Defence & Security · GS - III

Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2017	GS - III	Defence & Security

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Rumour-driven violence; communal polarisation; vigilantism; social media misinformation; rule of law; public safety; police accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Mob violence occurs when a group uses collective force against individuals or communities, often bypassing legal procedures. It threatens public order, individual rights and confidence in the rule of law.

Causes of Mob Violence

- **Rumours and misinformation:** Unverified claims circulated through messaging platforms can trigger attacks.
- **Communal and caste tensions:** Pre-existing prejudice can turn local disputes into collective violence.
- **Vigilantism:** Groups may take the law into their own hands over allegations of theft, cow slaughter or child abduction.
- **Political mobilisation:** Hate speech and polarising rhetoric can legitimise hostility towards targeted groups.
- **Weak enforcement:** Delayed police response, impunity and poor investigation can encourage repeat incidents.

- **Economic and social grievances:** Local competition and insecurity may be exploited to mobilise crowds.

Examples

Incidents of mob lynching linked to rumours of child lifting and attacks arising from cow-protection vigilantism illustrate how misinformation and collective suspicion can escalate into violence.

Consequences

- **Loss of life and injury:** Victims face severe physical and psychological harm.
- **Social polarisation:** Fear and mistrust weaken relations among communities.
- **Economic disruption:** Businesses, transport and local livelihoods may be damaged.
- **Rule-of-law erosion:** Mob action undermines due process and the authority of courts and police.
- **Rights violations:** Vulnerable groups may face targeted intimidation and exclusion.

Measures to Address the Problem

Ensure prompt and impartial policing, investigate hate speech and organised incitement, counter misinformation, protect witnesses and provide victim support. Community dialogue and public awareness should complement legal enforcement.

Conclusion

Mob violence is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is a challenge to constitutional governance. Consistent accountability, effective policing and social trust are essential to prevent collective violence.

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