RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
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Religious Hate Crimes · From the reporting archive

Ambedkar's Criticism of Riots Over Hindu Procession Music

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma**

The author argues that violence over music played by Hindu processions near mosques continues a pattern Ambedkar described a century ago. The piece pairs Ambedkar's account of deadly riots in Bengal with reports of Ram Navami violence and a local rule that diverted a Durga procession away from a mosque in Balrampur.



Dr B R Ambedkar. (Wikimedia Commons)

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Ambedkar identified cow slaughter, music outside mosques and religious conversion as three principal sources of Hindu-Muslim discord in his book on Partition.
- In the quoted passage, Ambedkar argued that demands to stop music in India arose because Hindus claimed the right to play it.
- Reporting from Harkhadi described an administrative rule requiring the Durga idol's vehicle to take a longer route around the mosque.
- The argument criticises sections of the media and intelligentsia for blaming procession organisers for passing mosques instead of holding attackers responsible.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in April 2022. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.