

SPEECH

Sardar Patel's statement on the eve of Independence

"Let us not forget in the joy of the hour, the stupendous responsibilities and obligations which freedom has brought within in its wake. Our primary duty is zealously to guard our freedom against dangers from without and from within. We have also to ensure that the humblest among us has the same stature as the tallest in the land, that labour gets its legitimate share of its product, that the toiling millions in villages obtain just return for the sweat of their brow, and that the State discharges adequately its elementary duty of feeding, clothing, housing, and educating every son and daughter of the motherland. It has now been given to us by Providence to fashion our country's destiny according to our cherished ideals and aspirations. If we fail the Motherland, the blame will not lie at others' door. Indeed, there are enormous difficulties and almost insuperable obstacles in our way, but it is for us to overcome them".