

Resolving Mob Violence

What is the issue?

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- Mere anti-lynching laws are less likely to be enough to curtail the menace effectively.

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- Battling the mob phenomenon needs conscious political campaigning against discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes.

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What are the recent developments regarding mob violence?

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- **SC Verdict** - The Supreme Court (SC) has expressed shock over the spree of mob violence incidents that have occurred in various regions.

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- The SC observed that it is the responsibility of the States to prevent untoward incidents and issued certain guidelines to be implemented.

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- Further, the court noted that what may have started out as isolated acts by fundamentalist right-wing groups has now become a widespread malaise.

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- **Guidelines** - The preventive guidelines of the SC require every State to designate a senior police officer as the Nodal Officer in each district.

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- This officer has to collect intelligence regarding the spread of hateful provocative ideas and fake news and also stop their dissemination.

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- Additionally, governments have been directed to carry out publicity campaigns against mob vigilantism and violence through media channels.

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- The guidelines have also made an effort to streamline and fast-track investigations into future incidences and to support the family of the victims.

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What is way ahead?

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 - Most cases of lynching seem to be premeditated acts attempting to change the social and cultural narrative in India on polarising lines.
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 - Lack of employment opportunities is helping deep-seated insecurities to take root among young people, aiding the spread of a fundamentalist agenda.
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 - Considering the context, there is a need to comprehensively deal with the deep-rooted hate which appears to have set in with an innovative approach.
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 - This malicious phenomenon cannot be fought merely through court directives or laws.
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 - Nurturing an inclusive political agenda is the need of the hour.
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Source: The Hindu

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