

## It`s time to free nation from the clutches of Congress: Modi

Panchmahal, April 25: BJP firebrand leader Narendra Modi on Saturday said that time has come to free the nation from the clutches of Congress which has "destroyed" the country with its vote bank politics. "Today all eyes are on Gujarat because people here have freed the state from the clutches of Congress party and taken a giant leap on the road to development," the Gujarat Chief Minister said while addressing an election rally here.

"Time has come to free the entire nation from the clutches of Congress party which has poisoned the country`s system with its vote bank politics. We need to neutralise it by voting Congress out of power and bring in the BJP-led NDA government under the leadership of LK Advani," Modi said.

He said Gujarat is the only state in the country from where a prime ministerial candidate is contesting.

"Advani is the prime ministerial candidate of NDA who is contesting from Gujarat (Gandhinagar). The Congress` PM candidate Manmohan Singh is not even contesting the elections. He has got a back door entry by being nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Assam," Modi said.

"So Gujarat is the only state who will be voting for PM candidate," he said.

Modi said though the BJP has not won from this seat, his government has allocated Rs 1,400 crore for development of the region.

Taking a dig at Congress candidate from Panchmahal Shankarsinh Waghela, who is also the Union Textile Minister, Modi said that the latter was only interested in staying in power.

"Why should you vote for a person who keeps on changing his constituency every election? Instead, vote for local leader Prabhatsinh Chauhan and help to form a friendly government at the Centre," he said.

Modi said that there are three MPs from the state who are ministers in the Union Cabinet, but they have not been able to provide employment to the youth here.

He was referring to Waghela, Minister of State for Petroleum Dinsha Patel and Minister of State for Railways Naran Rathwa.

Earlier in the day while addressing a rally in the Union territory of Daman in South Gujarat, Modi asked as to why the Central government has not signed any agreement with Pakistan with regard to the fishermen who cross the international borders.

"India has an agreement with the Sri Lankan government that if a fisherman, from either country, is caught crossing international borders he should be sent back within 15 days. But why has the UPA not made any agreement with Pakistan where many of our fishermen are languishing?" he asked