

## Vote BJP to power, Modi exhorts people in Kutch

**Bhuj:** Chief minister Narendra Modi exhorted Kutchis to vote for the BJP during his maiden election meeting here on late Sunday evening.

Listing the reasons why they should vote for BJP, he said, "Advaniji's family lived in Kutch. If he becomes prime minister, it would be a happy situation of "mosale jaman ne ma pirasanai" (a dinner at maternal grandfather's house where food is served by one's mother). All our problems will end.

"Gujarat ni panch angadi ghee man hashe" (we will get all that we need). Modi did not stop here. He wanted this advantage to be brought to notice of Kutchis living in large numbers in Mumbai. "Do not forget to tell your brethren in Mumbai to vote for BJP there so that Advaniji becomes the next PM," he said trying to strike an emotional chord with Kutchis.

He also sought to play on people's fear psychosis, citing risks from across the border. Stating that the region was not properly protected against infiltration from across the border, he said, "The fencing of the state's border with Pakistan hasn't progressed after Advaniji's term. The state also has a coast of 1,600 km. The vital question of security of the state and the country finds no mention in the election manifesto of the Congress." He lashed out at the Union govt's response to 26/11. He regretted that the government sought the intervention of the US.

"The Congress should be ashamed of this. ...We should reply to Pakistan in its own language," Modi thundered, winning applause from the crowd which had waited for two hours for his arrival.

With more than 2.5 lakh Muslim voters in mind, Modi said he never differentiated between people on religious lines. "I have one word or mantra for the 5.5 crore Gujaratis, but now I am forced to talk in terms of Hindus and Muslims because of the PM's statement that the condition of Muslims in the state was bad. (But) ... the Sachar committee report on the condition of minority community in the country ...clearly says that Muslims in Gujarat top on various parameters," he said.

Striving to capture mindshare with his powerful oratory, Modi mocked the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, "Soniaben to dari dari bole chhe. Gaya varshe temne vyaj sathe malyu hatun" (After her last year's bad experience - she had called Modi merchant of death - when she was repaid with interest, she now weighs her words), he said, adding "the prime minister should do his home work before speaking about development in Gujarat." Modi said Planning Commission reports would show that Gujarat had the highest growth rate at 10 per cent.

In agriculture, the growth rate was 14 per cent. Even Rajiv Gandhi foundation had rated the state very high in economic terms.