PRESS RELEASE

Consulate General of India and Swami Vivekanand Cultural Centre celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to commemorate 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel on 31 October 2019 at the Consulate where a large number of members of the Indian community participated. Prominent among those included Mr. Jitin Bhatia, President of CII-Indian Business Forum; Mr. Gourish Chakraborty, President, India Club; Mr. Tushar Das, President, Bengali Association of South Africa; Ms. Yashika Singh, Head of Genre, SABC; Mr. & Mrs. Amrut Hari Bhatt, President, Wisdom for Life and Mr. Laxman Vennapureddy, Secretary, GOPIO Johannesburg.

In her welcome address, The Consul General, Ms. Anju Ranjan, said that Sardar Patel was popularly known as Iron Man. He integrated the nation with the thread of unison. This mantra of unity is like a sacrament in our life and in a country like India filled with diversities, we should continue to strengthen this mantra on all paths, at every bend, and at every pit-stop.

The keynote address was delivered by 91-year old Shri Magan Morar Patel, former President of Patidar Samaj in South Africa. He informed the audience that his sister-in-law (Bhabhi) was the one who first called Vallabh Bhai Patel as ‘Sardar’ during a meeting in her village at Bardoli (Gujarat). Since then, ‘Sardar’ had become his title. Other speakers included Mr. Karan Jhaveri, former Secretary of Mayfair Hindu Cultural Centre; & Mr. Maunas Mehta, Youth member of Swami Narayan Organisation.

The Consul General administered Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge to the members of the Consulate as well as the Indian community present during the programme. A special screening of documentary film titled “Life of Sardar” took place on the occasion.

........