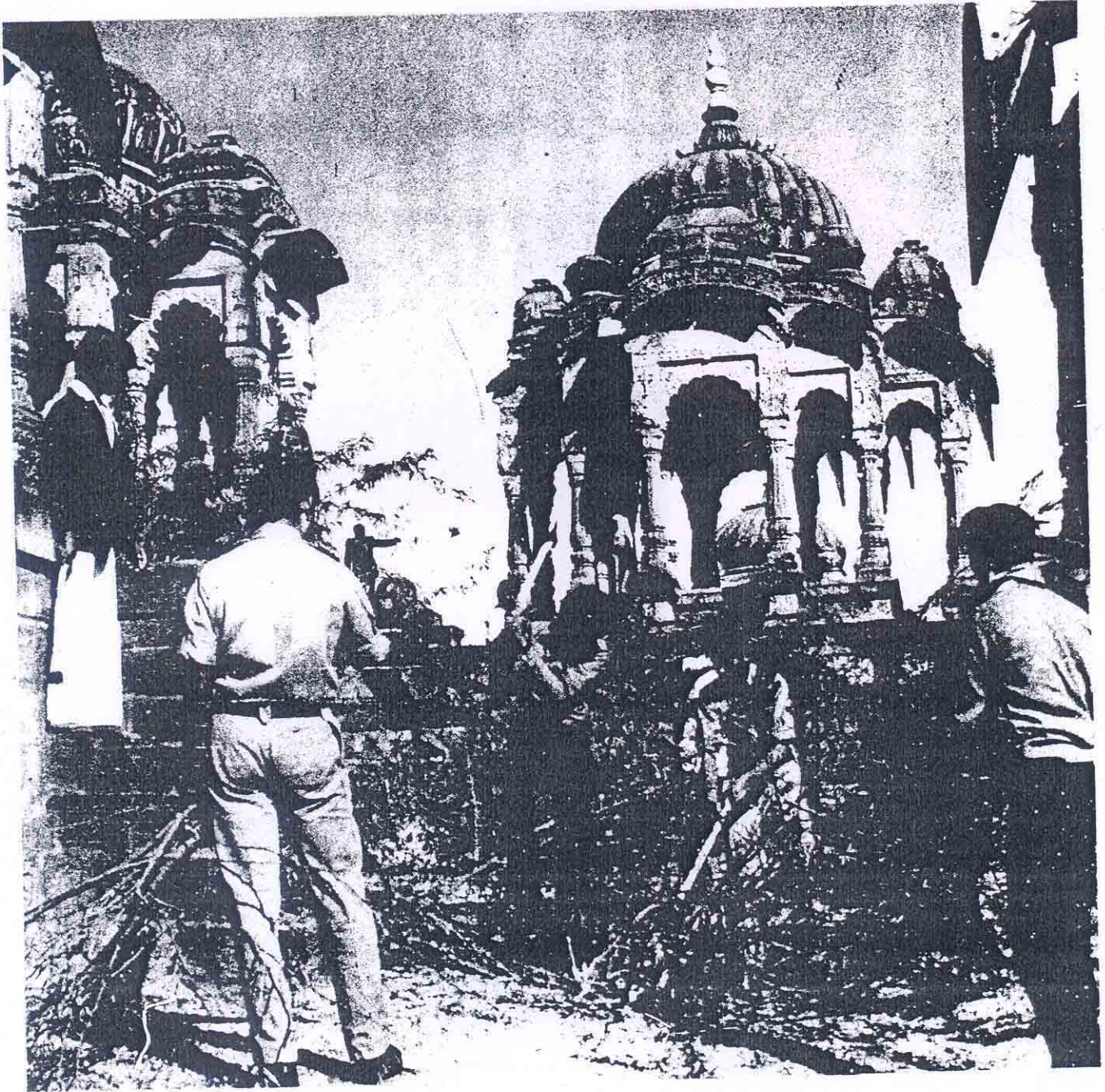


# INTACH

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage

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*REGIONAL ROUNDUP*

# BASTI HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN

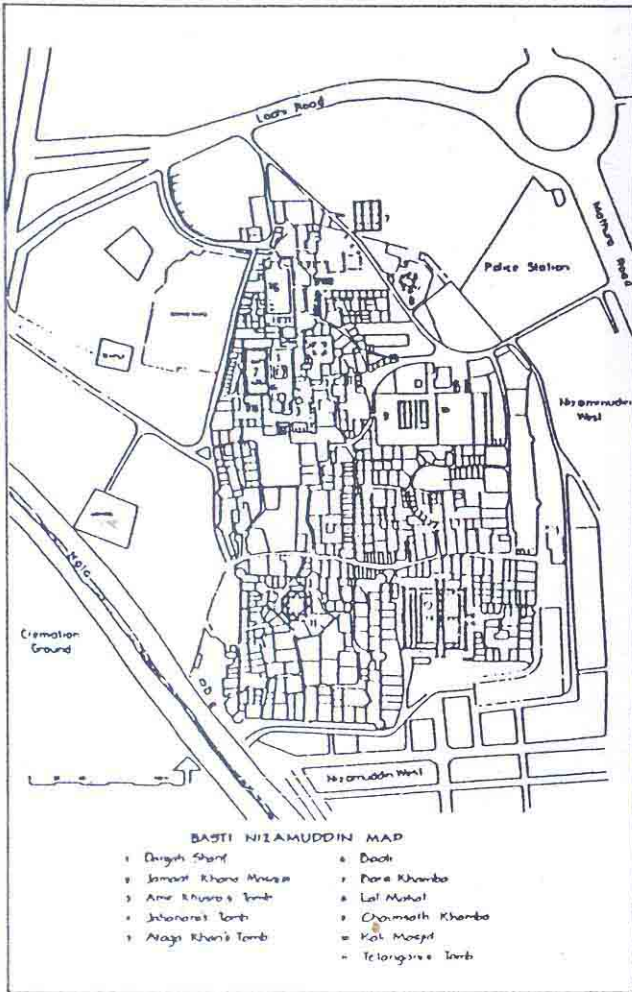
a conservation programme

M.N. Ashish Ganju and Ali Bacquer  
For GREHA

उस शहर को बुरा न कहो  
जिसने तुम्हें बर्दाश्त कर लिया है

اِن شہر کو برا نہ کہو جس نے تمہیں  
برداشت کر لیا ہے  
حضرت علی ابن ابی طالب

हज़रत अली इब्ने अबी तालिब 7th Century A.D.



## The Context

Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, located in a fast developing neighbourhood of New Delhi, is the final resting place of Hazrat Nizamuddin, the Sufi saint. In his theological teachings, the Hazrat had stressed the value of the concept of the unity of God and the spiritual need to have faith. The Dargah within the Basti has remained, over the past six centuries, an important source of the Sufi tradition and has always attracted large numbers of pilgrims from all faiths and all parts of the world.

There are several features of this ancient settlement which make it unique. Its present status cannot be compared with its earlier glory when it was frequented by emperors, kings, poets, ordinary people as well as the elite of society. The habitation around the Dargah, initially having established itself with the physical presence of the Sufi saint in the 13th century A.D., continues to grow in response to the spiritual presence of Hazrat Nizamuddin.

Slums are often located in areas of second choice. The Basti, however, enjoys a central location and has in its neighbourhood some of the most affluent settlements with a vibrant network of relationships with the Basti and its ten thousand residents. The Basti cannot be looked at for what it is but for what it does for those who live within it or those who visit it. The range of security that the Basti offers its residents makes up for other forms of stagnation in its development. Any programme for the