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Hate and Violence: The Story of Mob Lynching in India

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ABSTRACT

The act of killing someone without a trial or other legal process is known as mob lynching. In India, the number of lynching cases has been steadily rising since 2006. Because there are millions of social media users in India, rumours and false information can spread quickly throughout the country. Violence has also been fostered by police incompetence and religious issues. This study intends to investigate the rise, causes, and patterns of mob lynching in India. It was developed by reviewing pertinent literature on the subject.

This paper analyses the issue of mob lynching and the criminal threat it poses to humanity, highlighting its far-reaching impact both within India and globally. Mob lynching is a serious threat to human rights, culture, nationality, social harmony, and life itself. Individuals involved in these unlawful acts often fail to realize the consequences of their actions, not only in terms of legal repercussions but also in the physical, emotional, and psychological toll it can take on their own lives. Lynching, ragging, and leg-pulling are clearly defined as criminal acts under the law, yet they remain a sensitive issue that is difficult to openly address. These crimes are deeply felt and experienced only by the victims, who often suffer in silence.

While freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under Article 19(1) (a) of the Indian Constitution, this right does not extend to promoting criminal activities, including lynching or other forms of violence. The media often exacerbates the situation by interviewing witnesses and others involved in these incidents, even though such matters are not yet legally addressed or may have already been dismissed in public discourse. This sensationalism can diminish the pursuit of justice and weaken the efforts to address the crime through legal channels.

The impact of mob lynching extends beyond the victims; it undermines the justice system itself, potentially leading to the miscarriage of justice in the future. Multiple sectors whether directly or indirectly play a role in supporting or tolerating these unlawful acts, contributing to the perpetuation of mob violence.

This research paper provides a detailed analysis of mob lynching and the laws related to it in India and other countries. Mob lynching is a growing issue in developing India, where crowds gather to publicly execute violent acts without considering the legal process. This

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behavior is linked to antisocial tendencies. The paper also discusses notable mob lynching cases in India

Keywords: Mob Lynching, crime, hate crime, Supreme Court cases.

I. INTRODUCTION

"Crowd violence that results in the death or disfigurement of a person or people accused of a crime is known as mob lynching." Lynching is an extrajudicial punishment meted out by a mob or unofficial organisation to an accused or suspected individual without the need for legal approval. Mob lynching refers to the killing of an individual by a group, often without any trial or legal process, based on an alleged crime. Unlike a regular murder, lynching is a public event that draws attention and requires spectators. Factors like caste, religion, and politics play significant roles in mob lynching incidents.

While mob lynching itself is not explicitly mentioned in criminal law, the Criminal Procedure Code allows for punishing groups of people who commit crimes together. However, this legal framework is insufficient to fully address mob lynching, highlighting the need for specific laws to prevent it. Internal conflicts between various racial groups are frequently mirrored in India through lynching and mob violence. To define lynching, more conditions are required because mob lynching is comparable to regular murder. Two assumptions about lynching might exist. A person's unlawful death must first be proven by legal means. Second, there needs to be proof of collective involvement in the murder committed in the name of justice, race, or custom.

Mob lynching has a long history, evolving from early acts of extrajudicial violence in ancient societies to a more defined and notorious phenomenon in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the United States, lynching became a tool of racial control during the Jim Crow era, with African Americans being the primary victims. In India, mob lynching emerged as a response to religious and caste tensions, particularly after colonial rule. The rise of social media has exacerbated lynching incidents, as rumours can quickly lead to mob violence. Despite efforts by civil rights movements in the U.S. and calls for legal reforms in countries like India, mob lynching persists due to a lack of adequate legal frameworks and societal acceptance of extrajudicial violence. Today, mob lynching remains a global issue that requires stronger legal action and cultural change to eliminate.

In recent years, mob lynching has reemerged as a significant issue, particularly in countries like India and Brazil. In India, mob lynching has often been linked to religious and caste-based violence, with incidents occurring when mobs act on unverified rumours, often regarding issues

like cow slaughter or religious conversion. The rise of social media has also exacerbated this problem, as rumours can spread rapidly, leading to violent mob actions before any investigation takes place.

II. ASPECTS OF MOB LYNCHING IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATED LAWS

Mob lynching has become a critical social issue in several countries, particularly in places like India, the United States, Brazil, and South Africa. While the reasons for mob lynching are multifaceted and deeply embedded in societal, political, and economic structures, they often stem from a combination of distrust in legal systems, social inequalities, and the influence of media. Understanding these factors is crucial in addressing and preventing mob violence.

