

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, 31st October, 2014
Report by Department of Biochemistry
University of Delhi South Campus

Imbibing the spirit of “Rashtriya Ekta Diwas” as envisaged by Government of India (vide notification no....., dated), to celebrate theth birth anniversary of legendary Sardar Vallabh Patel, the Department of Biochemistry at the South Campus of University of Delhi celebrated 31st October 2014 like never before under the able leadership of Prof. P.C Ghosh, head of the department. An e-mail circulated by Prof. Ghosh regarding this event saw spontaneous participation by students, teachers and non-teaching staff to prepare for the iconic day. There was a frenzy of activities that brought together one and all in the department and preparations were made with glee and new hope.

At 9.45 am on 31st October, all members assembled in the seminar room in Bachhawat Block where the department is partly housed. The room was aptly prepared to capture the theme. Different photographs of Sardar Vallabh Patel decorated the doors and walls. One special framed black and white photograph was hung up along with some of the best scientists that characterized a special section of a wall of the seminar room. For an academic department this symbolizes the best way to honor and imbibe the life and work of someone as iconic as Sardar Vallabh Patel. His photograph and name of the event was flashed on the screen of the seminar room. The department stood united reminiscent of the unity that Sardar had achieved for India, our motherland.

On the stroke of 9.45 am, the Head welcomed everyone of the department to this special event. He described the seminal contributions of Sardar Vallabh Patel in India’s struggle for freedom from the British Raj and more significantly his unique achievement of uniting more than 500 princely states into the “One India” that we know today. As Deputy Prime Minister and the first Home Minister of independent India, his vision and tireless efforts laid the foundation of our motherland. The “iron man” of India gave us a United and Integrated country that help us grow and realize our potential. Prof. Ghosh explained the Government’s efforts to make his birthday memorable and as a day when we pledge to work selflessly to keep the country united, safe and secure. He declared the list of events that were to unfold. He invited the members to imbibe the spirit of unity and integrity.

The future of the country lies with students. Hence a Master’s student of the department was invited to present the life and work of Sardar Vallabh Patel through a power point presentation. Ms. Bharti performed this task well and summarized what Sardar achieved for our country. His rousing quotes were read and several of his photographs displayed. It was a revelation for everyone present there. At 10.15 am the Head of the department rose again and invited everyone to take the Pledge / Oath that Government has prepared to inculcate the idea of continued Unity and Integrity of the country. He took the pledge while everyone followed him word for word. The Pledge was solemnized both in English

and Hindi. The department vowed to sustain Unity, Integrity, Peace, Safety and Security of the country at all cost.

The oath taking was followed by a video on the service rendered by Sardar to our great Nation. There was pin-drop silence as every member internalized every word spoken in the video with rapt attention. There was so much learnt, so much new information that no one knew or remembered. The necessity of such an event dawned on everyone and the spirit of Unity had struck one and all.

The video was followed by a short session of discussion on this issue by teachers and students who volunteered to say a few words. Prof. D.P. Sarkar described his first ever trip to Delhi when he got an opportunity to visit Sardar Vallabhaji Patel Chest Institute of University of Delhi and stay in its guest house. Sardar, he felt, had inspired him to a career of academician and brought him to Delhi. A senior student Garima Khare expressed how she would imbibe the lessons from Sardar's life and requested other students to do the same.

Prof. P.C Ghosh thanked everyone for being a part of this Unity drive and organizing the event at such a short notice putting together all the material. He thanked Dr. Alo Nag specially for getting the video and Rajiv Chawla and Baba Nand for their special contribution. Dr. Alo Nag thanked the students, other faculties and non-teaching staff for making the event possible.

It was time then for our National Anthem. Everyone rose on Prof. Ghosh's cue and sang the National Anthem in unison and with passion befitting the great nation. United we are and United we will stay.

The National Anthem was followed by a tea break where there was further discussion about Sardar and his vision for India. The whole event was duly photographed and recorded by Pooja, a master's student of the department.

It was decided then that the department would also take a run around the campus to celebrate the day and the Unity and Safety that we enjoy in the country with motivation to keep it the same way for now and forever. The idea was to raise awareness in the campus and motivate others as well into action. Led by Dr. Suneel Kateriya the departmental members ran through the campus. Dr. Suman Kundu was assigned the task of penning down the proceedings.

Three cheers for Sardar Vallabhaji Patel. Salute to him. Salute to India. Jai Hind.