

**In south asia there occurs a haziness regrading modernism and modernity
: Prof. Saurabh Dube**

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“In south asia, there is a certain haziness regarding modernism and modernity, derived from the fact that they can be confused” explained Prof. Saurabh Dube; Professor of History, CEAA, El Colegio de México at a lecture on 'Modernisms in India' recently delivered at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. This lecture was part of ICG Lecture Series by Eminent Persons and was co-organised by The International Centre Goa, BITS Pilani Goa Campus and Department of History, Goa University. The lecture was chaired by Prof Kumkum Roy, Professor at Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Visiting Research Professor under DD Kosambi Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies, Goa University. Also present at the programme were Prof. Meenakshi Raman, Head of Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, BITS Pilani Goa Campus, Prof. Pratima Kamat, Head of Department of History, Goa University and Mr. Yatin G. Kakodkar, President, The International Centre Goa.

Prof. Dube explained, “modernisation implicitly involves pervasive projections of material, organizational and technological; as well as economic, political and cultural transformations; these changes are principally envisioned in the reflection of western development. Such a west or Europe is entirely imaginary and in this scenario it is that certain people either succeed or fail to evolve from their traditional circumstances to arrive at a modernized order”.

Prof. Dube focused the lecture on the epilogue to a book “Subjects of Modernity”; to be released later this year from Manchester University Press. The book works through critical understandings of time, space and salient subjects of a modernist provident in the Indian subcontinent. He described “modernism are aesthetic and artistic practices that have extended from the mid and late nineteenth century into the present. Alongside, however, are claims of a surpassing of the past that appear variously influenced by empire and nation, communitarianism and nationalism, memory and history, the mythic and the primitive, a fractured independence and a violent partition, the political and the postcolonial, gender and sexuality, body and pain, and the epic and the contemporary. The discussion suggests the salience of tracking heterogeneous yet overlaying temporalities of modernisms, including the creation of time and space within aesthetic practices of modern subjects, in South Asia”, he said.

Prof. Dube concluded with a presentation of works of Savi Sawarkar, an expressionist and dalit artist of extraordinary imagination and prowess. “His representations”, Prof. Dube described “captured the interplay between meaning and power, within regimes of religion, caste, gender and politics while drawing upon distinctive artistic and idealogical influences”.

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