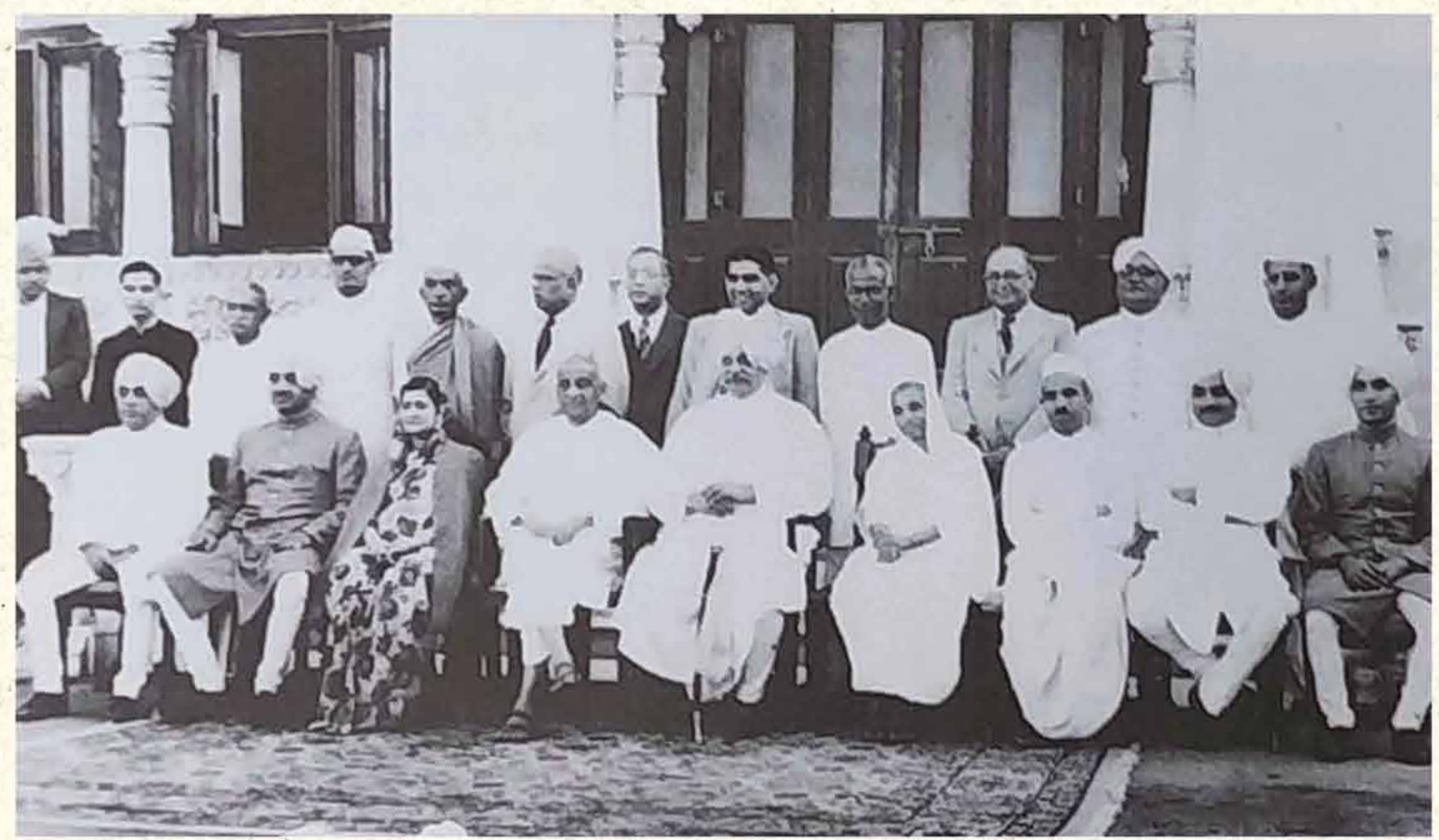




State Drive with Jam-Saheb



Council of rulers and ministers of United State of Kathiawar, 15.02.48.



Sardar with Saurashtra Cabinet and Rulers of Saurashtra States.

Little pools of water tend to become stagnant and useless, but that if they are joined together to form a big lake, the atmosphere is cooled and there is universal benefit.

-Patel, addressing a public meeting at Bhavnagar on 15 January 1948.

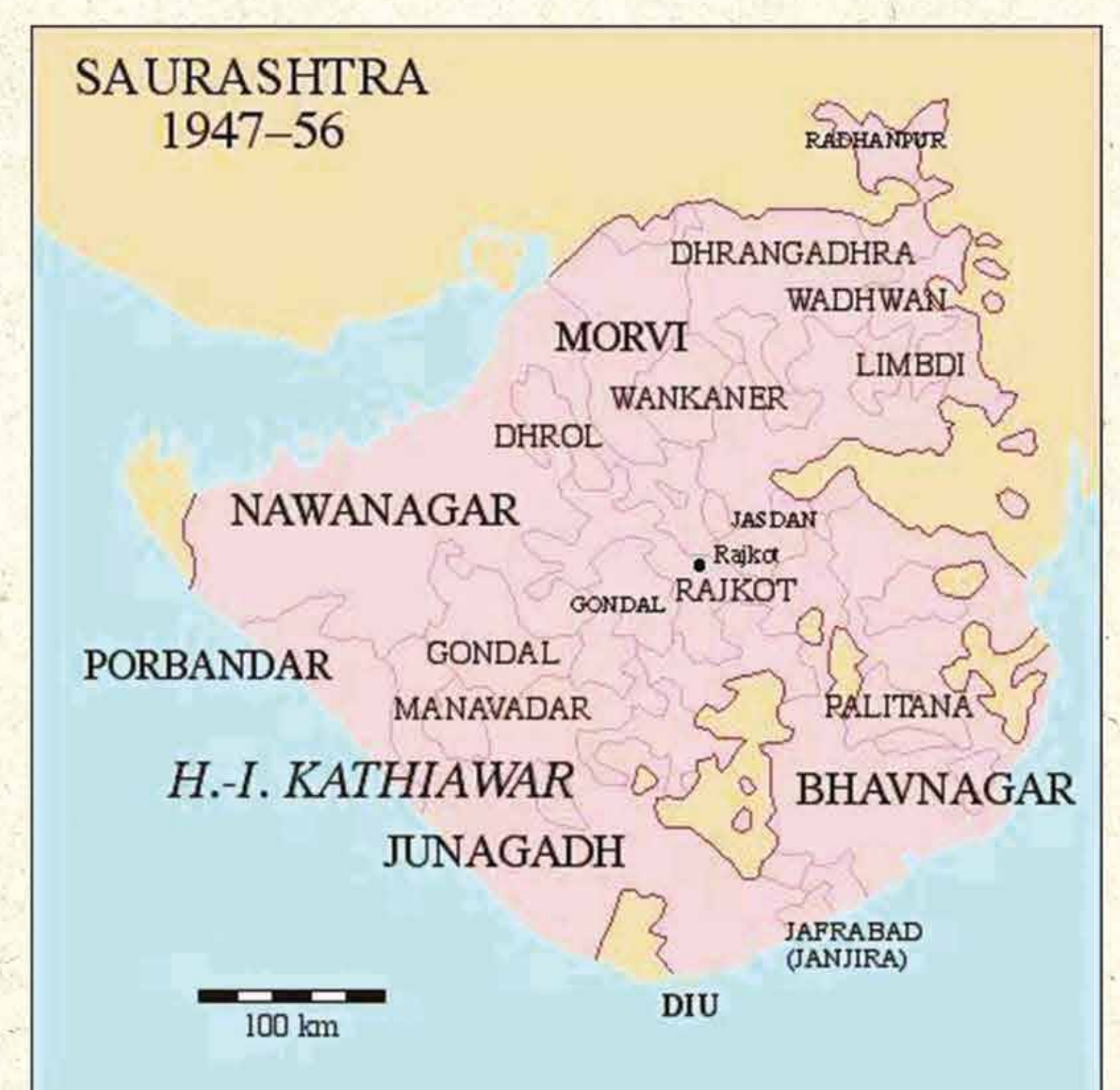


Surging jubilant crowds in Rajkot-Welcome to magician SARDAR who wielded a bewildering conglomeration of Saurashtra States into a homogeneous State of Saurashtra (1948).



The Free Press Journal 6 October 1947.

United Saurashtra (Kathiawar) State, 1948-56.





सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

Deccan

UNION OF DECCAN STATES
Phaltan
14 September 1946

My dear Sardar Sahib,

I have been favoured with a letter dated 8 September from the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru regarding the question of the joint views of you both. I am sure the letter represents to you for carrying out the assurance which you gave me in my personal visit to you in Bombay on 16 August. The views expressed by Panditji in his letter clearly bear the impress of the joint consultation of you both. I am fully satisfied at the attitude displayed in the letter. I shall now take up the matter with my brother rulers and I feel it will be up to us all to act up to the advice.

I shall never forget the kindness and courtesy which you have shown to me personally. The stress and strain under which all of you have been working for the past few months only heightens our admiration for you.

With renewed thanks and deep respects,

Yours sincerely,
Malojirao'

Letter to Patel from Deccan States

Baroda

20/9/1947
New Delhi
20th Sept 1947

My dear Maharaja Sahib,

Baroda State has received reports from Baroda to the effect that although the State Government had made all arrangements for the celebration of August 15, the Independence Day, in a befitting manner, it was Your Highness who countermanded the orders and stopped all celebrations. Considering that Your Highness was the first ruler to accede to the Indian Union and has always taken a keen interest in the struggle of this country for Independence, we cannot believe that this could be true, and would be grateful for information on the point.

We hope Your Highness will not treat this enquiry as an attempt on the part of the Indian Government to interfere in the internal affairs of Baroda State, the avoidance of which is, and will always remain, the policy of the Government of India.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
V.P. Menon.

Major General His Highness Maharaja
of Pratik Singh Gaekwad, Late His Highness
Maharaja Sahib, C.I.E.,
Maharaja of Baroda.

V.P. Menon's letter to Major General Maharaja Pratap Singh Gaekwad

INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION

MAHARAJA His Majesty's representative in the exercise of the functions of the Crown in the relations with Indian States has exercised certain powers and jurisdiction in relation to the estate of His Highness Maharaja, under the Deccan States.

AND WHEREAS certain of these powers and jurisdiction were transferred to the State to which the said estate was attached.

AND WHEREAS such attachment has ceased by reason of the passing of the Indian Independence Act.

AND WHEREAS I, His Highness Maharaja, as the Maharaja of the said estate, desirous that the Deccan States of India should exercise its jurisdiction in relation to the said estate.

all the powers and jurisdiction which were exercisable before such attachment by His Majesty's representative for the exercise of the functions of the Crown in the relations with the Indian States.

AND WHEREAS I, Maharaja, of the said estate do hereby authorize the Government of India to exercise all the said powers and jurisdiction in relation to the said estate in such manner and through such agency or agencies as the Government may from time to time determine.

Yours sincerely,
Maharaja Sahib of Baroda

20th September 1947

Instrument of Accession

Prior to historic merger of Baroda into Bombay. Patel being received by Dr. Jivraj Mehta and Maharaja Pratap Singh



New Delhi
29 July 1946

My dear Dewan Sahib,

I have received your letter of the 23rd instant only today, owing to the postal strike.

I am sorry to hear that you are not getting the requisite co-operation in your efforts to liberalise the administration from the Praja Mandal members. I was under the impression that things were going on smoothly in Baroda, particularly because Shri Chhotubhai Sutaria, who is one of the trusted and responsible leaders of the Praja Mandal, happens to be in your council. Now that you have brought this matter to my notice, I will certainly look into the matter and try to be as helpful as possible.

Baroda has got a good opportunity. It has got resources, traditions and materials enough to give a lead to all the States in India at this critical period of our history. It is so surrounded and intermingled with British Gujarat and the general level of the people is so advanced that with goodwill, trust and co-operation, the State can safely start an experiment of full responsible government straightaway and take the credit of being the pioneer State, which, in fact, is in consonance with its past traditions.

My services would be at your disposal, as I am interested in Baroda as one of the ex-presidents of the Baroda Praja Mandal and as one who has numerous friends and relations in Baroda State.

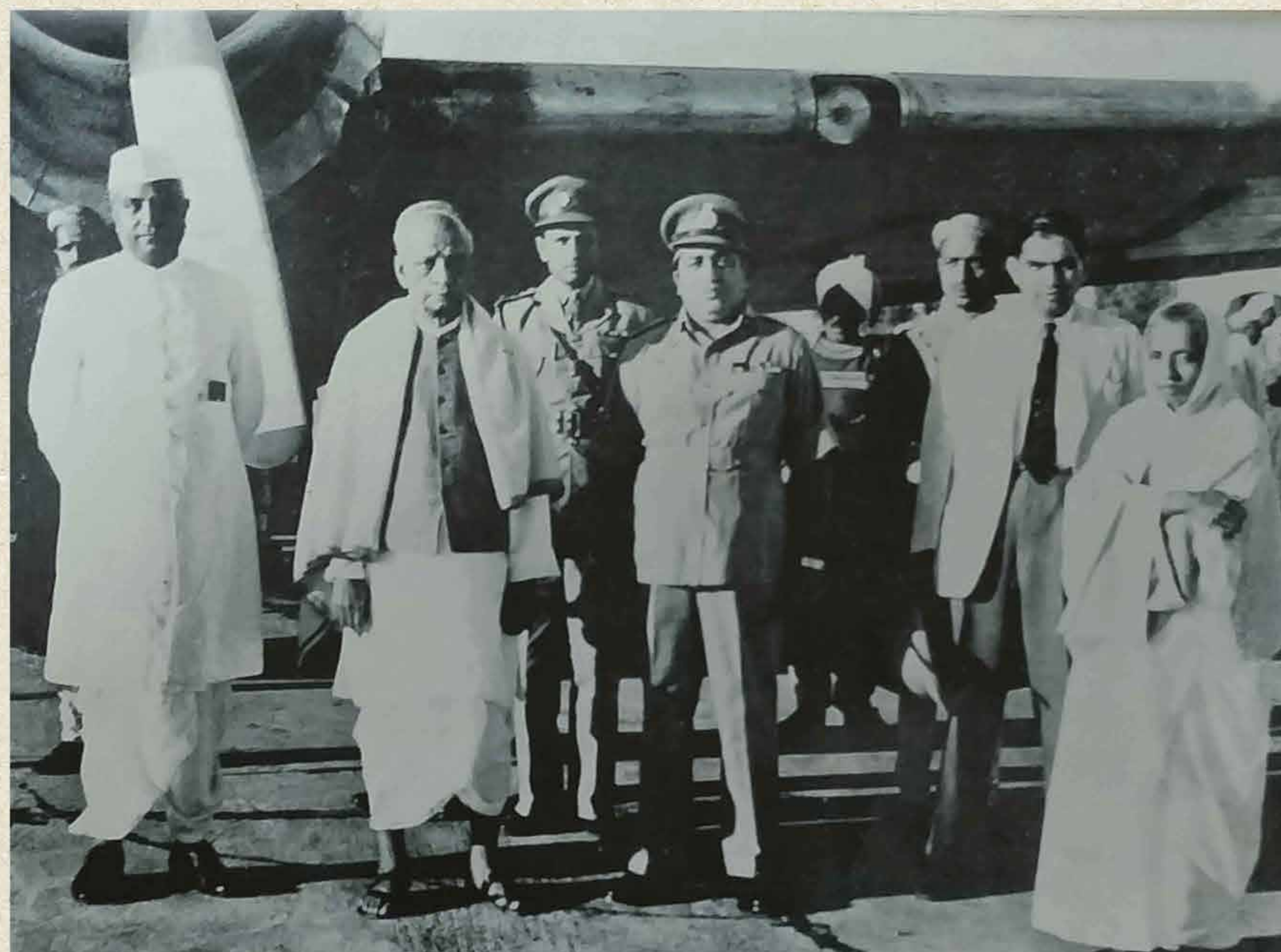
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
Vallabhbhai Patel

Sir B.L. Mitter
Dewan Sahib of Baroda
Baroda

Patel's letter to Dewan of Baroda, Sir B.L.Mitter.

