RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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What the Begusarai Dalit Atrocity Exposed About English Media

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that English-language outlets downplayed a Begusarai Dalit family's allegation that Muslim neighbours attacked them and pressured them to leave. She cites a recorded Factchecker.in interview in which a reporter questioned the family's account of a religious motive, and coverage that relied on preliminary police statements or villagers who did not witness the attack.



English media aversion to reporting Muslim-on-Dalit atrocities

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- In the interview transcript, a FactChecker journalist suggested the attackers wanted the house and would have targeted a Muslim family too. The child maintained the motive was religious.
- NewsCentral24x7 dismissed the family's account of religious motivation on the strength of four villagers' statements. Swati notes that none of the four had witnessed the incident.
- FactChecker's own rules gave victim testimony weight unless overwhelming evidence contradicted it. Swati challenges its use of the village report and omission of the case.
- A probe found serious lapses in the local police response. The station head was suspended for changing the original FIR after the matter reached the Scheduled Castes Commission.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

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