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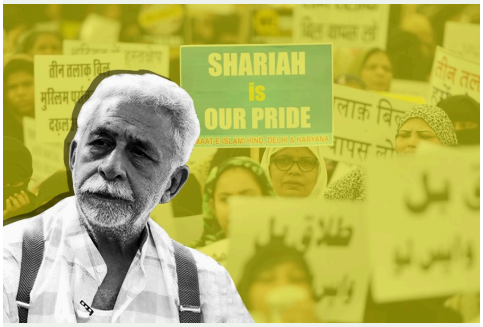
ANALYSIS BRIEF
900512 · September 2021

Culture · From the reporting archive

Naseeruddin Shah's Appeal to Preserve Hindustani Islam

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The author argues that what Naseeruddin Shah calls 'Hindustani Islam' is a way of living alongside Hindus in India. The author points to shared Islamic scripture and rituals across countries and contrasts Hindu–Muslim coexistence in India with the treatment of religious minorities and their places of worship in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Naseeruddin Shah.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Shah asked Indian Muslims to choose between reform and medieval values after criticising a section of the community for celebrating the Taliban's return to power.
- Several prominent Muslims challenged Shah's term on the grounds that Islam does not vary by region. The authors also distinguish local culture from religious doctrine.
- The authors describe coexistence in India as a distinctive way of living together. They attribute the tolerance Shah wants to preserve to Hindu cultural influence.
- Replying to Shah's criticism of Uttar Pradesh's anti-forced conversion law, the authors cite earlier reporting from its first month in which seven of nine statements before magistrates supported the allegations.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in September 2021. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.