Hyper Masculinity

What is the issue?

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Recent series of news and reports quoting diverse incidents in public life has featured men at various levels of aggression.

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What is hyper masculinity?

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- Hypermasculinity is a psychological term for the exaggeration of male stereotypical behaviour, such as an emphasis on physical strength, aggression, and sexuality.
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- e.g Road rage and is almost always a male affair.
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- Student disputes and clashes with the police, though not exclusively male, nevertheless often witness male-instigated and male-directed violence.
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- Cow vigilantes, anti-Romeo squads, the goons engaged by various strongmen and political parties, extra-constitutional “militias”, khap panchayats, the list seem long and alarming.
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- Hypermasculinism is about resisting any dilution of its essential attributes.
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- It equates femininity with weakness and needy of its “protection” at all times.
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- Strength lies in subjugation, in bending the disobedient to your will via force or violence.
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- To preserve their masculinity it is imperative they contempt and reject feminism in all its form.
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- Hypermasculinism despises hybridity, the stain of “impurity”, which is the basis of all culture, and indeed, of all creativity.
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- Love jihads, conversions, ghar wapsi, honour killings, and all forms of moral policing are part of this anxiety that enforce “discipline” on those who defy.
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- Violence is often its first resort, and its message is unequivocal.
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- Everyone who does not subscribe to this regime is vulnerable.
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- As a culture that has acknowledged androgyny, cherished hybridity, advocated non-violence and celebrated difference, we need to first recognise and renounce this.
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Source: Indian Express

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