# Exclusive Law against Mob Vigilantism

## What is the issue?

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- Supreme Court (SC) has recently highlighted the intolerance and bias behind the series of mob lynching incidences.
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- It has called for a special law to deal with lynching comprehensively.
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## What are trends in mob violence over the recent years?

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- Since 2014, organised vigilant groups had gone on rampage against cattle traders in the name of cow protection.
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- Notably, the Supreme Court had previously reminded the central and state governments that they can’t be mere spectators to violent acts by cow mobs.
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- But mob vigilantism has taken a new dimension in recent times with impulsive and unplanned acts of violence being directed at unsuspecting outsiders.
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- It is alleged that rumours on social media sites that “child kidnappers” are frequenting localities is said to have caused the current spree of incidences.
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- Whenever residents see an outsider against whom there is an already inherent biased perception, they tend to unleash a fatal fury on them.
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- Vigilant violence in a socio-political framework is clearly linked to disrespect for an inclusive social order, rising intolerance and growing polarisation.
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- The SC's has therefore spelt out a clear criticism of the "prevalent socio-political mood of the society", which it thinks is causing mob violence.
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## What has the court suggested?

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- Supreme Court has asked all States to appoint nodal officers in each district to curb such mobs and also plug the spread of misinformation.
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- Besides directing specific preventive, punitive and remedial measures, the SC has also mooted the idea of making lynching a separate offence by law.
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- While this may not be a significant deterrence in legal terms, it helps in reiterating the message that mob lynching is indeed a serious offence.
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- Any new law needs to comprehensively address the issue by encompassing the actual mob, and accessory criminals like - rumour mongers, and instigators.
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- While the extent of punishments for each of those responsible for the incident is another issue, all those involved nonetheless need to be indicted.
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**Source:  The Hindu**

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