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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