RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Family Refutes Viral Claim About Muzaffarnagar Man's Last Rites

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Viral posts claimed a Muslim friend performed Anubhav Sharma's last rites because his Hindu family stayed away. His brother Sharad rejected that account: he said he performed the rituals with relatives present, while their friend Yunus helped. The underlying newspaper report quoted no eyewitness.



Screengrab of a journalist's tweet

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Sharad Sharma said he personally performed his brother's last rites and that both family members and people from his community were present.
- Sharad acknowledged Yunus's friendship and presence throughout, while rejecting the claim that Yunus had performed the funeral rites instead of the family.
- Sharad explained that the circulated photograph showed Yunus adding raal, a powder used to help the funeral pyre catch fire.
- The Amar Ujala report carried a headline crediting a Muslim friend with the last rites, claimed coronavirus caused the death and quoted no eyewitness.

THE TAKEAWAY

The deceased man's brother said he performed the last rites and that the widely shared photograph showed his brother's friend adding powder to help the pyre catch fire.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in April 2021. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.