In the U.S., mob lynching was historically a tool for racial control, primarily targeting African Americans in the Southern states, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Civil Rights Movement reduced lynching, but it has not eradicated hate crimes and racial violence. Modern-day lynching sometimes takes the form of racially motivated killings or assaults. Although lynching was never specifically outlawed, it was criminalized under broader categories like murder and hate crimes in the U.S. In 2020, the U.S. Congress passed the *Emmett Till Antilynching Act*, explicitly defining lynching as a federal hate crime. Many states also have laws against hate crimes that aim to address racially motivated violence.

In Brazil, mob lynching is linked to a lack of trust in the police and the justice system. Criminals, particularly those involved in drug trafficking, are sometimes targeted by mobs seeking justice. These acts often take place in marginalized communities where the legal system is perceived as inefficient or corrupt. Brazil does not have a specific law against mob lynching, but it is classified as homicide or attempted homicide under the Brazilian Penal Code. The country faces challenges in addressing mob violence due to widespread corruption and ineffective law enforcement in certain regions.

Mob lynching in South Africa, often referred to as “necklacing,” has been a tragic result of crime and community frustration with the lack of justice. It is typically a form of retribution, where suspected criminals are killed in brutal ways by mobs, especially in areas with high crime rates. This country has laws prohibiting murder and vigilantism, with perpetrators of mob lynching being prosecuted for homicide. The government has worked to raise awareness about the illegality of such actions, but social and economic inequalities continue to fuel such violence.

In Pakistan, mob lynching is frequently related to blasphemy accusations, which have led to violent, public killings of alleged offenders. Religious extremism and tensions between

different sects, combined with a weak judicial system, contribute to these acts. Pakistan's legal system contains harsh blasphemy laws, which are sometimes used to justify mob violence. While blasphemy itself is a criminal offense, mob lynching is not legally recognized as a separate crime. Recent incidents have led to public outcry, but enforcement of justice remains inconsistent, and perpetrators often go unpunished.

In Kenya, mob lynching is often driven by public frustration over crime and the failure of the police to address it. Suspected criminals, particularly in informal settlements, are sometimes beaten or killed by mobs in response to perceived injustices. Kenya's legal system criminalizes mob violence under its Penal Code, which includes murder, assault, and theft. However, the lack of trust in law enforcement and the slow pace of justice contribute to the continuation of such practices. Public campaigns have been launched to discourage mob violence.

Mob lynching in Nigeria is often linked to the public's frustration with the judicial system and the police's inability to deal with crime effectively. Suspects of theft, witchcraft, or ritual killings are frequently targeted by angry mobs. Nigeria has laws against murder and violence, but mob lynching is not explicitly addressed in the legal framework. While the country has a legal system that criminalizes such acts, law enforcement is frequently criticized for being inefficient, leading to a lack of accountability for perpetrators.

Mob lynching in India is often driven by communal tensions, religious intolerance, and caste-based violence. The rise of social media has fuelled this problem, with rumours spreading rapidly about issues like cow slaughter, child trafficking, or religious conversions, leading to violent mob actions. Rural and less law-enforced areas are particularly prone to such incidents. In India, mob lynching is not specifically defined as a criminal offense, though crimes related to it, like murder and assault, are punishable under the *Bhartiya nyay Sanhita*. Some states, like Rajasthan and Manipur, have enacted specific anti-lynching laws. However, enforcement remains weak, and political interference often prevents swift legal action.

(A) Laws Addressing Mob Lynching in India

Although India's legal system addresses offences related to mob lynching through a number of articles under the constitution of India, *Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita* and *Bhartiya nagrik surksha Sanhita* (prior Indian penal code and criminal procedural code), there is a notable lack of legislation specifically prohibiting lynching. The absence of consistency and prompt enforcement is still a significant problem, notwithstanding the Supreme Court's guidance and the introduction of anti-lynching legislation in some states. To effectively prevent mob lynching, guarantee victims' justice, and discourage future acts of violence, a comprehensive

national law is needed.²

Here are certain Laws that are existing in India that come in the perview of Mob lynching or can relate with mob lynching.

