

Shun violence in name of faith: PM

Reaches Out To J&K, Hints At Dialogue

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the backdrop of heated and contentious debates on communal harmony, faith and identity politics, Prime Minister Narendra Modi used his Independence Day speech on Tuesday to make a strong pitch against violence in the name of faith that he said is harmful for the social fabric.

FULL COVERAGE: P 14, 15

“Sometimes in the name of faith, some people due to lack of patience end up destroying the social fabric. The country is governed by peace, harmony and unity. The poison of casteism and communalism can never benefit the country,” the PM said from the ram-

'LENS ON 18L PEOPLE WITH DODGY INCOME'

PM Modi on economic reforms

- GST has reduced time for movement of goods within the country by 30% and saved thousands of crores of rupees
- Demonetisation has brought ₹3 lakh cr of unaccounted wealth into banks; lens on 18L people with disproportionate income

On border tension

- India is capable of ensuring its own security & is strong enough to ward off any threats against it

On cheaper med processes

- Govt working on steps to bring down knee surgery costs for the poor and middle class



Photo: Anindya Chattopadhyay

Modi with kids dressed as Krishnas at the I-Day event

parts of the Red Fort.

“This is the land of Gandhi and Buddha, we have to move forward taking everyone along. This is part of our country’s culture and tradition. We have to successfully carry it forward and that is why in the name of faith, violence

cannot be allowed,” he further said.

Though he did not elaborate, Modi’s remarks can be seen in the context of his admonition to self-styled ‘gau rakshaks’ for indulging in violence against cattle transporters who’ve often been Mus-

lims, something which has led opponents to question the sincerity of his “sabka saath, sabka vikas” promise. By focusing on it again in his Red Fort speech, the PM has put the concern on a different pedestal.