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PM suggests movement on development

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Wednesday that democracy was not a 'contract' but a partnership that had to be participatory.

Addressing a diaspora event, Mr. Modi spoke of his visit to the Basaveswara statue in London, health-care, power, and sanitation, making several pointed references to the Congress, and defending his government's track record to date.

'I may make mistakes but never with a bad intention,' he insisted. Drawing a parallel between him and Mahatma Gandhi, the Prime Minister said Gandhi had made independence a public movement, while he wished to make development a public movement.

"I don't need a lecture on poverty ... I have experienced it" he insisted.

He took a range of questions from the audience as well as from a feed from outside the centre, submitted ahead of the event.