Sardar Patel and Maniben (right) with the Maharaja of Baroda (centre) and his Chief Minister, Dr. Jivraj Mehta, (left) at Baroda aerodrome before departure for New Delhi.





75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Sardar with Maharaja of Baroda, Sri Pratap Singh Rao Gaekwad and Dr. Jivraj Mehta

Rajasthan

...Many are amazed that Vallabhbhai Patel was able to sweep them away in so short a time. The Puranas say that Parasuram fought twenty -one battles before he could exterminate the Kshatriya princes, but the new Parasurama needed no battle to make a clean sweep of kings in India...

-KM Panikkar



“What we have achieved today is merely the fulfilment of the aspirations of Maharana Pratap”
–Sardar Patel
Sardar swearing-in Maharaja of Jaipur as Raj Pramukh of The United State of Rajasthan
[30-3-1949]

Sardar leaving the Durbar Hall after inaugurating the Rajasthan Union. On the right is the Maharaja of Jaipur, on the left the Maharaja of Kotah



Sir V.T. Krishnamachari, Former Chief Minister, Jaipur, Maniben Patel and V. Shankar at a gathering on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the Great Rajasthan Union March, 1949



75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

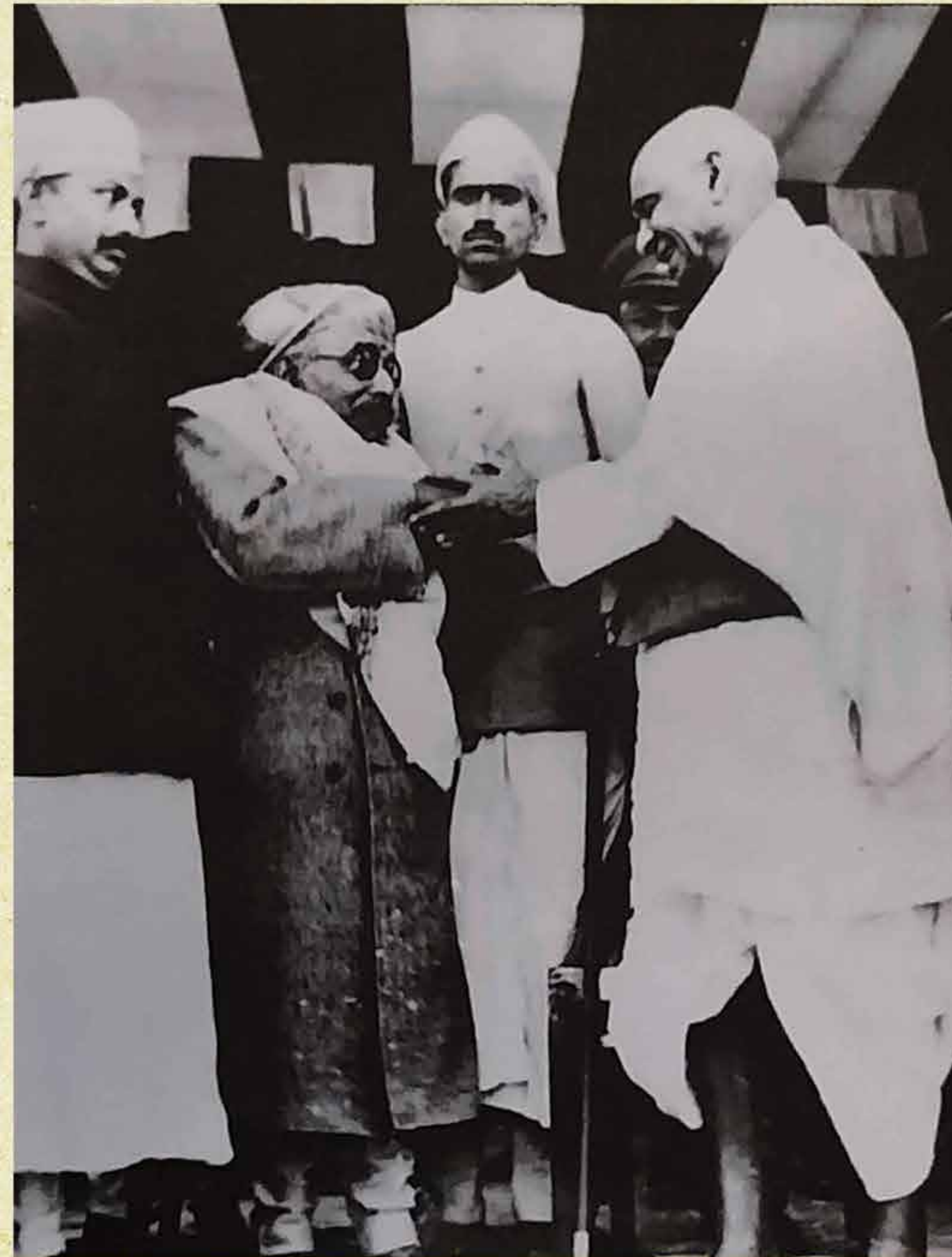
Udaipur

Jaipur
10 April 1948

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
New Delhi

GLAD TO HEAR UDAIPUR IS JOINING RAJASTHAN UNION. THIS MAKES SIROHI JOINING RAJASTHAN STILL MORE INEVITABLE. BESIDES TO US SIROHI MEANS GOKULBHAI MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WITHOUT GOKULBHAI WE CAN HARDLY EXPECT TO RUN RAJASTHAN. THEREFORE I VERY STRONGLY URGE THAT SIROHI SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO JOIN RAJASTHAN AT LEAST FOR PRESENT IF NO PERMANENT SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE JUST NOW. BUT FOR MY PREOCCUPATIONS HERE I SHOULD HAVE PERSONALLY COME TO MAKE THIS REPRESENTATION TO YOU. I DO HOPE YOU WILL FULFIL OUR HOPES IN THIS MATTER. PRAYING INCESANTLY FOR YOUR HEALTH.

HIRALAL SHASTRI¹



Sardar Patel with
Maharaja of Udaipur,
Bhupal Singh, 6
January 1949

Jaipur



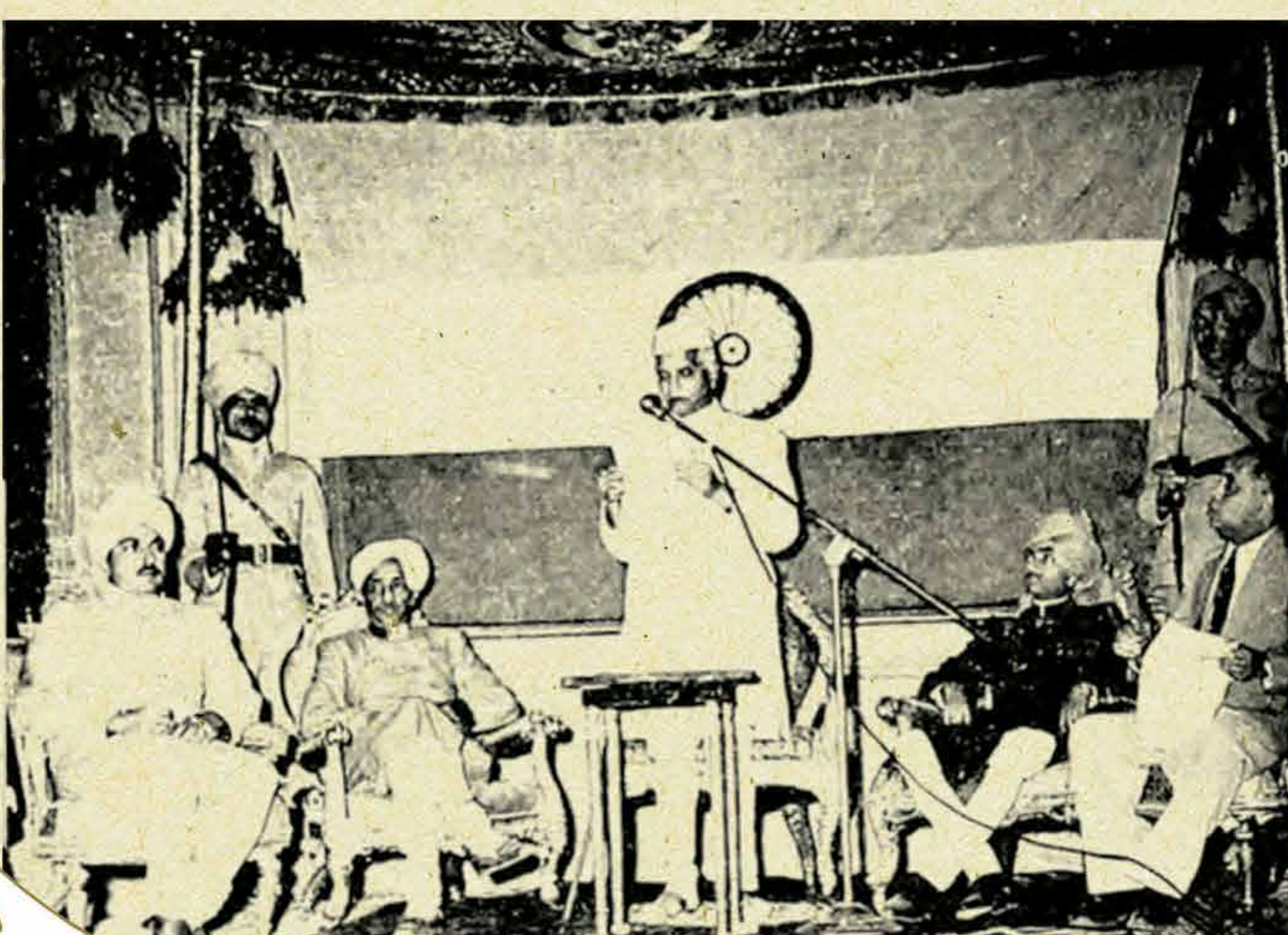
Sardar Patel with the
Maharaja of Jaipur



Jodhpur

Jinnah signed a blank sheet of paper and gave it to Maharaja Hanwant Singh of Jodhpur along with his fountain pen, saying you can fill in your conditions.
-V.P. Menon

Matsya Union



Inauguration of the Matsya Union being held in Bharatpur, 17.03.1948. The new Union consists of States of Dholpur , Bharatpur, Alwar and Karauli.

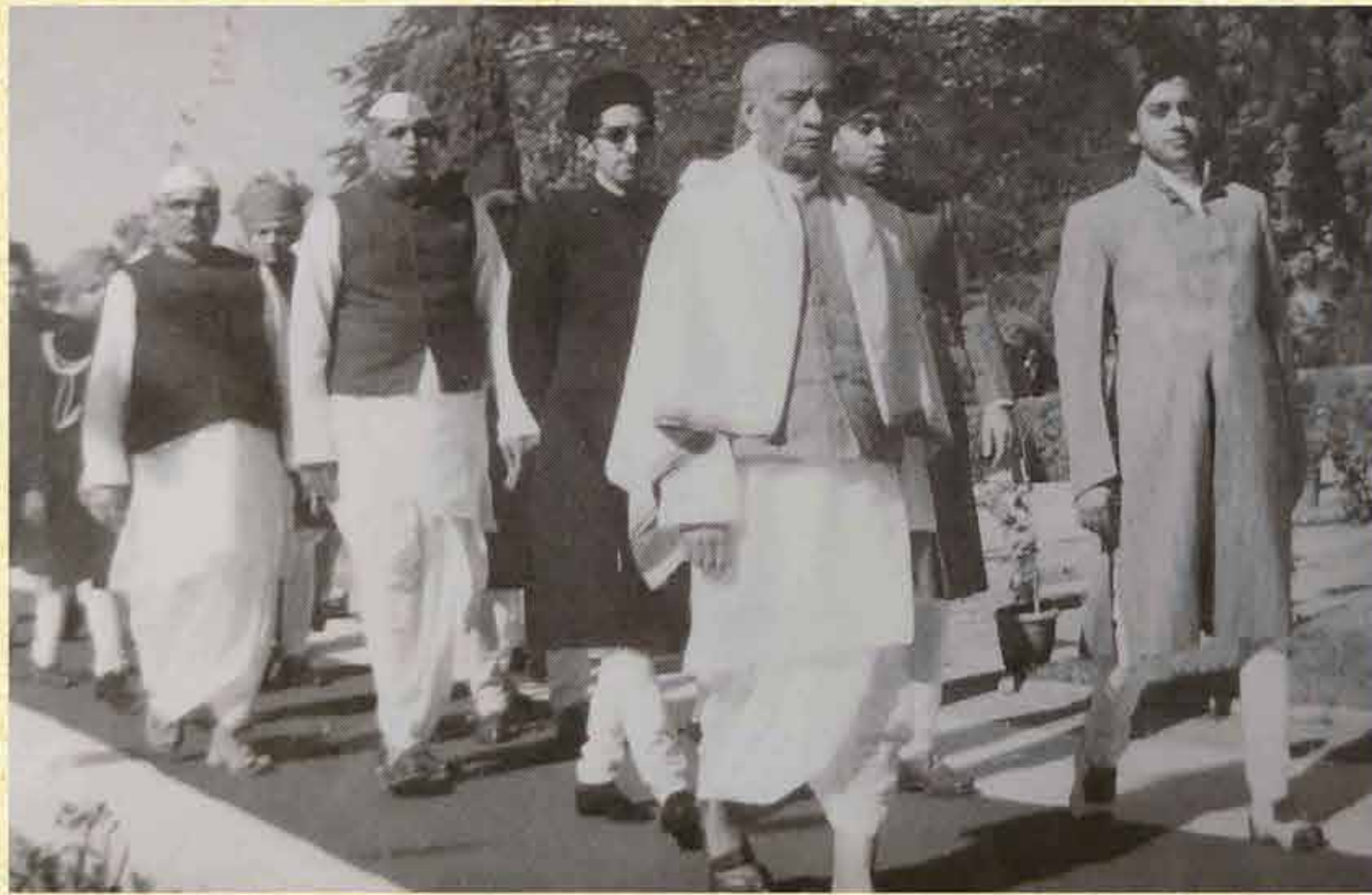
Malwa Union



Sardar Patel inaugurating the legislative Assembly of the Malwa Union, Gwalior, 4 December 1948.



