

Modi reaches out to Kashmiri youth on I-Day

Says won't compromise on terror

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reached out to the youth in violence-hit Jammu and Kashmir in his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of 71st Independence Day.

Modi said “neither abuses nor bullets” but “embracing Kashmiris” will solve the problem in the state.

His government, the prime minister said, was determined to restore Kashmir its status of “heaven on earth”.

“Na gaali se, na goli se, parivartan hoga gale lagaane se... samasya suljhegi har Kashmiri ko gale lagane se (Neither abuses nor bullets...change will take place by embracing.. problems will be solved by embracing Kashmiris),” was Modi’s prescription for restoring peace in the state.

At the same time, he also stressed that “there is no question of being soft on terrorism or terrorists,” which was seen as a tough message to Pakistan and its proxies. “India’s security is our priority, and the surgical strike (across LoC) had underscored this,” he said.

On the Gorakhpur incident,



PM Narendra Modi greets schoolchildren after addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Modi said that the nation was with the affected families in their hour of crisis. “Many parts of the country faced natural calamities in the recent past. Children died at a hospital. The entire nation is with them,” he said.

In his short 56-minute speech, Modi also singled out a handful of separatists, who he said were resorting to “various tactics” to engineer unrest in the state.

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He also told the people that India's stature in the world is rising, and several countries are cooperating with India in fighting the terrorism menace.

Sharing his vision of a new India, Modi, sporting half-sleeves yellow kurta, churidar pajama and a Rajasthani turban, also reiterated that "violence in the name of faith is unacceptable" as the country stood for peace, unity, and harmony. He abhorred casteism and communalism for he explained that it will not help society. Modi emphasised that the call of the Quit India Movement was "Bharat Chhodo," but the need today is "Bharat Jodo".

His statement was another reminder that mob attacks by cow vigilantes will not be tolerated.