RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Culture · From the reporting archive

Hanuman Garhi: Ayodhya's Pilgrimage, Warrior Monks and Violent History

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

Hanuman Garhi's crowded steps conceal a history of Nawabi patronage, warrior monks and attacks recorded in nineteenth-century accounts. This December 2023 report follows the temple's religious life, conflicting narratives of the 1855 violence and the redevelopment reshaping surrounding shops.



The entrance of Hanuman Garhi temple

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Pilgrims commonly begin at Hanuman Garhi because they believe Hanuman's permission is needed before visiting Lord Ram, giving the temple a distinctive devotional role.
- Mahant Premdas estimated that roughly 600 bairagis associated with Hanuman Garhi belonged to Nirvani akhara, within an Ayodhya population exceeding 15,000 bairagis.
- The quoted Faizabad Gazetteer describes an 1855 assault on Hanuman Garhi, its repulse, and a Hindu counterattack on Janamasthan.
- Road widening had demolished or reduced shops near major temples; traders reported inadequate compensation, while some also anticipated gains from increased pilgrimage.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in December 2023. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.