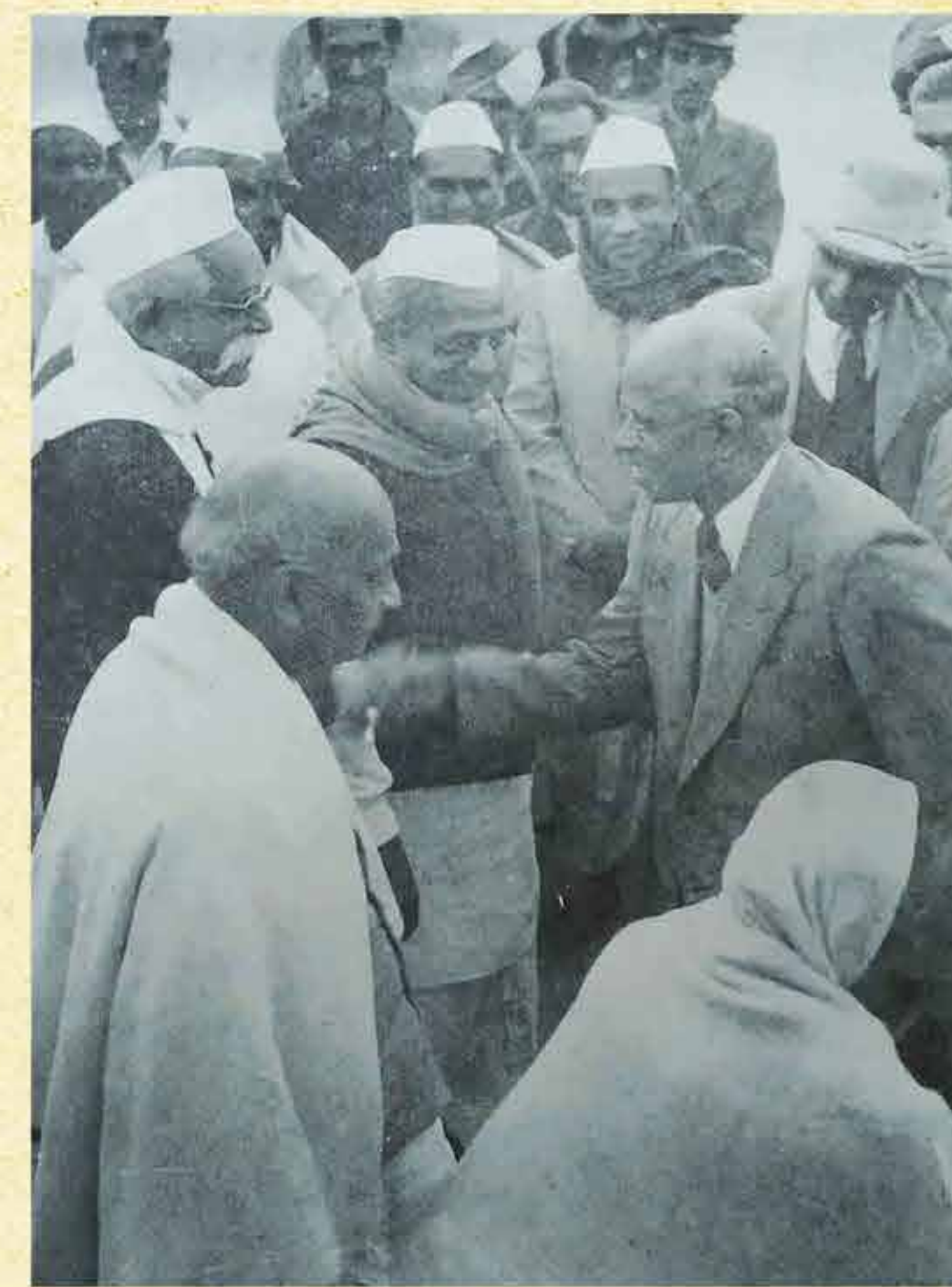
Sardar Patel addressing the First Session of the Malwa Union Assembly in December 1948



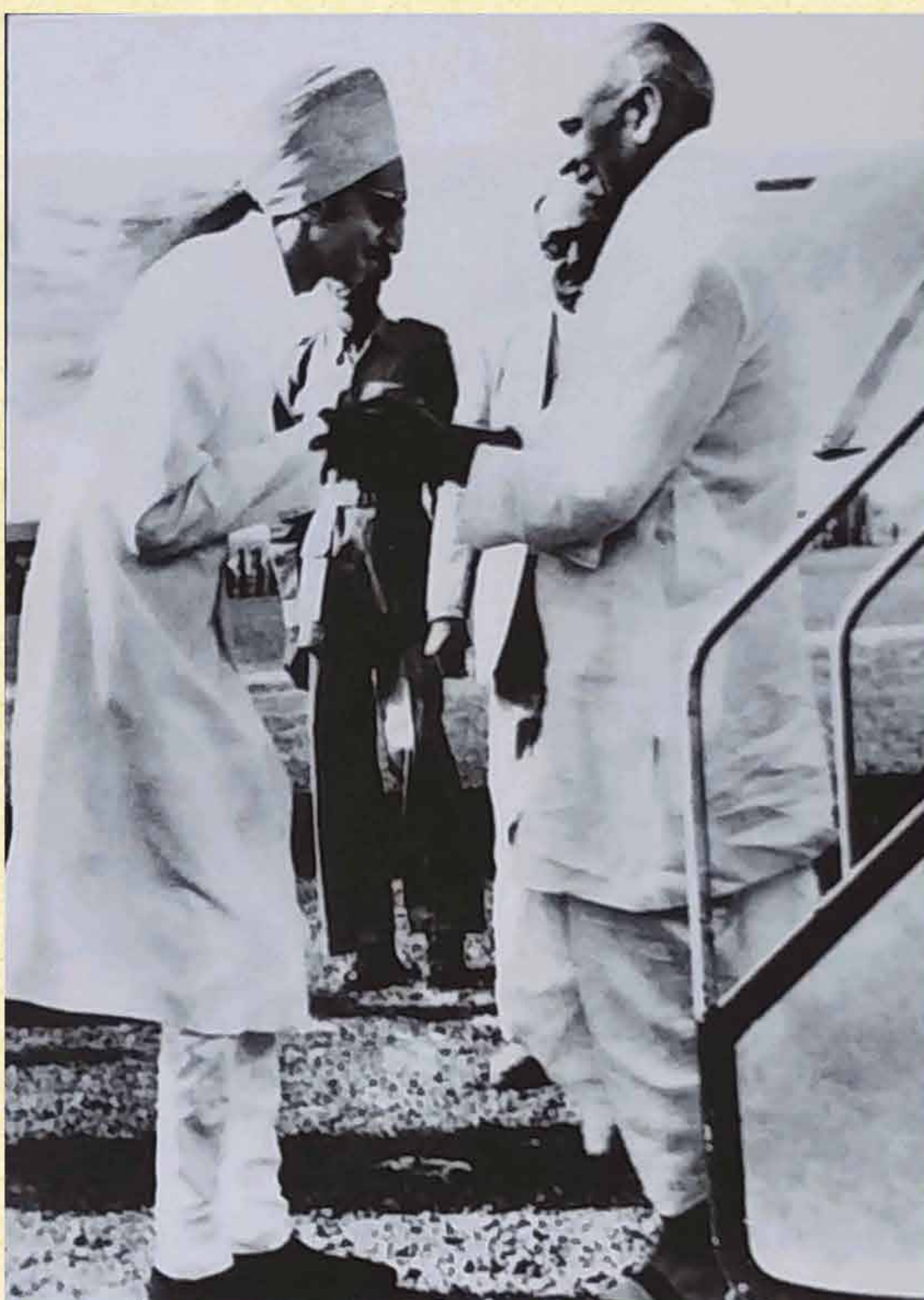
The Malwa Union was formed in December 1948. The Deputy Prime Minister inaugurated the session of the legislative assembly of the Malwa Union. Walking with him, as he emerged from the ceremony, are the Maharajas of Gwalior and Indore and members of the legislature.

Nagpur

Sardar Patel, who visited Nagpur in December 1947, seen with Premier Shukla and V.P. Menon, among others, at a reception.



Indore



Sadar being greeted by Maharaja of Indore Shri Yashwant Rao Holkar at Indore Airport.

Bhopal



Nawab of Bhopal, Hamidullah arriving for a talk with V.P. Menon on the merger of Bhopal with India.

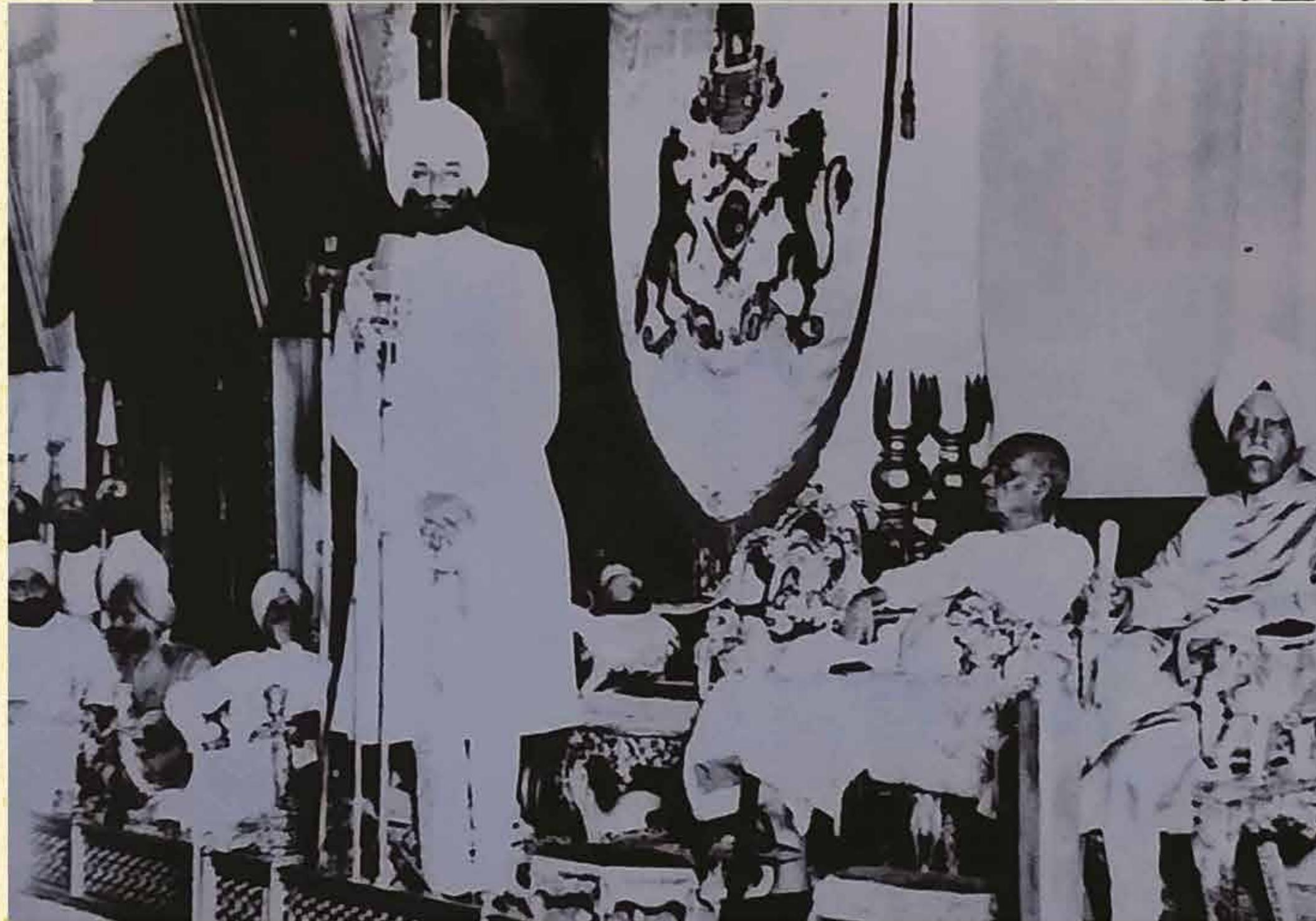
Patiala and East Punjab States (PEPSU)

Amritsar
10 February 1948

Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Deputy Prime Minister
New Delhi

AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF KARSEWA SIRI DARBARSAHIB GOLDEN TEMPLE AMRITSAR IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THAT THE SIKH SANGAT IS WHOLEHEARTEDLY BEHIND THE SIKH RULERS THEIR HIGHNESSES MAHARAJAS OF NABHA KAPURTHALA FARIDKOT AND NAWABSAHIB OF MALERKOTLA IN FORMING A UNION AND IT URGES UPON ENTIRE SADHSANGAT TO LEND STRONG SUPPORT FOR THIS UNION AND ITS SUCCESS.

PRESIDENT



Sardar Patel with leading rulers of PEPSU in 1948

Sardar Patel at the inauguration of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) 15 July 1948. The Union consists of the States of Patiala, Kapurthala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, Malerkotla, Kalsia and Nalagarh.



The Rulers of Patiala and East Punjab States with V.P. Menon



Signing of the Patiala and East Punjab States covenant

Sardar Patel addressing a meeting of representatives of Eastern Punjab convened by the Ministry of States in September 1947 to consider problems connected with evacuation of population from west Punjab. [left to right] H. R. Sharma Foreign Minister, Patiala; Maharaja of Patiala; General Russell; Maj-Gen Cariappa, on Sardar's left is V.P. Menon, Secretary, Ministry of States



Chhattisgarh

Taking a salute at a police parade at Nagpur in November 1948, Behind the Sardar is Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, Premier of CP



Arriving at Nagpur Aerodrome for merger of Chhattisgarh States on 15-12-47, R.S. Shukla, Premier, C.P & Berar on right and Dr. Barlinge on left



Bihar

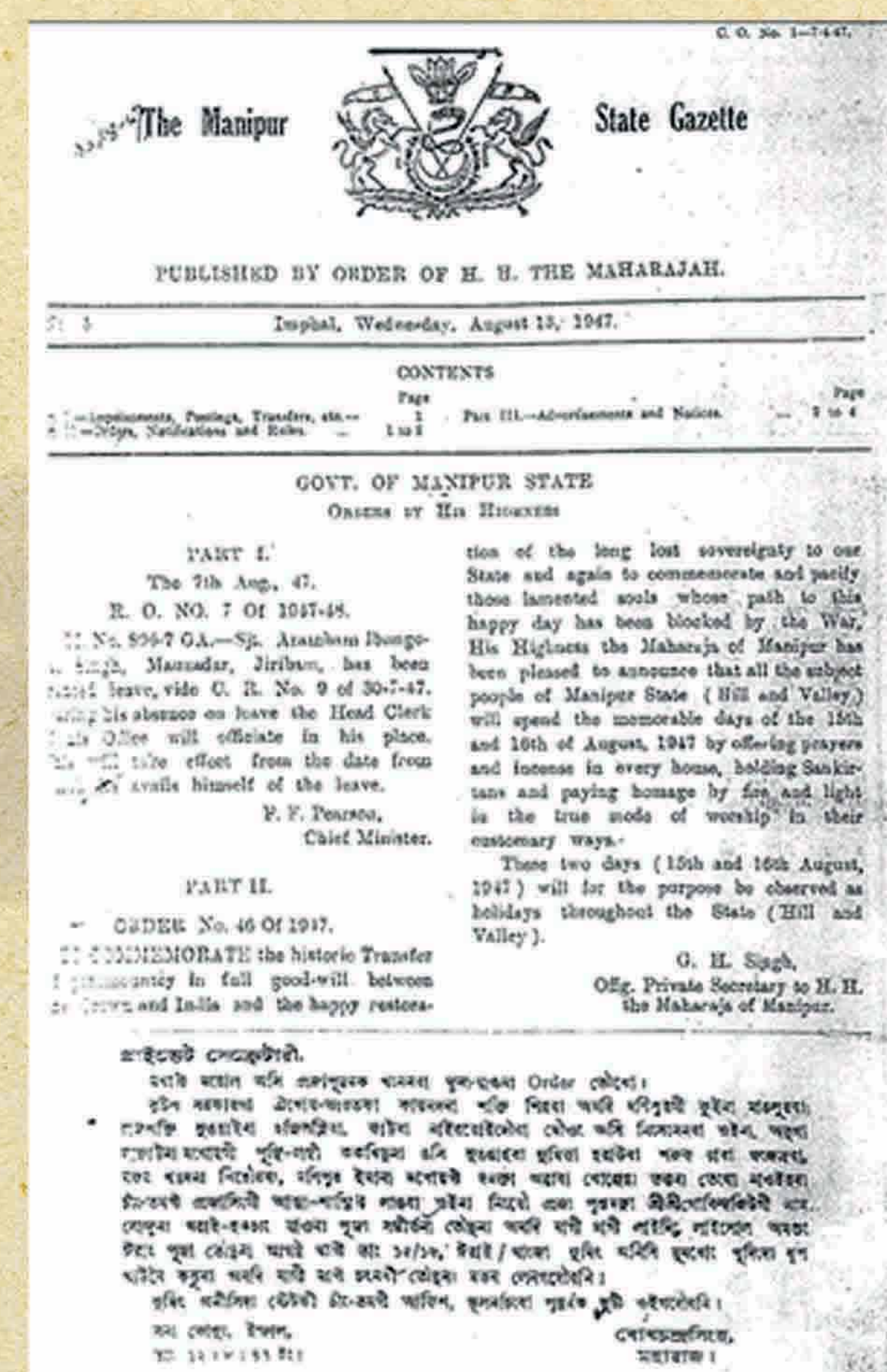
The merger of Eastern States, 'electrified the whole atmosphere... The Indian States could not long remain citadels of autocracy.' The bastions gradually began to give way.
-Sardar Patel



