

PM: Want to build Buddha memorial

PARIMAL DABHI

MODASA, JUNE 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday said that his dream is to build a Buddha memorial at Dev ni Mori, a village near Hindu pilgrimage site Shamlaji in Gujarat's Aravalli district, where relics associated with Gautam Buddha have reportedly been found.

Addressing a gathering in Aravalli district, Modi said ever since he became CM of Gujarat, he had dreamt of building a grand Buddha memorial at Dev ni Mori. "His followers from across the world can visit the place. I am confident the dream will be fulfilled."

He said, "People believe influence of Lord Buddha prevails only in eastern India...But when an excavation was done at Dev ni Mori and relics (*avsesh*) of Lord Buddha were discovered, (people) were surprised that he had influence in western India as well."