1. Constitution of India, 1950.

All local laws inside India's borders are recognised by the Constitution, which is also regarded as the fundamental law of the land. It offers residents a number of essential freedoms and rights as well as recourse in the event that these rights are violated. By offering a direct path to the Supreme Court, the Indian Constitution protects the fundamental rights of the populace.

Since lynching and similar acts of violence are not permitted by law, they are regarded as cruel and unlawful. When a group of people kill someone they believe is guilty of a crime without following the proper legal procedures, this is known as lynching. This article guarantees equal protection to both the perpetrators of the crime and the victims of mob violence. The law offers all legal chances without distinction. The Supreme Court held in the *Indira Nehru v. Raj Narian* (Election Case) that Article 14, which represents the rule of law, is a fundamental part of the Indian Constitution³.

Equal protection under the law and equality before the law are guaranteed by Article 14 of the Constitution. Article 14 governs the 'Right to Equality'. It states that "the State will not refuse to any individual within the territory equality before the law or equal protection of the laws"⁴. According to this article, laws treat everyone equally, from the prime minister to the policeman. Everyone is treated the same way under the same circumstances.

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"Denial of Bias" based on race, sex, place of birth, religion, or status is governed by Article 15 of the Indian Constitution. As it chases, it bargains. Article 14 is expanded upon in detail in Article 15. The primary mandate of Article 15 prohibits the State from oppressing an individual on the basis of their sex, race, status, religion, place of birth, or any combination of these characteristics. The second requirement prohibits citizens and states alike from enforcing segregation in areas such as stores, hotels, and other establishments, as well as in areas such as wells, tanks, roadways, and areas of open stimulation and retreat⁵.

² Kumar, N. (2020). Mob Lynching in India: A New Crime Emerging in Indian Culture. *Purakala* with ISSN 0971-2143 is an UGC CARE Journal, 31(25), 54-61.

³ *Indira Nehru Gandhi v. Raj Narian & anr*, (1976) 2 SCR 347.

⁴ Article 14, Constitution of India 1950.

⁵ Article 14 and Article 15, Constitution of India, 1950.

In *State of Rajasthan v. Pratap Singh*, the Supreme Court overturned a warning issued under the Police Act of 1851 that declared certain areas to be unrest-prone and forced the residents to pay for additional police officers stationed there, but exonerated all Muslims and Harijans. The exclusion violated Article 15(1) since it was granted only on the basis of "position" or "religion."⁶

Rights Given By Article 19 that is Article 19 (1) (a) of the Constitution guarantees everyone the right to free speech and expression, subject to certain restrictions under clause (2). Anyone can voice their opposition to injustice or violence. The "right to assemble peacefully and without arms" is guaranteed by Article 19 (1) (b). This suggests that Indian citizens have been given the chance to gather and plan public gatherings or even parades on their own initiative⁷.

Protection of Life And Personal Liberty Life and personal liberty are guaranteed by Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. It is the core of essential rights. It says that "No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except procedure established by law". Right to Life and Personal Liberty, guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution also includes the following: Right to Privacy, Right to Livelihood, Right to Dignity, Right to Education, Right to get Pollution-free Water and Air, etc⁸

Each state government may impose restrictions, control, or monopoly over any trade or business in the public interest, specifically to protect and improve animal and plant breeds and to regulate the butchering of dairy animals and other draft steers, as stated in Article 48 of the Constitution. *The National Human Rights Commission v. Gujarat State and Others*⁹, although eating cow beef is not forbidden by their religion, some members of particular communities view it as against their beliefs, and this causes conflict between two communities.

Mob lynching has emerged as a significant social issue in India in recent years, with various incidents of violent mob actions resulting in the death of individuals based on allegations or rumours. The legal framework surrounding mob lynching in India, while not explicitly addressing lynching as a crime in itself, relies on various provisions under Indian law to punish the perpetrators. This section explores the current legal provisions, recent developments, and the gaps in the legal system related to mob lynching in India.

2. Indian Penal Code (IPC)/ Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta Provisions

The Indian Penal Code (IPC)/Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta provides the general legal framework for

⁶ *State of Rajasthan v. Pratap Singh*, AIR 1960 SC 1208.

⁷ Article 19, Constitution of India, 1950.

⁸ Article 21, Constitution of India, 1950.