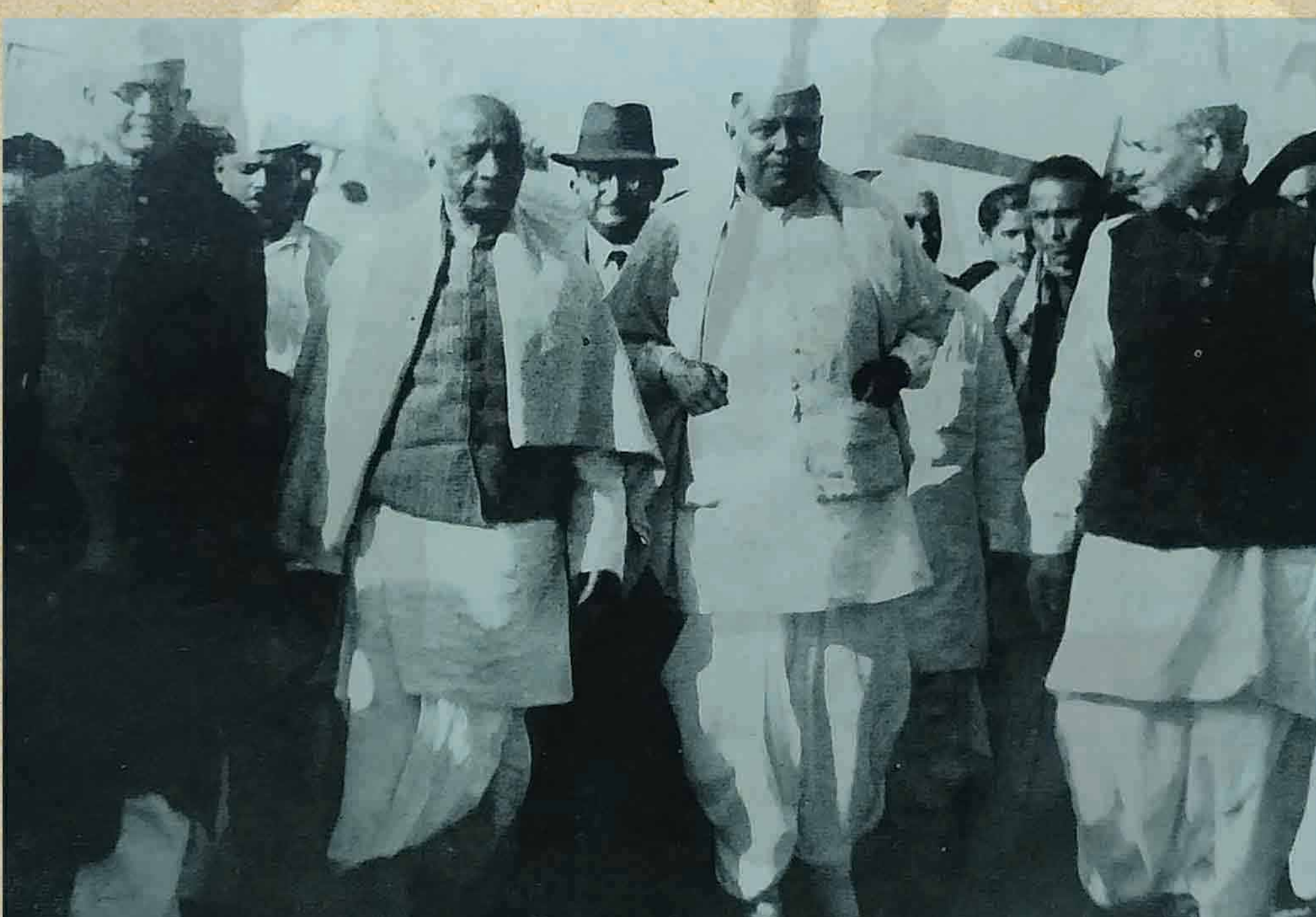
With Bihar Governor M.S. Aney (extreme left) And Premier S.K. Sinha -third from right

Photograph of Instrument of Accession of the princely state of Manipur which was published by the orders of the Maharaja of Manipur in the Manipur State Gazette

Manipur



Assam



The Sardar, on a visit a Gauhati (Assam), Seen with Premier Bardoloi. Governor Hydari is behind them in felt hat

Odissa



Flanked by Orissa Governor Katju and Premier Mahtab, Sardar Patel reviews a Guard of Honour on his arrival in Cuttack



With Governor Katju And Two Rulers Of Eastern States, Cuttack, December 1947



The Times of India, 24 August 1948



Photograph shows Vappala Pangunni Menon conferring with the rulers of states in Orissa

Travancore-Cochin

The Rulers of Travancore and Cochin, the two Premiers and their colleagues, and the local Congress organizations have given by this act of union an unmistakable proof of these virtues and the complete unity of purpose and devotion to duty thus symbolised by them are a happy augury for the success of this unique enterprise.

-Sardar Patel



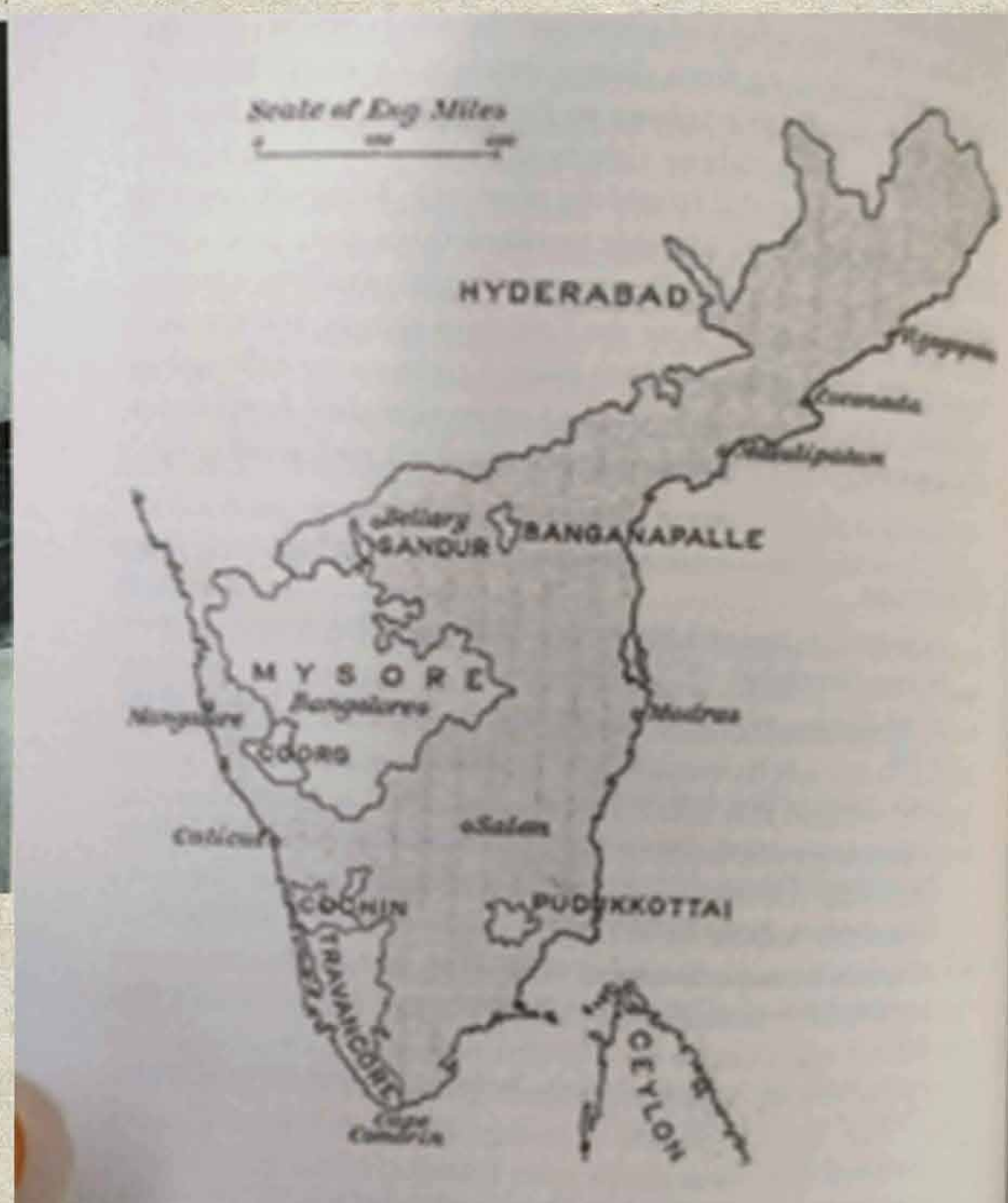
Sardar Patel visit to Travancore- Cochin, May 1950. From Left: Maharaja of Cochin, Sardar Patel, Maharaja of Travancore; Behind: V.P. Menon, Manibehn Patel, V. Shankar and his daughters flanked by naval officers.



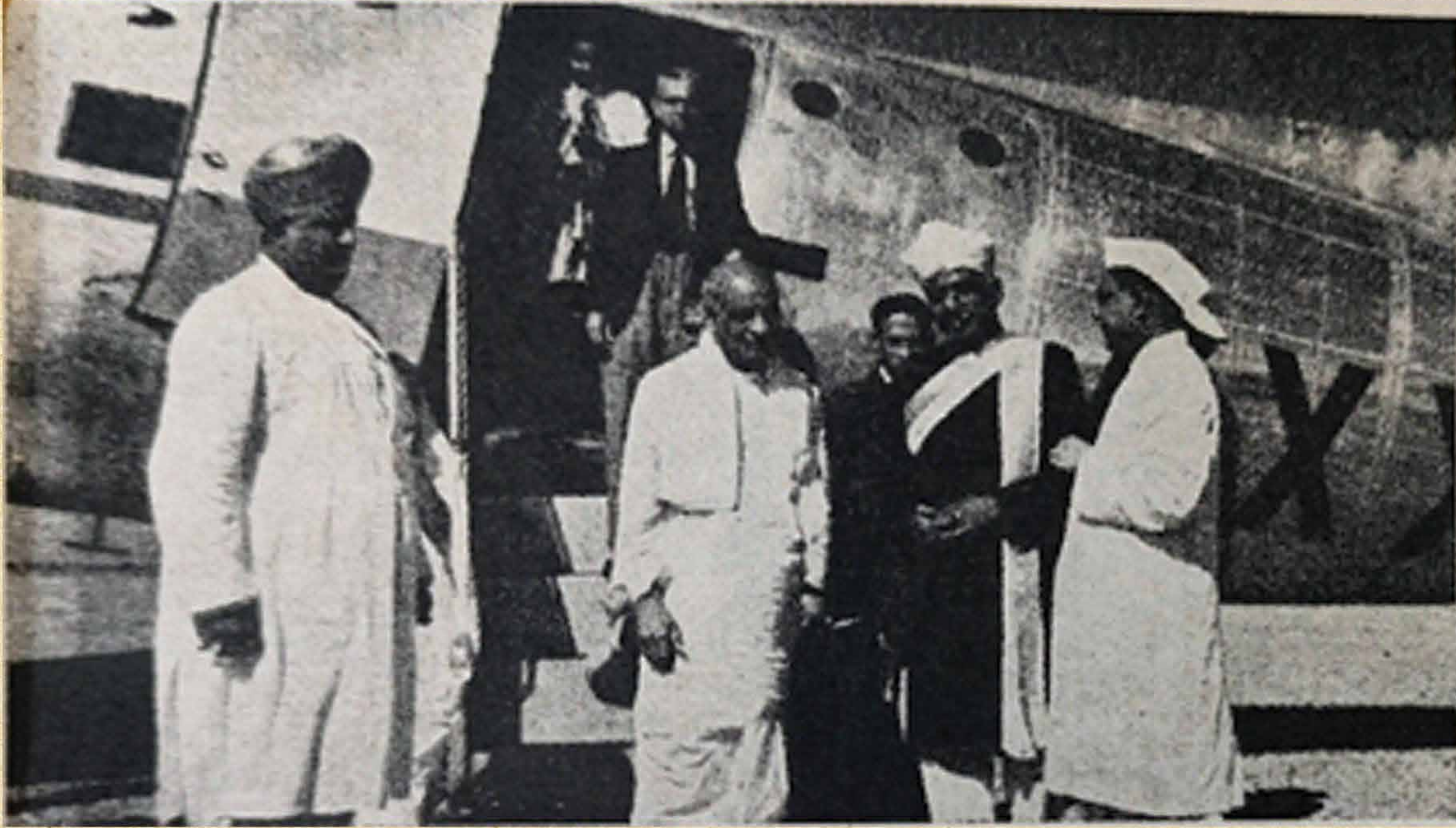
Sardar Patel having a talk with Maharaja of Cochin after the formation of the Travancore-Cochin Union



Members of the Ministry of United States of Travancore and Cochin being introduced to Sardar Patel: To the Sardar's right is the Maharaja of Travancore and on his left is the Maharaja of



Mysore



Sardar Patel with Maharaja of Mysore & Sir Ramaswamy Mudeliar,
Dewan



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

Indian Express-October-25, 1947



Dr. Rajendra Prasad
administering the oath of
office to Sardar as Deputy
Prime Minister



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

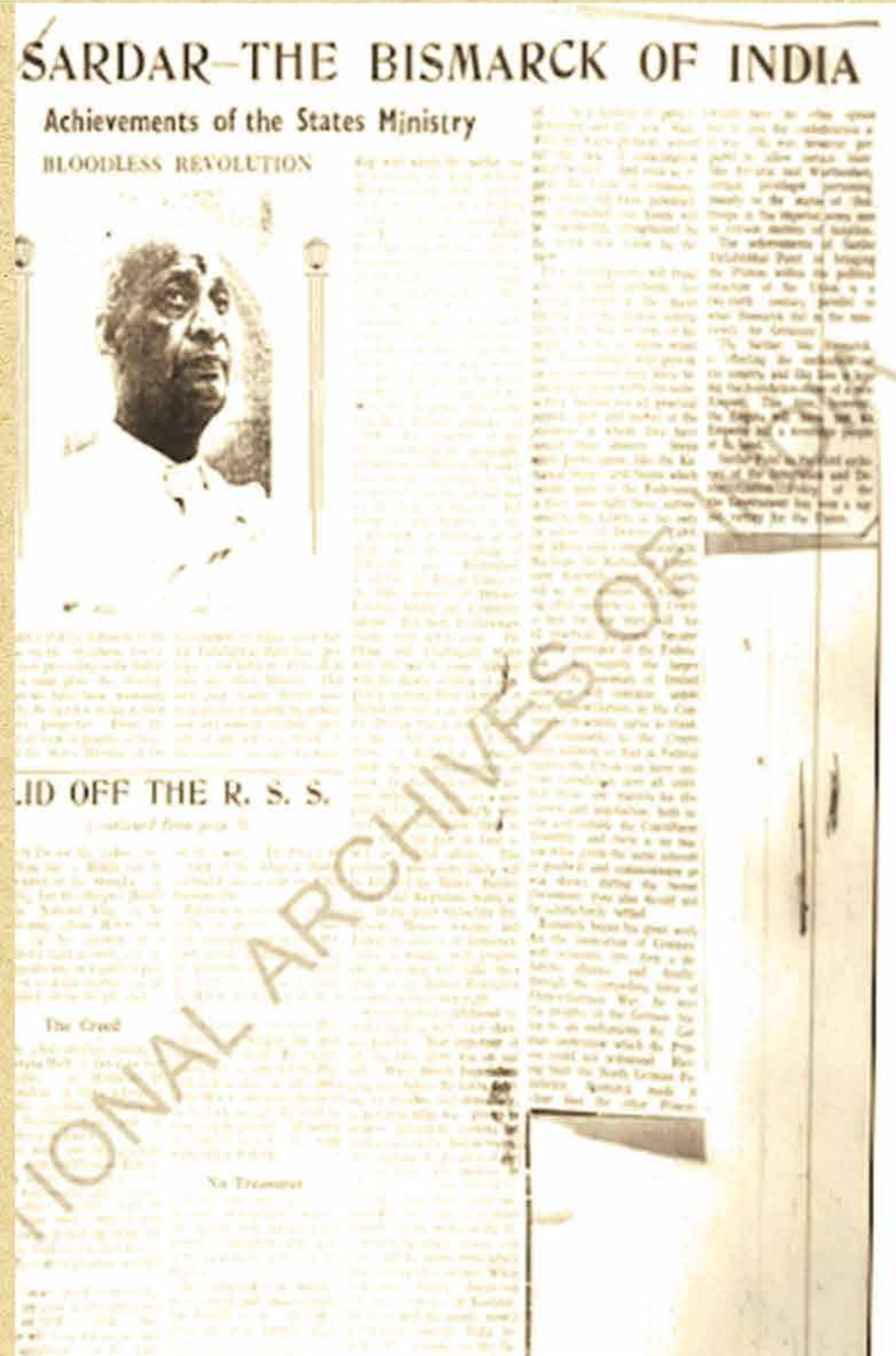
Constitution of India

The process of integration was threefold and known as "Patel Scheme". The Constitution of 1950 accordingly distinguished between three main types of states and territories:

1. A total 216 princely states were merged into the respective provinces (British provinces) contiguous to them. These merged states were included in the territories of the states in Part A.
2. Sixty-one princely states were converted and merged into centrally administered areas and included in Part C of the First Schedule of the Constitution of India.
3. The sole Part D territory was the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
4. The third form of assimilation was the states included in Part B of the Constitution of India; these numbered eight in all.



