Photo: MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity – Reza Masoudi Nejad

Waiting for His Holiness

The stereotype of the isolated researcher – that doesn't apply here at all: Peter van der Veer and Reza Masoudi Nejad, both from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen, are studying the religious diversity of India. Their approach involves plunging themselves into the tumult, as here in the streets of Mumbai. Thousands of Shiite Muslims from the Dawudi Bohra community crowd into the Bhindi Bazaar to catch a glimpse of their spiritual leader. This faith originated in Fatimid Egypt in the 11th century. Despite the long tradition, the faithful registered to attend a sermon by His Holiness via e-mail.