⁹ *The National Human Rights Commission v. Gujarat State and Others*, (2003 (9) SCR 236).

criminal offenses, and many of its provisions are invoked in cases of mob lynching. These sections can be applied to prosecute individuals involved in lynching incidents.

- **Section 302/section 101 – Murder:** This section deals with the offense of murder and prescribes the punishment for those who intentionally cause the death of another person. In the case of mob lynching, all individuals who actively participate in the killing can be charged under these section, even if the act was committed collectively by a group¹⁰.
- **Section 307/section 109 – Attempt to Murder:** If a mob attacks someone but the victim survives, the attackers may be charged under Section 307 for attempting to kill the victim.¹¹
- **Section 323/section 115 – Punishment for Voluntarily Causing Hurt:** In cases where mob violence results in bodily harm or injury but not death, Section 323 may be applied to punish the offenders for causing hurt¹².
- **Section 147/section 191 – Rioting:** This section deals with rioting, which is often a key element in mob lynching incidents. If a group of people assembles unlawfully and uses violence, they can be charged under this section, along with other relevant provisions.
- **Section 149/section 189 – Unlawful Assembly:** This provision applies when a group of people gathers for a common unlawful purpose, such as lynching. Even if an individual in the group did not directly participate in the violence, they may still be held accountable for the actions of the assembly under this section¹³.
- **Section 120B/section 61 – Criminal Conspiracy:** If a group plans a lynching, whether in advance or spontaneously, those involved may be charged with criminal conspiracy under this section¹⁴.

3. The Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)/ Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Judicial Actions

While the CrPC governs the procedure for the investigation and prosecution of crimes in India, there are provisions that help facilitate the legal response to mob lynching incidents.

- **Section 41/section 35 - Arrest without Warrant:** This provision allows the police to arrest individuals involved in a lynching incident without a warrant if they are found to

¹⁰ Section 101, Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta, 2023.

¹¹ Section 109, Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta, 2023.

¹² Section 115, Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta, 2023.

¹³ Section 189, Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta, 2023.

¹⁴ Section 61, Bhartiya Nyay Sahinta, 2023.

be involved in a cognizable offense, which includes murder, assault, or rioting¹⁵.

- **Section 174/ section 194– Police Inquiry in Case of Death:** In cases of death caused by mob lynching, the police must conduct an inquiry under this section to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, which often involves the preparation of a post-mortem report¹⁶.
- **Section 154/section 173– FIR (First Information Report):** The filing of an FIR under this Section is crucial in the investigation of mob lynching cases and is the first stage of initiation of crime. Victims or witnesses must report the incident to the police for further investigation and action¹⁷.

4. Anti-Lynching Laws and Judicial Intervention

Though lynching as a specific offense is not mentioned under any Indian law, there have been efforts to introduce anti-lynching legislation and judicial intervention to address the issue.

- **Supreme Court Judgment (2018):** Lynching of two Muslim Men in Jharkhand In July 2018, the Supreme Court of India issued guidelines to prevent lynching after a rise in incidents of mob violence. The Court directed state governments to set up designated fast-track courts to try mob lynching cases and to appoint Nodal Officers in each district to prevent lynching. The Supreme Court also recommended the creation of anti-lynching laws at the state level and court also directed the state's responsibility in to the issue of minority's religious people being treated in mob lynching cases.

In the case of *Tahseen Poonawalla v. Union of India*, the apex court of India addressed the increasing cases of mob lynching. The court also issued guidelines to the central and state government to take some steps to curb mob lynching which include setting up a dedicated anti-lynching law, compensation to victim, ensuring the establishment of special fast-track courts to handle cases related to mob lynching and issuing preventive measures like setting up awareness campaigns to educate the public about the criminality of mob lynching. This case has provided the strong need and action for legal framework against mob lynching¹⁸.

In the case of *Shahzad Khan & ors. V. State of UP*, the Supreme Court while dealing with the incident of mob lynching focused on such act of violence based on religion, caste or any other similar cases. The court also directed the authorities to ensure safety of individual from hate

¹⁵ Section 41, *Bhartiya Nagrik suraksha Sanhita*, 2023.

¹⁶ Section 194, *Bhartiya Nagrik suraksha Sanhita*, 2023.

¹⁷ Section 173, *Bhartiya Nagrik suraksha Sanhita*, 2023.