Sardar Patel signing the Constitution of India, 24 January 1950



Bombay Chronicle, 26.02.1948



Independent India, 29.02.1948



The National Call, 2 March 1948



The Hindu, 26.03.1948



Bharat Jyoti, 27.6.1948



KASHMIR

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is geographically contiguous to both India and Pakistan. While Raja Hari Singh was in the process of deciding on the question of accession, the Kashmir was invaded by armed Pakistani tribal with the assistance of Pakistan. On desperate appeal made by Maharaja on 24 October 1947 the Government of India accepted the accession of his State and sent military aid and troops to defend the territory. Maharaja set up a Government in the State under the leadership of Sheikh Abdullah.

V.K. Krishna Menon, India's High Commissioner in London issued India's first official response (9 November 1947). He noted that the events in Kashmir were not 'raids' but a full fledged invasion that was sponsored and supported by Pakistan.

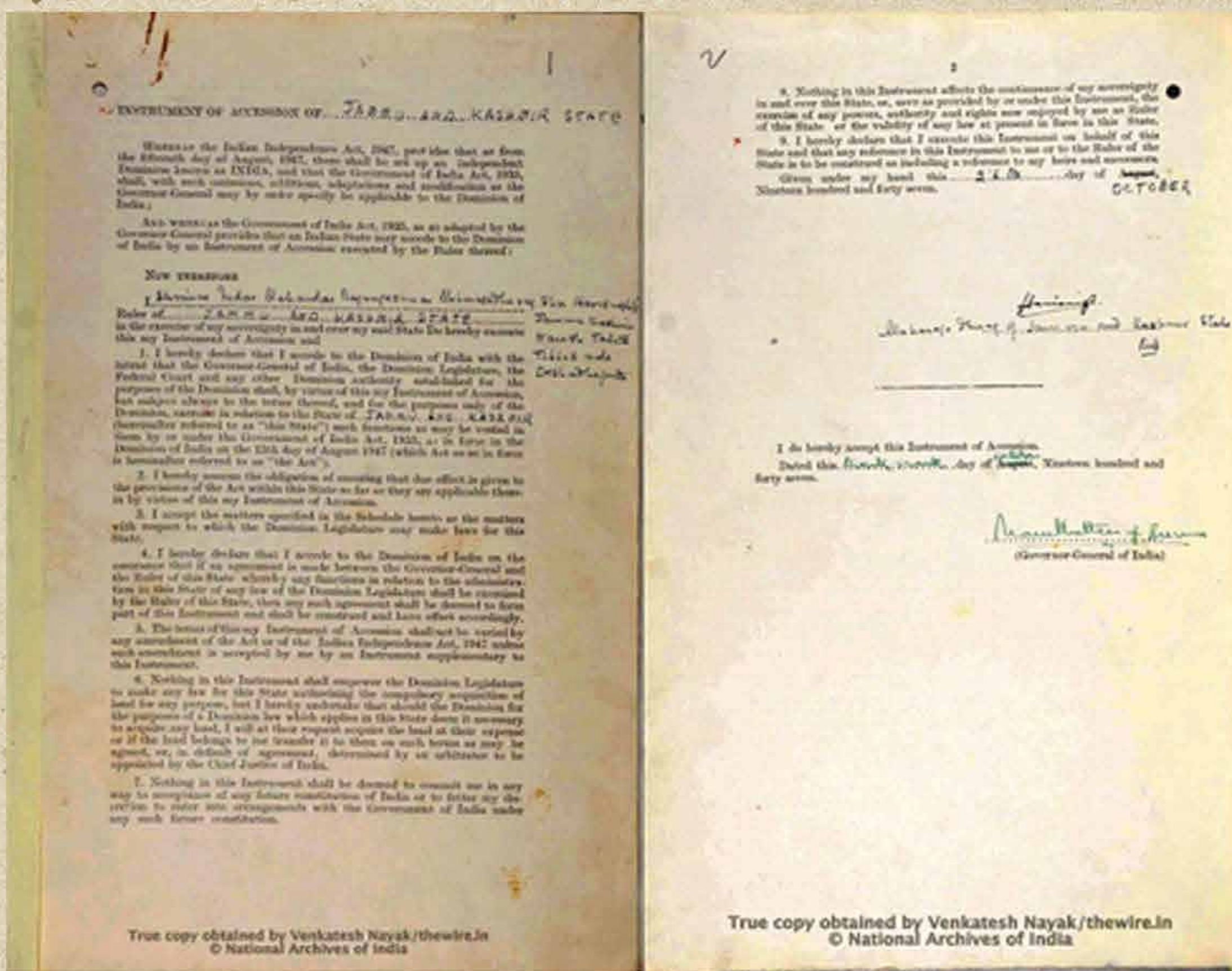
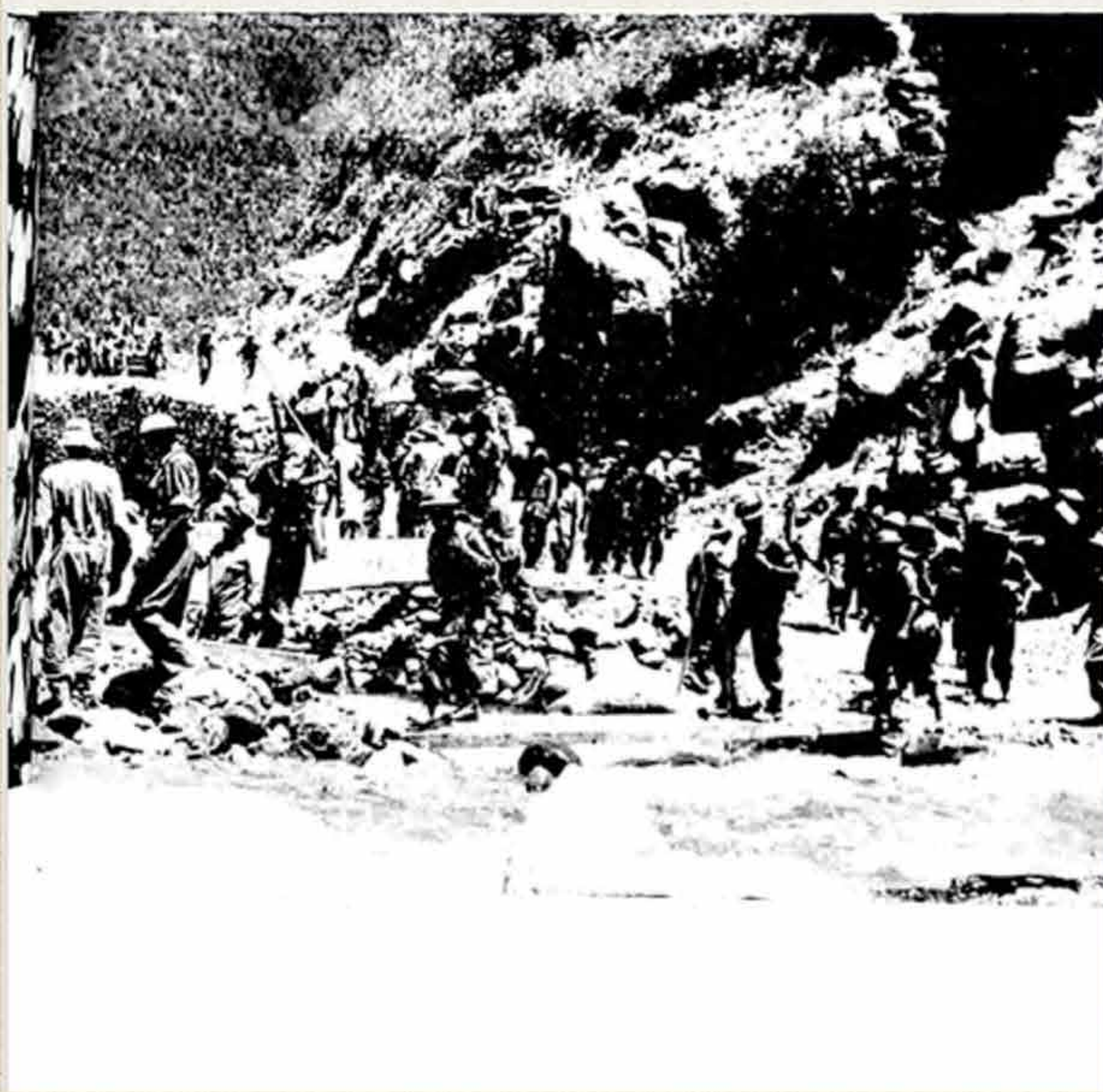
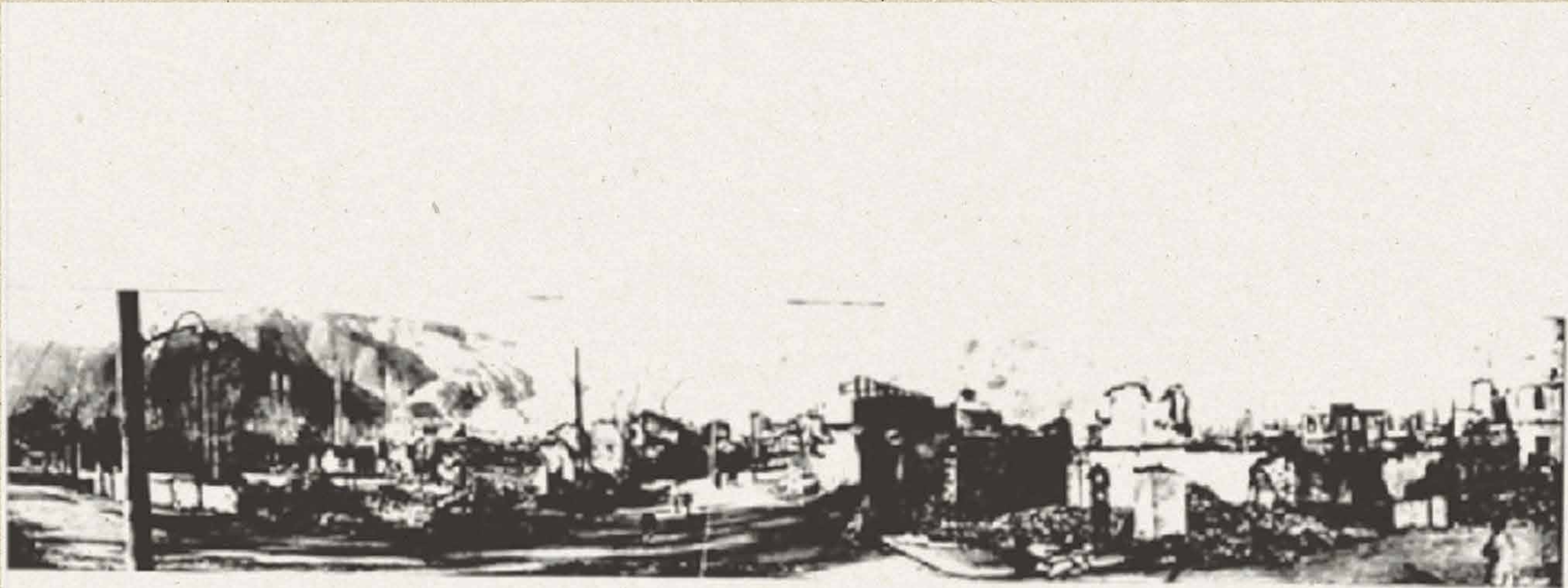
India's Ministry of Defence released a report of the operation on 31 October 1947. ...by now the enemy was already at Baramula, the strategic bottleneck which opens into the Srinagar valley. Once the invaders were allowed to enter and fanout into the Srinagar valley. Once the invaders were allowed to enter and fanout into the Srinagar plain the game was up estimated at about 2000 to 5000 (invaders) at Baramulla with his (Col. Rai's) woefully inadequate force he had to decide to give immediate battle or wait till reinforcements arrived. If he had taken the latter course it might have proved too late and invaders might have reached Srinagar. He chose the former and crashed into the invaders column at Baramula with one company leaving a second in his rear and a third to guard the air field at the end the invaders fled in utter disorder leaving 500 dead on the field... on 8 November Baramula the key to Srinagar was recaptured and the security was underwritten....'

- Published in the Fauji Akhbar



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Instrument of Accession

Indian Troops advance in Baramulla , Uri-Chakothi sector , Jammu provinces fighting invaders



Indian Express, 28 October 1947



Pakistan Times, 28 October 1947

Indian Express, 5 November 1947



Indian response to SOS from Kashmir on the night of 24 October, 1947. Indian Union Troops landing at Srinagar aerodrome are being rushed to forward areas, 5.11.1947.



