



A brief about the Statue of Unity

As Statue of Unity is an ideal portrayal of unification in India and an effort to integrate environment, livelihood and infrastructure through development of tourism which has received immense popularity even in global platform, Gujarat Ecology Commission(GEC) has chosen this as a part of the EBSB program.

1ST EDITION

About

The world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres, Statue of Unity, is situated in Kevadia, at the bank of Narmada River. The statue is of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the "Iron Man of India", the first Home Minister of India. The statue faces the Sardar Sarovar Dam and it was envisaged by Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. It was inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Modi on the occasion of 143rd Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October, 2018. This statue has been proven to be a major milestone to showcase India's diversity and also as it emerged as a significant tourist spot of international importance which attracted more tourists than that of the Statue of Liberty.

History

The Statue of Unity is a symbol of pride which represents Unity in India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel himself fought for independence and unity. During British era his successful leadership brought 562 princely states of India united to form the single Union of India. With this objective to show the world the real colour of unity the proposal to build the Statue was first introduced in 2010 by the Prime Minister of India and the construction started in October, 2013.

Environmental elements

Many unique environmental concepts have been introduced in the designing of the area of Kevadia and the Statue of Unity. Every element has educational value. Some of them are as follows.

1. **Arogya Van** is the herbal garden where different medicinal plants have been planted covering 17 acres of land. The objective behind establishing Arogya Van is to generate awareness regarding the importance of medicinal plants as this has been an age-old practice in India. Aushadh Manus is the speciality of this garden.
2. **Butterfly garden** has been developed in a way that the innumerable flowers can attract butterflies and give them an ecosystem to thrive and sustain.
3. **Cactus Garden** is a symbol of desert ecosystem where exhibition of different varieties of Cacti and succulents have been shown to spread knowledge and awareness regarding cacti species.
4. **Ekta nursery** has been established to promote eco-friendly practices. Promotion of bamboo craft, areca leaf utensils, organic post, bonsai etc. has both educational value and is capable of economy generation of the local residents.
5. **Vishwa Van** is a symbol of Unity in biodiversity where plants, herbs and shrubs from 7 continents are grown and exhibited. Various types of flora represents various continent.
6. **Valley of flowers** is an amalgamation of various species of trees, herbs, shrubs, flowers, creepers etc. extending in an area of 24 acres. 22,00,000 plants of different variety and colours of flowers have been one of the main attractions of the place.
7. **Khalvani Ecotourism site** is developed to showcase eco system conservation and promotion of nature based tourism development. It includes stay on the bank of river Narmada and species conservation attributes.

Upcoming editions

- *Jungle Safari*
- *Children nutrition park*
- *Ekta nursery*
- *Eco tourism*

For further details please visit <https://statueofunity.in/>

Note: Every part of the series will be published on different themes based on the environmental efforts in the Statue of Unity.