¹⁸ *Tahseen Poonawalla v. Union of India*, (2018) 7 SCC 801.

crime and lynching. In this judgement the court also said that there should be no tolerance for any act which disturbs the law and order of the society¹⁹.

In the case of lynching that took place in Karnataka, the Supreme Court addressed the need for stringent action against the people involved in acts of mob violence. The court also referred to the necessity of implementing preventive measures, such as awareness campaigns and the strengthening of the legal framework, to deal with the perpetrators²⁰.

- **State-Level Anti-Lynching Laws:** As of now, only a few states have introduced specific anti-lynching laws, though the issue remains under discussion at the national level.
 - **Manipur Anti-Lynching Law (2018):** Manipur was the first state to enact a law addressing mob lynching. The law criminalizes lynching and provides punishment for anyone found guilty of lynching an individual. It mandates that the police investigate such incidents immediately and that the accused be arrested.
 - **Rajasthan Anti-Lynching Bill (2019):** Rajasthan introduced a bill that aims to curb lynching and vigilantism. The bill prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for those involved in lynching and seeks to prevent the occurrence of such crimes through deterrent legal provisions.
 - **Other States:** Several other states, including Maharashtra and West Bengal, have taken steps toward criminalizing mob lynching, but comprehensive national legislation remains absent.

While various provisions under the IPC/BNS and CrPC/BNSS allows for the prosecution of mob lynching, the absence of a clear and specific national law against lynching has been a significant gap. National law enforcement agencies have struggled to curb the rising incidents of mob violence without a targeted approach. The lack of a uniform legal standard across states has led to inconsistent enforcement and a lack of accountability. Mob-lynching is not specifically legislated in India, the judiciary has continuously intervened in individual cases and issued important guidelines for preventing such acts of violence. The call for an anti-lynching law remains prominent in the legal discourse surrounding this issue.

¹⁹ Shahzad Khan & ors v. state of Uttar Pradesh (2020) SC 453.

²⁰ State of Karnataka v. Krishnamurthy, (2017) 3 SCC 774.

III. REASONS RESPONSIBLE FOR MOB LYNCHING

There are certain reasons and responsibilities for Mob Lynching some of these are:-

1. Lack of Trust in the Legal System

The general mistrust of the legal system is one of the main causes of mob lynching. Many people think that the legal system is unresponsive, ineffective, or corrupt, especially in rural or undeveloped areas. Frustration and a need for "instant justice" result from the perception that criminals will not receive prompt retribution. People take matters into their own hands when they believe the law is unable to protect them or provide prompt justice. This is demonstrated by instances of public attacks on people suspected of stealing, blasphemy, or other offences, which occur in nations like Kenya, Pakistan, and India.

2. Communal and Religious Tensions

In cultures characterised by religious or communal divisions, mob lynching frequently provides a means of expressing fear or hatred towards alleged "outsiders" or "others." For instance, religious hatred is often the driving force behind mob lynching in India. Claims of interfaith weddings, religious conversions, or cow slaughter can easily turn into violent lynching. Similar to this, blasphemy charges frequently serve as the catalyst for mob lynching in nations like Pakistan, when mobs violently attack the accused in spite of the lack of supporting evidence. Tensions within a community or religion can make people more prone to believe rumours and less inclined to look for proof or take legal action.

3. Social Inequality and Economic Disparities

Mob lynching is also significantly influenced by social and economic inequality. Mobs are more prone to target marginalised groups like the poor, lower castes, or ethnic minorities in many developing countries where wealth distribution is unequal. Mob violence may become increasingly acceptable or even justified in some groups as a result of systemic discrimination and their anger with the lack of opportunity. For instance, people from low-income origins may be more prone to be lynched in areas with high poverty rates because they are perceived as easy targets for allegations or societal scapegoating.

4. Role of Social Media and Rumours

It is impossible to undervalue the part social media plays in inciting violence and disseminating misleading information. Rumours can spread quickly in the digital age on sites like Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp. A mob attack might be sparked by a single unfounded rumour, such as the claim of snatching a child or slaughtering a cow. Social media increases mistrust and anxiety

by disseminating unverified information, which fuels irrational mob behaviour. For instance, in India, mob lynching has been connected to WhatsApp rumours that went viral and led to multiple public attacks, particularly in rural areas where people are more likely to believe false information²¹.