Sardar Patel meeting Hari Singh (Maharaja of Jammu Kashmir) and Rulers of Other Princely States

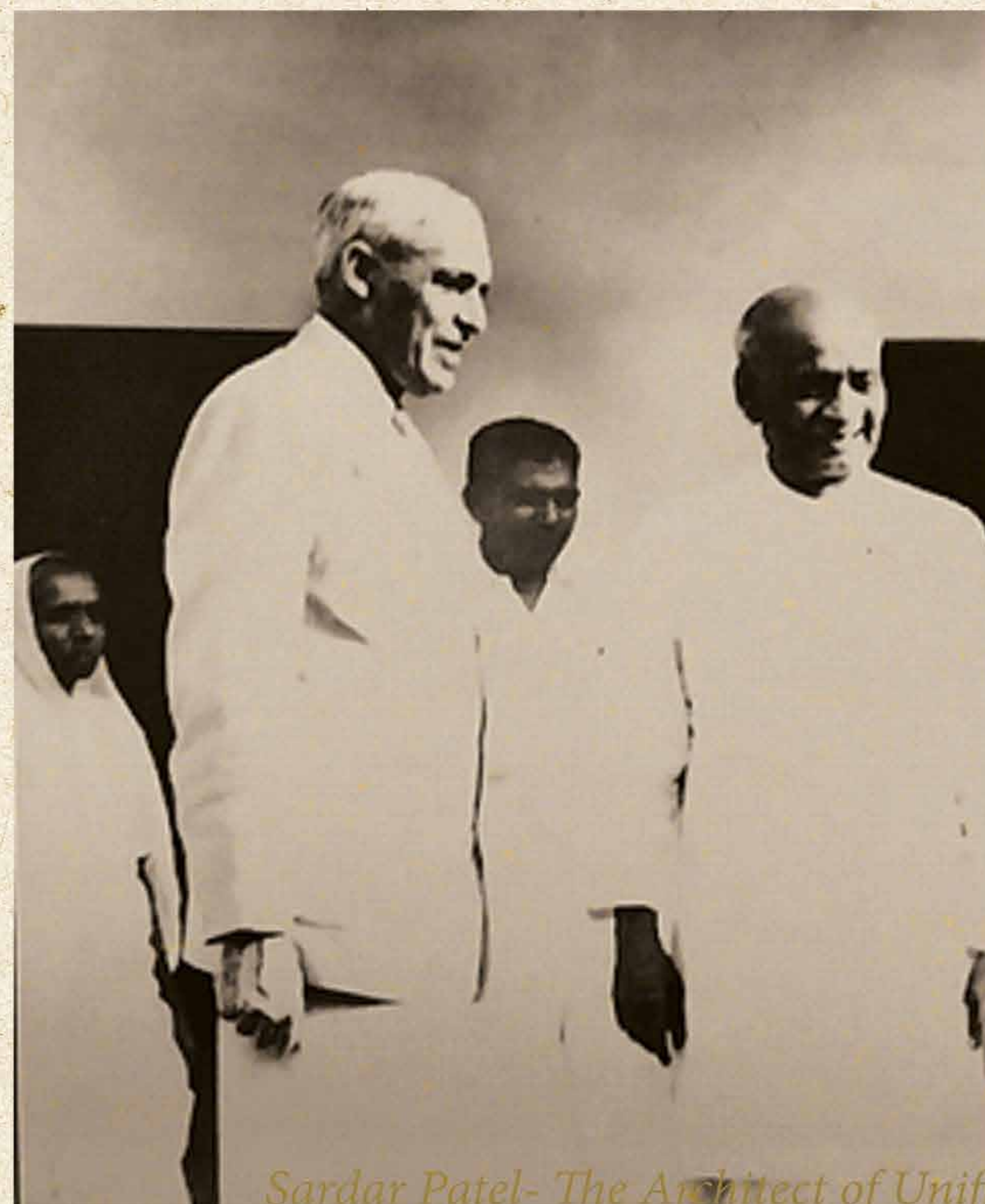


Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with Maharaja Hari Singh, 1948



Sardar Patel in Kashmir in 1949 with Sheikh Abdulla Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad and others

Patel discussing with Sir Owen Dixon, United Nation's mediator on Kashmir issue, May 1950



Sardar Patel- The Architect of Unification



JUNAGADH

After Partition, we had a huge problem. Those who partitioned the country had mental reservations. They thought that this Partition was not the last word, and they started the game immediately thereafter. Among the Kathiawar States, they went to Junagadh and got its Accession to Pakistan.... We woke up in time and those who tried to play the game saw that we were not sleeping.

-Sardar Patel

The Nawab of Junagadh, Muhammad Mahabat Khanji, evaded the principle of geographical contiguity (Chamber of Princes meeting on July 25, 1947), without asking the advice of his subjects and against the advice of his fellow princes of Kathiawar, acceded to Pakistan instead of to the Indian Dominion with which the State of Junagadh was geographically contiguous.

The Government of India opposed the impropriety of this accession, and demanded a clear verdict by public referendum. The Nawab never having consulted his people in regard to accession could not face the difficulties created by the geographical situation of the State and the will of his own people. Fearing the rising tide of public feeling, Nawab fled to Pakistan. on the behest of the Dewan and the Commissioner of Police, and the Government of India took over the administration of Junagadh on November 9, 1947. However government decided to reach a decision after conducting a plebiscite, that was held from 12 -20 February 1948. The result was overwhelmingly in favour of accession to the Indian Union, the number of votes polled was 190,870. Of these, 190,779 were for India and only 91 for Pakistan. A diplomatic success of Sardar Patel's untiring efforts.

“Victory to Sardar Patel!”
Liberty celebration amidst Sardar Patel's
presence at Junagadh, 13 November 1947



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



Indian Troops To Land On Kathiawar Coast

The Free Press Journal 4 October 1947

COMBINED OPERATIONS OF LAND, AIR & NAVAL FORCES

Junagadh Crisis Deepens

MOUNTBATTEN'S PEACE MISSION

NEW DELHI, Oct. 4. In response to a request from certain of the Kathiawar States, a small military force is being moved to Porbandar and will be based there on the morning of 10th October from ships of the Royal Indian Navy, says a communique issued from the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

In making this movement of troops, opportunity has been taken to carry out combined operations training to practice in the services of the operations.

The move comes in the wake of the report that the Junagadh State has decided to accede to Pakistan. The Government of India has expressed its regret that the Junagadh State has decided to accede to Pakistan. The Government of India has expressed its regret that the Junagadh State has decided to accede to Pakistan.



JUNAGADH: INDIA GOVT. ACTS

Refusal To Recognise State's Entry Into Pakistan

PLEBISCITE PROPOSED FOR DECIDING FUTURE

Recall of Troops From Indian Territory Demanded

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6. The Government of India has refused to accept the accession of the Junagadh State to Pakistan in the circumstances in which it was made and "strongly protests with the view and members of Pakistan to support to Baluchistan and Mangochi."

The Government of India considers "that the accession of Junagadh State to Pakistan and Mangochi, both of which have been accorded to the Indian Dominion, is an unjustified and provocative act of aggression," and asks for their return to India.

Junagadh To Accede To India

NEW DELHI, Tues. (A.A.P.).—The Junagadh authorities have announced that the predominantly Hindu population of Junagadh State in the recent referendum voted to accede to India.

Junagadh acceded to Pakistan in August, 1947, on the initiative of its Moslem ruler.

Indian troops in November occupied the State. Pakistan protested and India suggested a plebiscite.

Indian Express 6 October 1947



The Free Press Journal, 28 October 1947

JUNAGADH RULER ABDICATES?

Flying Scotsman Derailed

23 KILLED, 70 INJURED

LONDON, Oct. 26. The "Flying Scotsman," one of Britain's fastest and best-known trains, was derailed today, near Doncaster, Yorkshire, and several people were killed and about 70 injured.

The derailed train was carrying 230 passengers and 100 crew members. The train was derailed on the outskirts of Doncaster, Friday.

The derailed train was carrying 230 passengers and 100 crew members. The train was derailed on the outskirts of Doncaster, Friday.

Reported Flight With Family To Karachi

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SEIZES MORE VILLAGES

RAJKOT, Oct. 26. According to information reaching here, the Nawab of Junagadh with his family and his personal belongings have fled to Karachi. This report could not be confirmed here, but the local quarters do not rule out the possibility of the Nawab shifting to Karachi.

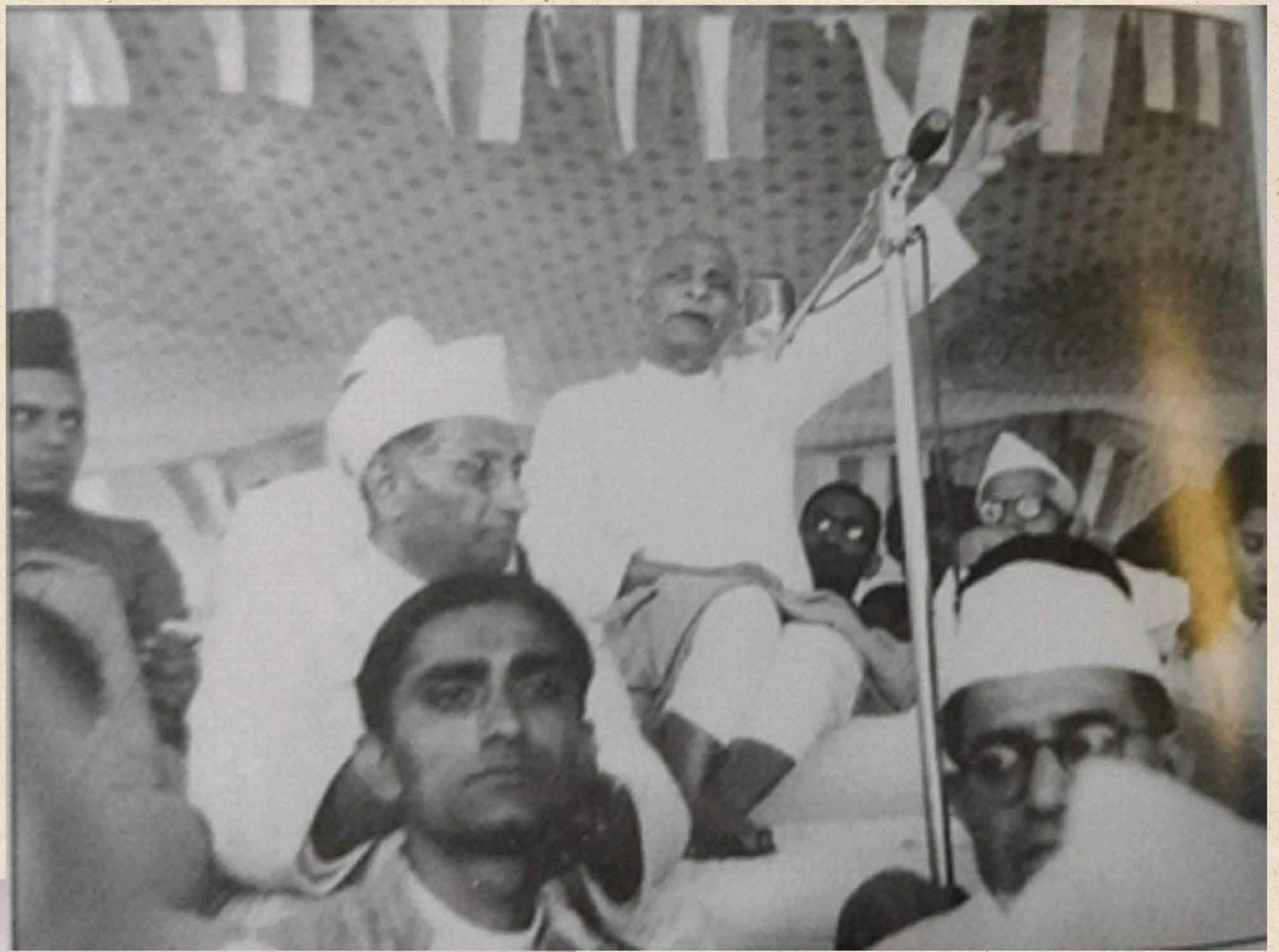
Meanwhile, the Provisional Government of Junagadh has announced its programme of capturing more territories of the State.



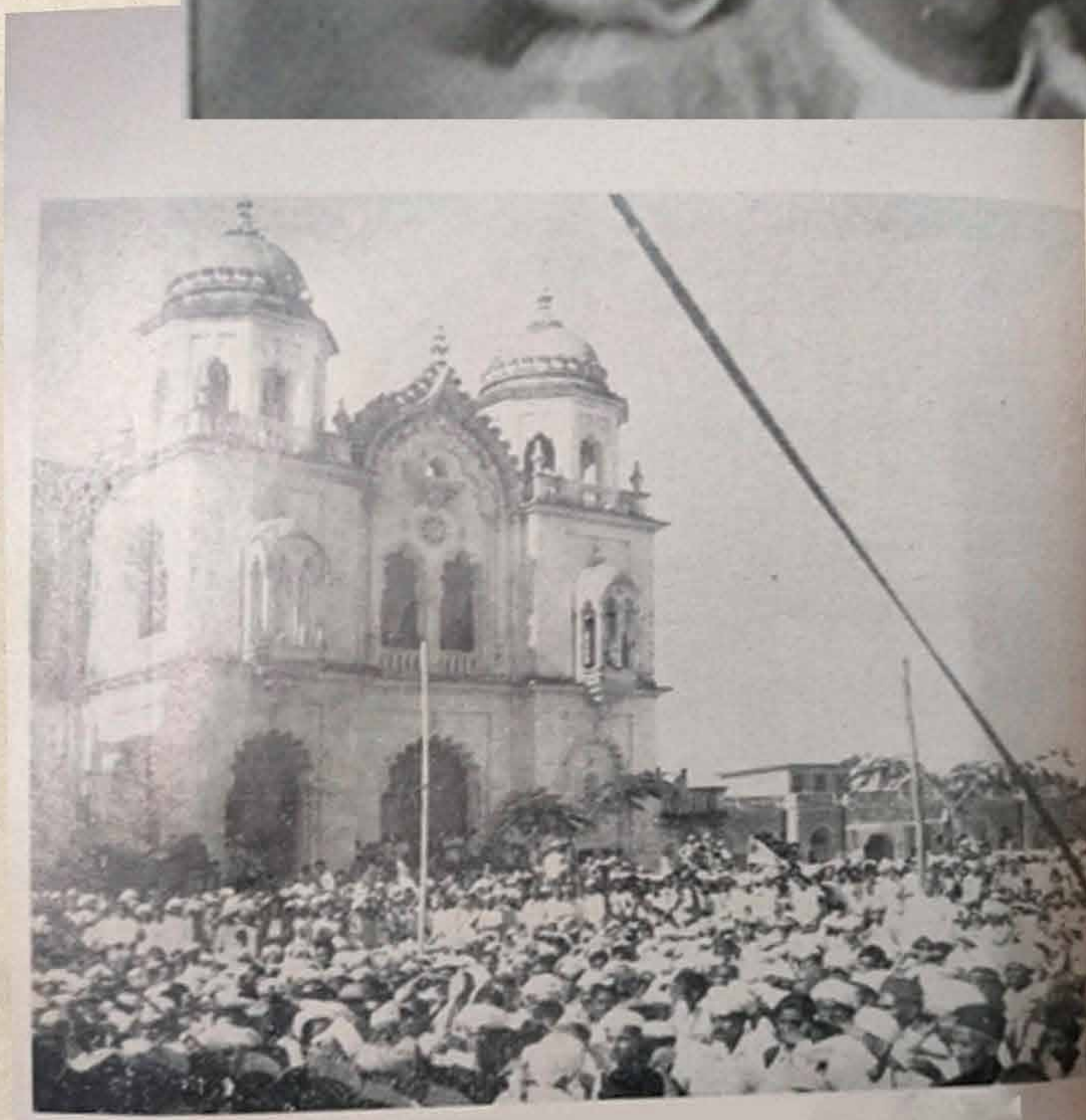
On behalf of 'Arzi Hukumat', Shamaldas Gandhi honoured Sardar Patel at a public reception at Junagadh, 13 November, 1947



Photograph shows the verdict of the people which noted in favour of India. Only 91 people voted in favour of Pakistan. After this verdict, Junagadh officially became a part of India, 1948



“Gone are your days” says the firm-lipped Sardar Patel while addressing a mass rally at Junagadh after the success of ‘Arzi Hukumat’ campaign 1947



“Victory to Sardar Patel”
Liberty celebration amidst Sardar’s presence at Junagadh, 13 November 1947



HYDERABAD

The Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan Bahadur of Hyderabad signed a standstill agreement (agreements which existed between the Crown and the Nizam before 15 August, 1947) for one year on 29 November 1947 to buy time for independence which was expected to create an atmosphere of goodwill. The Nizam violated several ordinances and also people were continued to be subjected to the tyranny of the organization called Majlis-i-Ittehad-Musalmein with its military volunteer corps of Razakars. The Government of India made several attempts to settle the matter amicably but failed, finally a military operation named 'Operation Polo' against Nizam was initiated on 13 September 1948, lasted barely 108 hours, resulting in accession of the State into the Indian Union.

The British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, General Bucher writes K.M. Munshi-

'was hesitant throughout. He overestimated the capability of the Hyderabad army, underestimated that of his own troops, and knew not the ability of Sardar... to deal with the problems of internal law and order. Like most Englishmen, he was unable to realise that no price was too high to be paid for eliminating the razakar menace which threatened the very existence of India'.

'Patel was the man who by his decisiveness resolved the great Hyderabad crisis. Hyderabad, a State covering 80,000 square miles in the heart of peninsular India, was at that time in the grip of an unscrupulous minority which aimed at secession from India. Had the bid succeeded, India might not have survived as a political unit. This situation needed a man of iron who would not balk at coercive action, and in Sardar, India had, at the vital moment, just the man.'

