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REPORT BRIEF
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Hyderabad Family Disputes Times of India Report on Last Rites

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Venu Mudiraj's family challenged a front-page Times of India report that five Muslim men organised his last rites after neighbours shunned the family. His brother denied the statement attributed to him and said relatives had gathered despite lockdown restrictions.


5 Muslim men organise last rites of Hindu man shunned by neighbours

Died Of TB, But Locals Believed He Had Covid-19

The report published in a newspaper.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The Times of India ran the story across its major editions on 20 April. Its Hyderabad edition put the claim about the funeral on the front page.
- Vinod said the lockdown limited the gathering to 20 people. He rejected the suggestion that his family was too small to carry out the rites.
- Mudiraj's son identified the men at the front of the newspaper photograph as his maternal uncles. He said he did not recognise one man standing behind them.
- A relative said the family was considering legal action because the story had damaged its reputation. The relative spoke on condition of anonymity.

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