

Modi says no time to waste on Gandhis

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Ahmedabad:

Chief Minister Narendra Modi would normally be expected to defend the alleged anti-Muslim remarks made by Varun Gandhi in Pilibhit. After all, Varun's vitriol appears to be straight out of Modi's top drawer.

But if he walked out of a press conference in Vadodara on Monday, on being asked to comment on the young Gandhi scion's controversial remarks, he clearly wanted to side-step the issue even during an interview with Arnab Goswami on Times Now, which was telecast on Tuesday evening.



"Why should I waste my time on Gandhis... I don't have to give importance to them", he told the channel when asked about AICC general secretary Rahul Gandhi. "This is a sub-judice matter, which the court will decide", was all that he had to say on the Congressman's cousin being booked under National Security Act (NSA). Clearly, the Gujarat CM seemed uncomfortable answering questions on someone who has stolen the Hindutva thunder from him, at a time when some in his camp have begun confiding they feel Varun is being propped up by Modi's opponents within the BJP.

Modi was modesty personified when he presented himself as "an ordinary BJP worker, who was fortunate to have trained under L K Advani", while answering a question on Anil Ambani and Sunil Bharti Mittal's endorsement as the "future prime minister", at a time when the party was projecting his political guru as one.

So was he targeting year 2014, when the next elections will probably be held? Again, he was evasive, saying, "if my party decides to send me to build the organisation in Kerala, I will go there." He said he was single-minded in his drive to traverse the length and breadth of the country to ensure that a stable government was formed under the leadership of Advani.

He also flayed the pro-Muslim comments of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and challenged him to accept the invitation by Advani for a televised debate. Justice to all, appeasement of none, he said, were the corner-stones of his administration's allinclusive policy.