-W Gordon Garham



Indian Express,
5 November 1947

Nizam Smuggling Arms From Britain
HOW IT IS BEING DONE
(From Our Special Correspondent)

LONDON, Nov. 5.
EVIDENCE is mounting that the Nizam of Hyderabad is using the services of British agents to smuggle arms from Britain to Hyderabad for the purpose of arming his army and maintaining his rule.

Even without special agents familiar with the region that is almost hatched with British agents, it is a British agent who is believed to be the main link in the chain of communication between the Nizam's Government and the British Government.

The Nizam's Government is believed to be using the services of British agents to smuggle arms from Britain to Hyderabad for the purpose of arming his army and maintaining his rule.

Hyderabad Factory Turns Out 50 Rifles A Day
Small-arms Production at Two More Places in the State

BEZWADA, Nov. 21.
THE Nizam's Government are running three secret small arms factories in Hyderabad, Anwarabad and Nanded under the supervision of an American expert and the one in Hyderabad alone is turning out about 50 rifles a day, according to reports reaching the Hyderabad State Indian Intelligence Office, Bezwada, says a bulletin from the Maharashtra Office.

The bulletin adds: Eight patrol tanks, each capable of holding over 20,000 gallons, are also being constructed in Adilabad, suburb of Hyderabad.

Indian Express, 25 Nov. 1947

RESISTANCE TO NEAM INCREASES
People Form Cores

Panchratna
The people of Panchratna are resisting the NEAM (National Emergency Act) with increasing vigour. They have formed cores and are working for the liberation of the country.

Indo-Mercantile Bank Limited.
Incorporated in India with limited liability.
A SCHEDULED BANK.
Savings Deposits are accepted at the Head Office and Branches.
For more details see the HEAD OFFICE or any of the BRANCHES.

Nizam's Police Open Fire on Procession
7 Villagers Killed on the Spot

BEZWADA, Nov. 18.
SEVEN people were killed when the Hyderabad Police opened fire on a procession of villagers and thousands strong in Nanded, Nalgonda district on Nov. 14. The processionists retaliated, killing two policemen.

Wallace Predicts War Within 12 Years?
NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 17.
Wallace, New Orleans, says that within 12 years there will be a world war. He says that the world is now in a state of tension and that a world war is inevitable.

Two Hyderabad Policemen Arrested
The police officers of Hyderabad who were arrested on Nov. 14 for opening fire on a procession of villagers and thousands strong in Nanded, Nalgonda district on Nov. 14. The processionists retaliated, killing two policemen.



Indian Express, 20
Nov. 1947

New
6 October

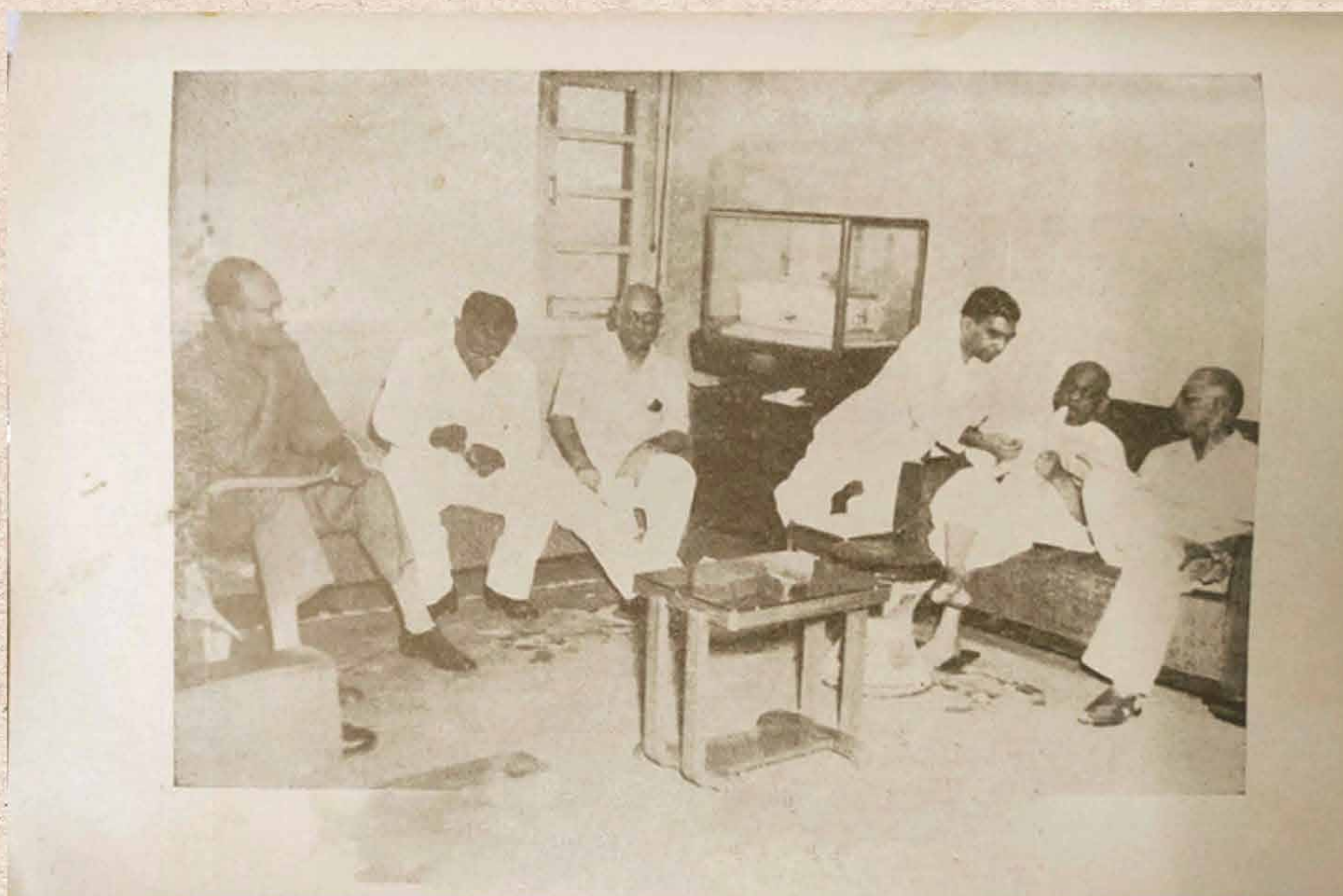
My dear Jawaharlal,

Please see the enclosed extract from a letter which has been received from England. Reports like this have been coming to me from various sources. You will recall the Nizam's desperate attempts to get arms from Czechoslovakia.

2. I feel it is time we told the British Government unreservedly that any supply of arms to the Nizam from Britain would be regarded as a most serious affair by us and that they should use their utmost [efforts] to see that no such supply of arms is made to the Nizam's Government without our concurrence.

Yours sincerely,
Vallabhbai Patel

The Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Prime Minister
New Delhi

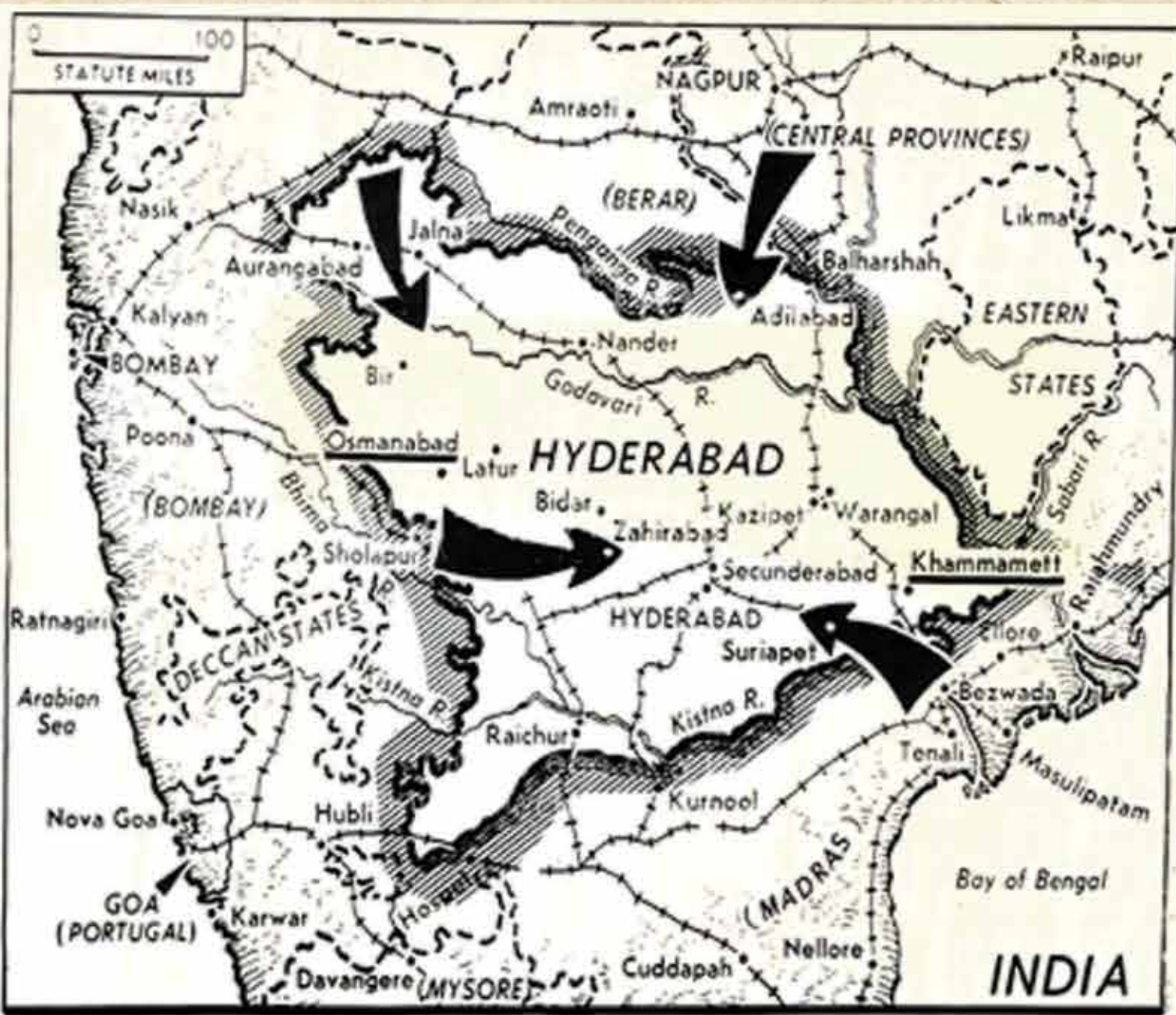


Sardar Patel discussing the Hyderabad problem with his advisors [L to R] Major General J.N. Chaudhuri, M.K. Vellodi, I.C.S., N.B. Buch, I.C.S. V. Shankar, I.C.S.

Hyderabad Police Action 'OPERATION POLO'

Hyderabad Police Action under the banner of 'Operation Polo' took place in September 1948 in which the Indian Armed Forces entered the State of Hyderabad, accessioning the state into the Indian Union.

Indian Army movements during the operation Polo, 1948



Indian
Express, 14
September
1947



A panic stricken crowd in Dudhani village after the village was looted by the Razakars



A scene of Operation Polo, September 1948



A Razakar rally. Kasim Razvi is third from left in the front row. Razakars, a private militia organized by Kasim Razvi to support the rule of Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan



Indian Army Tanks



Indian Army Vehicles



Crowd cheering the Indian Army



Last Prime Minister of Hyderabad State Mir Laik Ali



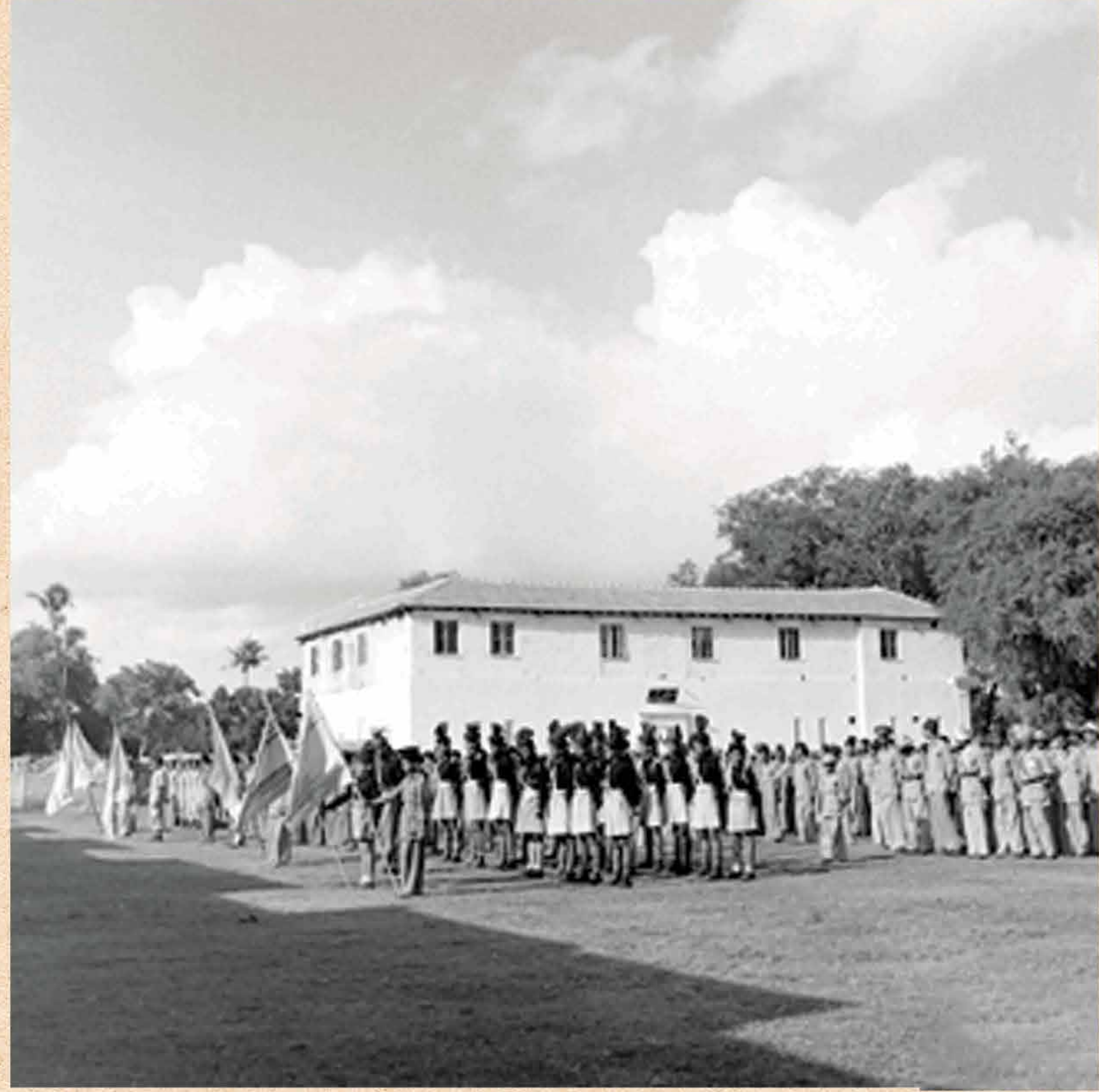
Arms and Ammunitions



Syed Kasim Razvi - Razakars chief of Hyderabad State



Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos, Commander-in-Chief of the Hyderabad State Forces (R) shaking hands with Lt. General Maharaj Kumar Shri Rajendrasinhji



Operation Polo, Hyderabad Police
Action



Major General Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri talking
with Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos,
Commander-in-Chief of the Hyderabad State
Forces

Razakars, a private militia organized by
Kasim Razvi to support the rule of
Nizam Mir Usman Ali Khan



Hyderabad State Forces





Nawab Deen Yar Jung Bahadur -
Hyderabad Police Commissioner
during Operation Polo



Indian Army Soldiers

HYDERABAD FORCES SURRENDER TODAY
THE NIZAM TAKES OVER ADMINISTRATION: LAIK ALI CABINET RESIGNS
Anxiety To Open "New Chapter Of Friendliness With India"
RAZAKARS BANNED: ORDERS ON STATE CONGRESSMEN CANCELLED

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, September 17
HYDERABAD'S SURRENDER, FIVE DAYS AFTER INDIAN FORCES HAD MARCHED INTO THE STATE, WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE NIZAM THIS EVENING.

