OFFICE OF THE FORMER LEADER OF OPPOSITION Gandhinagar.

Press Note

15th August, 2013

This man challenged the PM. But first he should challenge himself. About his knowledge about the history of the nation. The Chief Minister of Gujarat who has super imposed himself as the PM of the country does not know the difference between Independence Day and Republic Day! Senior Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil who observed this (and put in on YouTube <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B56LaqZMS7k</u>) has said it is unfortunate that Gujarat Chief Minister in his speech on the eve of Independence day in Kutch began his address as "We have gathered together on the eve of Republic Day" (Prajasattak Parva in Gujarati). After a two second pause, he goes on to say. We have gathered together on Republic Day and tom is August 15, 2013.... And continues his shallow rhetoric.

Shaktisinh Gohil said Gujarat has a glorious history that all Chief Ministers in the past have gone above party and political lines and celebrated national festivals with a spirit of unity and kinship. However, the present chief minister plays petty politics even on days like our Independence Day. While busy amidst his dirty politicking, the CM does not even realize the difference between Independence Day and Republic Day!

Shaktisinh added that Modi desperately tried to stall the telecast and till late night was calling up media houses. SHaktisinh added that he was confident that media would expose Modi's blunder. Shaktisinh said national festivals and days like Independence day are occasions when the whole country should be celebrating together. India is a nation which celebrates unity amidst diversity. Modi with his divisive politics has been a blot to the secular fabric of the nation. At a time when the entire nation should be one and is facing Pakistan and the enemy nation's dirty tactics, this is the time for unity. Shaktisinh said this is the time to confront and challenge Pakistan in a united manner , not confront and challenge the PM of the country. But Modi is a man with very limited vision and narrow political interests.

Instead of lending his hand to confront the enemy country, Modi is busy playing his petty politics and indulging in cheap publicity stunts like challenging the PM. This is not the time for rhetoric or divisive politics. It is the time the entire nation has to be one and fight the Enemy. When BJP led NDA was in power and Pakistani army had infiltrated our border at Kargill in 1999 or when 12 BSF men were killed by Bangladesh in 2001 Congress did not attempt for political mileage but had stood by the BJP . However Gujarat CM is indulging in petty politics and disintegrating the secular fabric of the nation with his divisive politics.

To, The Editor.

Former Leader of Opposition has requested to kindly publish this press note in your esteemed newspaper.