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Title: Need to take punitive action against the individuals/organizations responsible for growing intolerance in the country.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM) : Diversity, tolerance and cultural harmony are an indispensable part of the Indian ethos, but the current atmosphere of growing intolerance in the country has jeopardized these integral values.

Incidents such as the murder of three rationalist thinkers, lynching of an innocent man in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, arbitrary beef bans, smearing the face of an intellectual with ink and attacking a legislator in the State of Jammu and Kashmir; have created a sense of insecurity among citizens and have also caused incalculable damage to the global perception of India.

The arbitrary raid which was conducted in the Kerala House canteen by breaching the jurisdiction of the State Government is a violation of the non-negotiable Constitutional principles of Federalism and Secularism.

Therefore, I urge the Prime Minister to condemn the growing intolerance in our country, and take punitive measures against the individuals/organisations which have fuelled this internal hostility through their statements and actions.