The actual surrender of the Hyderabad forces to the Indian Dominion...

Entry Into Hyderabad
FRANCE OF BERAR TO GREAT TROOPS

COUNT BERNADOTTE ASSASSINATED
Outrage In Jerusalem: Hand Of Stern Gang Suspected

SECUNDERABAD TO BE OCCUPIED TODAY

INDIA'S FOOD





सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



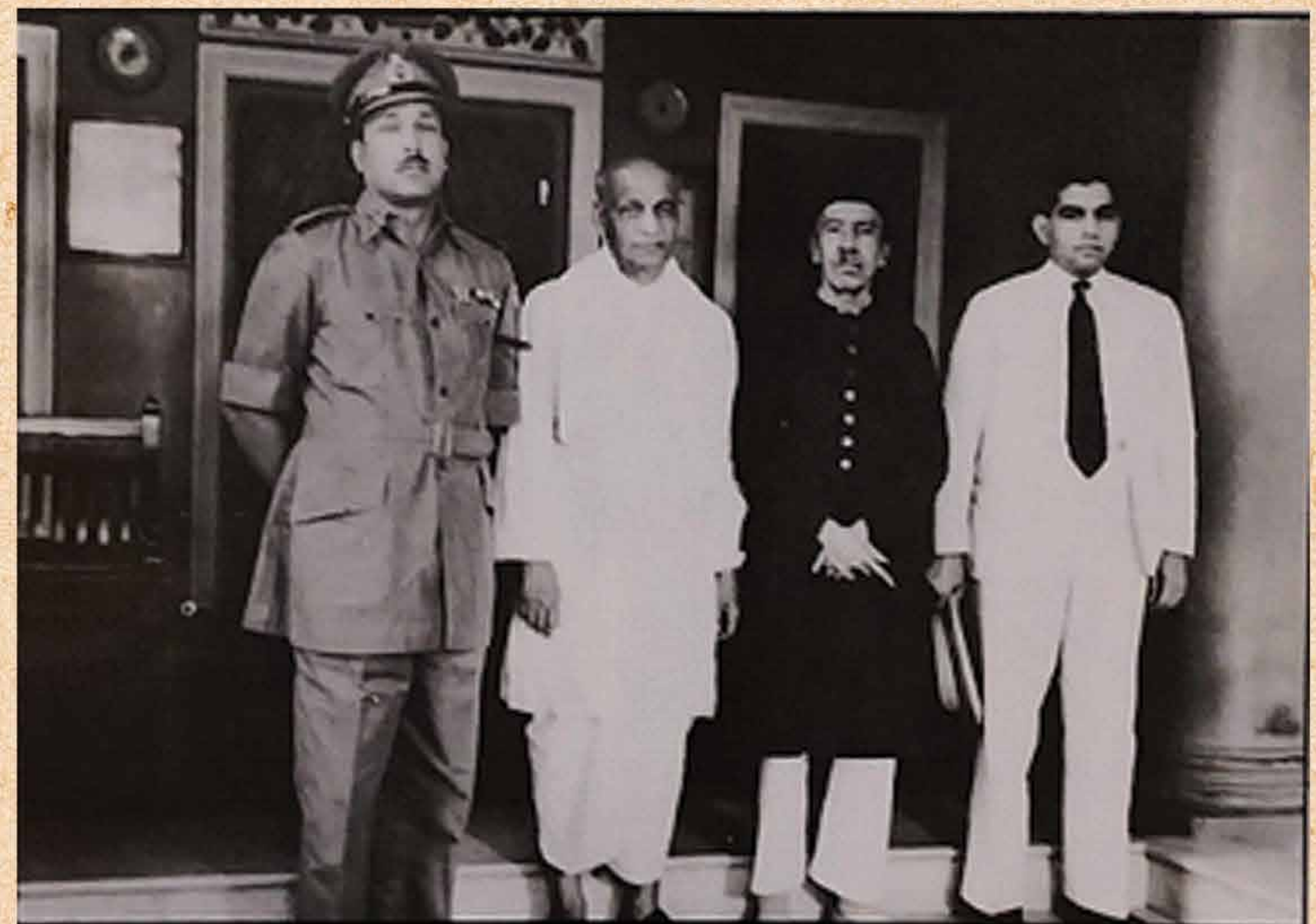
Deccan Chronicle, 18 September 1947



Major General Syed Ahmed El Edroos (at right) offers his surrender of the Hyderabad State Forces to Major General (later General and Army Chief) Joyanto Nath Chaudhuri at Secunderabad



A group photograph of K. M. Munshi and Swami Ramand Tirth with Indian Union officers immediately after their arrival in Secunderabad on September 21, 1948.



Sardar Patel with Major General J.N. Chaudhury, Nizam of Hyderabad and V. Shankar



Sardar Patel with Nizam of Hyderabad



सत्यमेव जयते
Government of India

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

POLICE ACTION

ENGAGED IN ACTUAL OPERATION:

1 Gwalior Lancers	(Gwalior)
Mysore Lancers	(Mysore)
Mewar Infantry	(Mewar)
4 Gwalior Infantry	(Gwalior)
Rajaram Rifles	(Kolhapur)
1 Mysore Infantry	(Mysore)

INDIRECTLY ENGAGED:

1 Baroda Infantry	(Baroda)
1 Travancore Infantry	(Travancore)
2 Jodhpur Infantry	(Jodhpur)

I hope this information is what you require.

R. K. Birendra Singh Lt.-Col.
for Major-General
MA-in-C, ISF

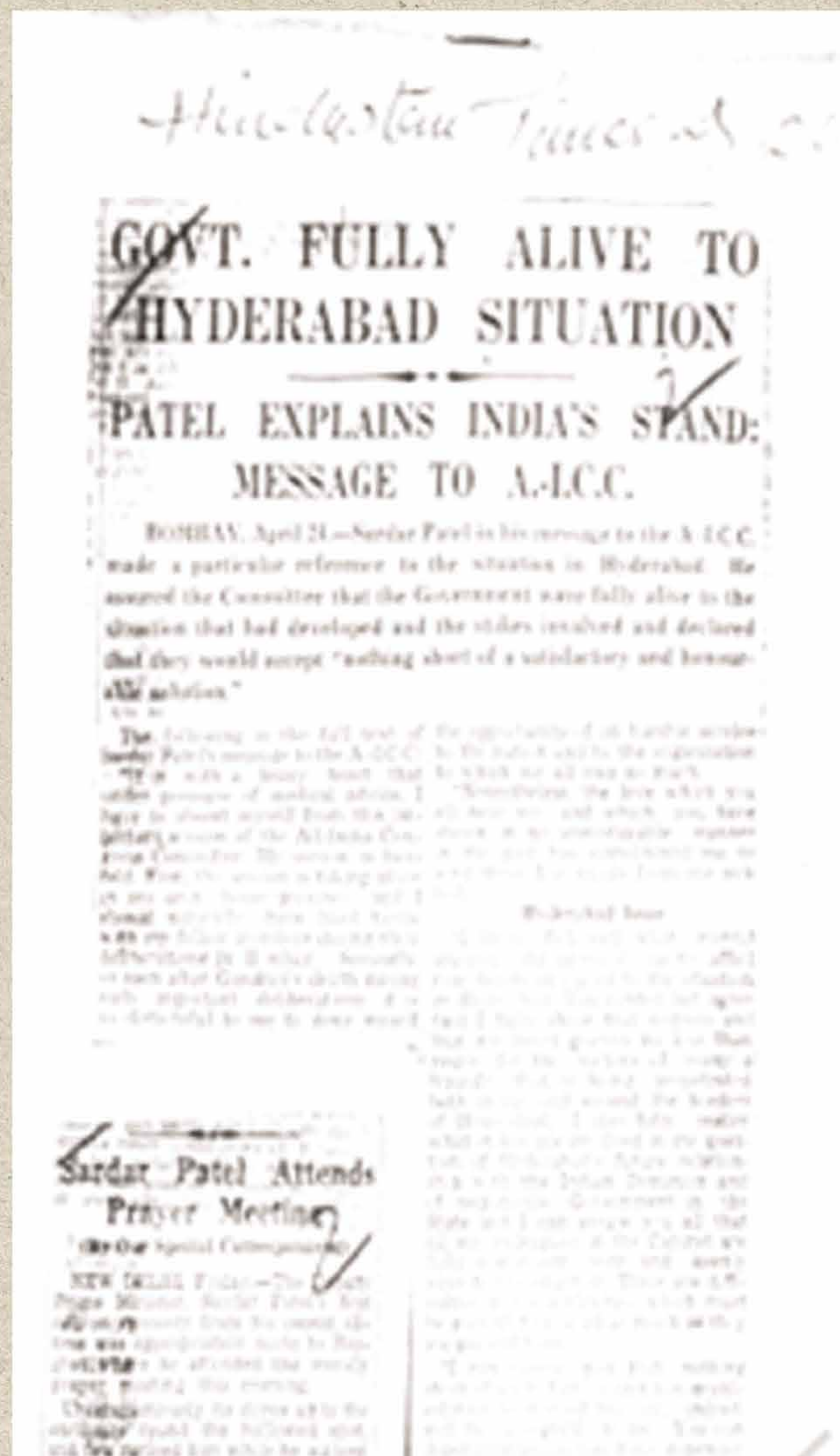


P.I.B 30 June 1948

At a Tea party during a visit to Hyderabad in February 1949. The Sardar is seen with Maj. Gen. Chaudhuri, Military Governor, Mrs. Chaudhary, Mr. V. P. Menon and the Prince of Berar



National Call,
31 August 1948



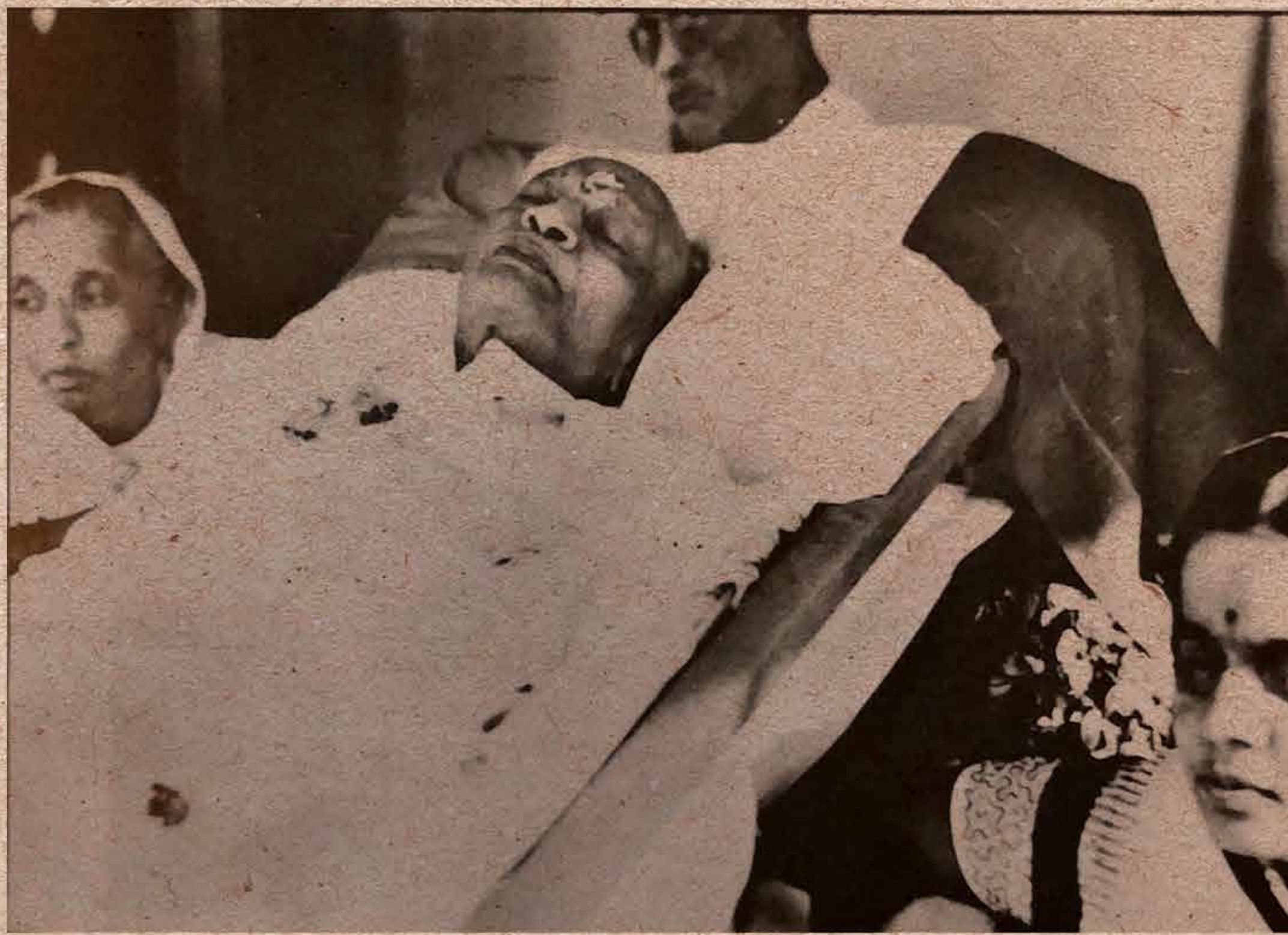
Hindustan Times,
26 June 1948

'now a part of India-in fact, the heart of India...India has become two. Those who were responsible for starting the agitation for the two-nation theory have got what they wanted. But there are still some in the country who cherish the same ideals. To them I will say that their rightful place is in the other country. It is better for such people to go to Pakistan, for their God is there.... I warn such people that if they ever dream that they can get any assistance from outside, or that others outside can interfere in the affairs of Hyderabad, they are insane. The affairs of Hyderabad are an internal problem for the people themselves to decide.'

Patel told the people of Hyderabad while addressing the public at Fateh Maidan, 1949

Last Journey

Sardar Patel passed away on 15 December (Friday) at 9:37 am at Birla House, Bombay. A tidal of grief-stricken humanity swept through West and Central Bombay, as the funeral procession was on its way to reach the cremation ground. The historic funeral procession reached at 7:20 Sonapur Crematorium



Sardar Patel in Eternal Sleep



The mammoth funeral procession in Bombay at which hundreds of thousands of mourners bid their Sardar tearful farewell

Funeral Procession: Aerial view



Deeply grieved at sudden passing away of puja Sardar Saheb, who has been our beacon- light all these years. Gujarat and Saurashtra will feel the loss irreparably.

U.N. Dhebar & his colleagues In Saurashtra Ministry, 15.15.1950

Sardar's tragic demise robs India of a great stabilizing and consolidating factor his achievements are part of history.

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar
15.12.1950

India has lost a great leader and the United Nations a powerful friend who always stood for its ideal and purposes.

Trygvie Lie
Secretary-General, UNO, 15.12.1950

Whole country mourns with you.

Narendra Deo, 15.12.1950

National loss of incalculable magnitude

MS Golwalkar, 15.12.1950

In his demise Kashmir has lost an indomitable friend.

Bakshi gulam Mohammed, 15.12.1950

May I on behalf of myself and all ranks of the Indian force send you our deep felt sympathies in your irreparable loss! Your father's active interest in our welbeings as a service was always a matter of great pride and inspiration. To us and his passing away at this untimely hour, therefore, leaves void which few shall feel.

C-in-C., Indian Air Force, 15.12.1950

Greatest loss to India since Bapu's death

Jay Prakash, Prabhavati, 15.12.1950



President Dr. Rajendra Prasad receiving Sardar's ashes at Prayag, G.B. Pant on right