RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Why Haryana Families Sought Public Acceptance Through Ghar Wapsi

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Ground reporting in Sonipat and Panipat found families whose Hindu worship and official identities coexisted with a Muslim social label. Their ghar wapsi ceremonies sought public acceptance, especially for marriage and cremation, while lockdown gave local organisers time to bring plans together.



A picture of the 'ghar wapsi' organised in Aasan Kalan in Panipat in June

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Satish said his family was already Hindu in official records and that he held an OBC certificate as a Hindu dhobi.
- He explained that changing funeral practices required community support because cremation access and his children's marriage prospects could otherwise be threatened.
- Satish described his 7 June havan as a public announcement of acceptance by Hindu dhobis and Hindus belonging to other communities.
- Naseeb recalled struggling to secure community support for his sister-in-law's wish to be cremated, despite her observance of demanding Navaratra fasts.

THE TAKEAWAY

In Khewra and Aasan Kalan, families that already followed Hindu customs used public ghar wapsi ceremonies to seek community acceptance for changing practices such as burial.

BACK RASHTRA JYOTI.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in September 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.