AJAY BHALLA, IAS

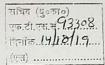


गृह सचिव Home Secretary भारत सरकार Government of India North Block, New Delhi

D.O. No. I-19034/04/2019-NI-II

07th October, 2019

Dear Secretary,



The observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day on 31st October serves to reinforce our commitment to strengthen the security, unity and integrity of our country. It not only commemorates the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of national integration of independent India, but also re-affirms the inherent strength and resilience of our people to withstand threats to the security, unity and integrity of the country.

- The Union Home Minister has already written to Union Ministers to celebrate Rashtriya Ekta Diwas-2019 with enthusiasm and fervour (copy enclosed).
- This year, celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas has a special significance as it marks the completion of the task of making Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh an integral part of India by abrogating Article 370. Special events being undertaken to mark the celebration of the National Unity Day -2019 include the following:

For the first time, the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Parade, with i) participation from police forces across the country, is being organized on 31st October, 2019 at the Statue of Unity, Kevadiya, Gujarat, which will be held every year thereafter.

Government of India has instituted a prestigious national award viz. Sardar Patel National Unity Award, to recognize the tireless and selfless work done by citizens to promote the cause of national unity and integrity and to strengthen the fabric of the country as one nation. I would urge you to kindly send nominations or recommendations for the Sardar Patel National Unity Award for 2019 on the online www.nationalunityawards.mha.gov.in, in the given format, at

the earliest. A copy of the award scheme is enclosed.

Contd.p/2.

Further, in keeping with the practice of past years, I request you to give appropriate directions and guidance for organizing a Pledge taking ceremony (copy of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge enclosed), Run for Unity and March Past (by uniformed forces or formations wherever feasible), in a befitting manner on 31st October, 2019, as advised in the letter of Home Minister.

with regards,

Encl.as above

Yours sincerely,

(Ajay Bhalla)

Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.