5. Failure of Law Enforcement

Mob lynching frequently occurs as a result of law enforcement's inability to respond quickly or fairly. People may believe they have no alternative but to seek justice on their own when the police are unable to apprehend and prosecute violent crime offenders. There are no deterrents for mob violence in some places because of the police presence being lacking and the corruption in law enforcement²². The size or power of the mob sometimes makes law enforcement too scared to step in, or they may even be complicit in the violence, which gives the crowd even more confidence to act without consequence.

6. Cultural Acceptance of Vigilantism

Vigilantism—the belief that justice can only be delivered outside of the established legal system—is tolerated or even glorified in some civilisations. People are more prone to engage in or support lynching as a result of this cultural acceptance, which can also normalise mob violence. Vigilantism frequently develops into an alternate kind of justice for the populace in nations with a history of civil wars or political upheaval where the established order of government has been undermined. Since some people see mob violence as a necessary evil in the absence of justice, this normalisation makes it more difficult to stop.

7. Political Exploitation and Manipulation

Political organisations who want to take advantage of social differences for their own benefit occasionally manipulate or even start mob lynching. Political groups or leaders may encourage mob violence to bolster their authority, scare off opponents, or divert attention from other problems. Mob lynching is a tactic used by political leaders to keep control or further their own goals in nations with weak political systems or where the rule of law is shaky, which feeds the cycle of violence.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Mob lynching is a global issue with distinct characteristics in each country, often driven by

²¹ Arun, C. (2019). On WhatsApp, Rumours, Lynching's, and the Indian Government. *Economic & Political Weekly*, 54(6).

²² Ahmed, S. (2018). Minority Rights Protection in India; From Sachar Committee Recommendations to Mob Lynching. *Review Of Research Journal*.

societal, economic, or political factors such as communal tensions, distrust in the justice system, or lack of law enforcement. While many countries have laws against murder and violence that can apply to mob lynching, specific laws targeting the issue are often weak, poorly enforced, or non-existent. Addressing mob lynching requires stronger legal frameworks, efficient law enforcement, and efforts to restore public faith in the justice system. While India's legal system provides various provisions under the BNS and BNSS to address crimes associated with mob lynching, there is a significant gap in terms of specific legislation against lynching. Though the Supreme Court has issued guidelines and some states have introduced anti-lynching laws but the lack of uniformity and timely enforcement remains a major issue. A comprehensive national law is required to effectively curb mob lynching and ensure that victims receive justice, while also deterring such violence in the future. Legal reform, along with stronger law enforcement, is crucial in tackling this growing issue. Despite the existing legal provisions, experts argue that there is a need for a comprehensive anti-lynching law that specifically addresses the issue of mob violence and lynching. Laws should be specifically made that Define lynching as a distinct crime, Establish strict penalties for individuals and groups involved in lynching, Mandate the setting up of state-level committees to monitor and prevent lynching, Ensure swift trials and justice for victims through special fast-track courts, provide compensation to the victims' families.

The public's participation in lynching exposes a troubling pattern of collective violence in which common people circumvent official authority by enforcing the law on their own while influenced by their religious or ideological convictions. This concerning change is indicative of a decline in faith in institutions and a weakening of the principles that uphold safety and peace. It has been challenging to address the systematic character of mob violence due to the lack of a dedicated anti-lynching statute, even though the Indian Penal Code (IPC)/ BNS contains provisions for punishment in cases of murder, rioting, and conspiracy. In addition, those who commit such heinous crimes have been encouraged by the postponed justice and, in certain situations, the compassion shown to offenders.

The Supreme Court of India has issued several significant decisions, including *Tehseen Poonawalla v. Union of India* (2018), which have highlighted the concerning increase in mob lynching and called for prompt and decisive action from the federal and state governments. In order to address this serious issue, the Court's proposals for preventive measures such as raising awareness of the criminality of mob lynching, establishing fast-track courts, and guaranteeing compensation for victims remain essential. These rules are necessary, yet they are insufficient on their own. An ongoing weakness in India's legal system is the absence of a dedicated anti-

lynching law.

In conclusion, mob lynching is still a serious problem that needs to be addressed immediately and consistently by all facets of society, even though India has made progress in combating hate and violence in all of its manifestations. India can make great strides in eliminating the threat of mob lynching by strengthening legislative protections, enhancing law enforcement procedures, promoting social peace, and guaranteeing prompt justice. This would ultimately create a society that is safer and more inclusive for everyone.
