

FRIDAY

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
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FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 3:00 PM

SRINIVAS SEMINAR ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**SHARIB
ZEYA**



MODERNITIES AND REPERTORIES: SOCIAL IMAGINARIES AFTER AYODHYA

Abstract:

In this presentation, I look at the long-standing Babri Masjid-Ramjanmabhoomi dispute (that ended with the Supreme Court decision of 2019) as the possible source of a social process that provided a 'repertory' for forthcoming contestations of a similar nature. My inquiry starts from the Gyanvapi instance, where, instead of an attempt to enter the mosque, desecrate it and install idols of a deity, a petition asked for an archaeological survey under the guidance of the court. My attempt here is to understand two 'modernities' – one with a repertory, and the other without it. The Hindu repertory enabled the use of images, stories and legends to create a 'widely shared sense of legitimacy' ultimately affirmed by the judiciary. I read the Muslim hope in the judiciary, and their belief that modern secular law will follow the principles of natural justice, as the lack of a repertory. My argument is that it is the Ayodhya dispute's encounter with western modernity that creates the conditions for both the presence and the absence of a repertory.

The Speaker:

Sharib Zeya teaches sociology at the Indraprastha College for Women. His research interests focus on institutions like landed property, state, village and law, and the processes by which they operate and mediate the social and influence popular ideas like that of justice. Previously, he has been a Guest Lecturer at the Department of Sociology and in colleges (Hindu College and Miranda House) of Delhi University.