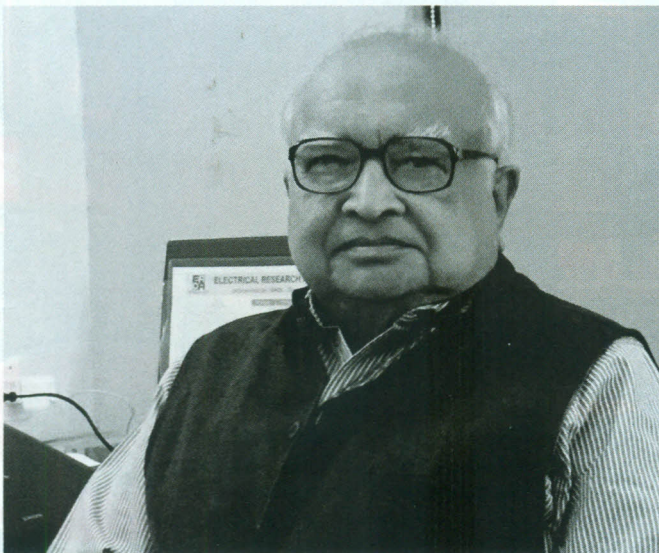


ODE TO THE ENTREPRENEUR

Remembering VG Patel, India's Father of Entrepreneurship



He was instrumental in aiding many countries from Asia and Africa on the path of entrepreneurship, apart from stressing on the need for including entrepreneurship in formal education system in the country.

In his books “When the Going Gets Tough”, “Entrepreneurship Development Programme in India and its Relevance to Developing Countries”, and “Managing India’s Small Industrial Economy”, Dr Patel provides insights on several new and established entrepreneurs as well as family businesses he had interacted with, both within and outside the country.

His work is reflected in many government schemes. For instance, the inclusion of entrepreneurship training in ‘Rojgar Yojana’, a central government scheme, was Dr Patel’s suggestion.

He has also served as an advisor to the World Bank, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Commonwealth Secretariat, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on promoting and fostering entrepreneurship globally.

Fondly known as VG, Dr Patel has left a lasting imprint in the field of entrepreneurship.

Dr. Viharidas Gopaldas Patel, an eminent economist and known as the ‘Father of Entrepreneurship Movement’ in India, passed away at the age of 79, on April 4, 2019, following a brief illness.

Dr Patel was recognised as an institution builder, primarily for setting up Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) in 1983 - the country’s first training and research centre for the development and

practice of entrepreneurship.

Throughout his career, Dr Patel chaired many key positions, such as Chief Economic Advisor to Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, Managing Director at Gujarat Industrial & Technical Consultancy Organization Ltd and Founder Director of Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Gujarat.

In 2017, the Government of India conferred Padma Shri on Dr Patel for his contribution in fostering entrepreneurship.