RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Why Mumbai's Diwali Complainant Deserved to Be Heard

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The article argues that news outlets treated the Mumbai police's dismissal of a communal motive as grounds to discredit Vishwa Bhanu without giving his account a fair hearing. It cites coverage of the police statement and Bhanu's account that neighbours forced his family to remove their Diwali lights after repeatedly harassing them during Hindu festivals.



Vishwa Bhanu.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Malvani police filed a non-cognizable report recording the neighbour's complaint about electric shocks from the lights and the verbal abuse of Bhanu's wife.
- Bhanu disputed the account that his neighbours merely wanted the lights placed higher. He said they forced him to take them down and gathered a crowd to intimidate him.
- Sharma found that most publications leading with the police statement did not seek Bhanu's version or ask him to respond before running those headlines.
- Bhanu said his employer's office asked him to remove references to his employment from social media after the coverage. He feared losing his job for speaking up.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in November 2019. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.