

DR K.R. NARAYANAN CENTRE FOR DALIT AND
MINORITIES STUDIES

B.R. AMBEDKAR MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Listening to 'Hindi' Cinema

by

Mr Ravikant

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Venue: Reading Room, Dr K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and
Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Time & Date: 2.30 PM, Thursday, 20 September 2012

The Topic: We had reasons to assume till recently that the Hindi-Urdu debate which had inflected the North Indian identity politics in the last century, was a non-issue in the domains of audio visual media, i.e., cinema and radio. This position of intellectual comfort requires revision from the vantage point of new research on the after-life of Hindi cinema and its reception beyond the screen and the national frontiers via the technologies of reproduction and relay such as gramophone, radio, audio-video cassettes, cds and so on. "Listening to 'Hindi' Cinema" hopes to forefront the popular defiance involved in the ways in which cinematic content was appreciated as songs and dialogues, even if the elite reformers tried their best to censor these practices in the name of the nation's cultural purity, integration and healthy pedagogy. It also invites you to have a closer look at aurophilia - the love of listening - evidenced in some older Hindi films.

The Speaker: Ravikant is a historian, writer and translator. He read and taught modern history in Delhi University before joining the Sarai Programme of the CSDS in 2000. His publications include *Translating Partition* (co-edited with *Tarun K Saint*), and (co-edited with Sanjay Sharma) *Deewane-e-Sarai: Shaharnama*, and *Deewan-e-Sarai: Media Vimarsh://Hindi Janpad*. He has also edited *Ummeed Hogi Koi: Gujarat, 2002-06*, written by Saroop Dhruv.