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Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Campus Nation
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***Pilgrimage and Procession in a Shared Sacred Space:
Inscriptions from Udaypur in Medieval Malwa***

At Udaypur in modern-day Madhya Pradesh, a major Śiva temple founded in 1080 stands as the only surviving imperial monument of the Paramāra kingdom of Malwa (972-1305). Remarkably, a congregational mosque built here in 1338 under the Sultanate of Delhi (1206-1526) is situated on the same platform, directly attached to the temple's *śikhara*. A series of inscriptions on the temple walls reveal that the temple and the mosque continued to operate side by side under Muslim rule during the 14th-15th centuries. This new epigraphic evidence will be presented for the first time. Written in colloquial Sanskrit, the records give a precise date on which pilgrims participated in the festival procession of the temple deity, using the generic term *yātrā*—in its vernacular form *jātrā*—to designate both the god's procession and the pilgrim's journey. A variety of sources show that *yātrās* were highly public performances that involved flag-raising, image processions, music, dancing and drama, and thus punctuated the festival calendar of urban temples in the 10th-13th centuries. The very act of recording this event on temple walls was no less public and performative, but such inscriptions are rarely considered beyond their documentary value in terms of commemoration. Reading these inscriptions in their architectural context thus allows us to develop a richer understanding of temple processions and the epigraphic practices of pilgrims in northern India, especially when much of the discussion on this subject has focused on Tamil temples of the Chola period. The evidence for the continuity of such temple *jātrās* at Udaypur and their memorialisation under Sultanate rule—a period usually represented in academic and popular discourse as a rupture in the familiar sacred landscape—shall allow for a broader discussion about the dynamic construction of Hindu-Muslim identities through ritual movement in discrete yet adjacent spaces of worship.

Saarthak Singh, historien de l'art de l'Asie du Sud prémoderne, est doctorant à l'Université de New York ; sa thèse présente la première analyse systématique de l'architecture, de l'épigraphie et du paysage de la ville médiévale d'Udaypur dans le Madhya Pradesh.