RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Cultural Discrimination · From the reporting archive

The Price Some Indian Muslims Paid for Joining Hindu Festivals

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that communal harmony is stronger when Muslims are free to take part in local Hindu festivals. The article cites a separation after Holi, a reported assault after a Kanwar yatra and accounts of clerical pressure, alongside examples of Muslims who celebrate Holi and Diwali.



It's troubling to think that celebrating local festivals can be seen as taboo.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Muntazar said his wife wanted a written pledge on his future conduct. He refused, and the dispute was being heard by a Darul-Qaza.
- In Baghpat, Babu Khan was beaten at the entrance to his local mosque after taking part in a Kanwar yatra and told to go to a temple.
- One interviewee described an Andhra Pradesh village where most Muslims kept Hindu surnames, worshipped the local Hindu deity and continued to observe major Hindu festivals.
- Begusarai resident Mohammad Anwar told Swarajya that his village celebrated Holi and Diwali. He entered the Hindu fold after facing social boycott outside that village.

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SCAN TO SUPPORT

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