RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Meat and Liquor Bans Divide Mathura District Towns

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Uttar Pradesh's pilgrimage-site policy drew different lines across seven towns in Mathura district. Vrindavan and Barsana barred meat, while five other towns barred liquor alone. In Vrindavan, many Hindu residents welcomed the policy and former meat sellers described losing their livelihoods.



Representational image

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The state government banned the sale and consumption of meat in Vrindavan and Barsana in October 2017 after officially recognising the two towns as holy pilgrimage sites.
- The restrictions in five other pilgrimage towns covered the sale and consumption of liquor. The June 2018 report recorded that meat remained outside those restrictions.
- Vrindavan meat seller Shehzad Qureshi said the October circular shut his business overnight and left him taking up labouring work to make ends meet.
- A Hindu shopkeeper on Mathura's Daresi Road rejected the claim that only one community bore the cost, pointing to who ran the liquor trade.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in June 2018. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.