REMEMBERING 1992: SIX FILMS EXPLORE THE RIOTS OF MUMBAI AND ITS AFTERMATH


THE FILM IS PART OF A SERIES OF SIX FILMS, CALLED 'REMEMBERING 1992', WHICH WERE MADE TO MARK THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUMBAI RIOTS - AN EVENT THAT HAS CHANGED THE CITY IN A LOT OF WAYS. THE FILMS, PRODUCED BY THE SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND CULTURAL STUDIES (SCMS) IN TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (TISS) ARE BASED ON THE AFTERMATH OF THE RIOTS AND REFLECTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES THAT ENGAGE THE PLACES AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED IN THE RIOTS.

PIYUSH'S FILM DOCUMENTS THE SPREAD OF GHETTOS IN MUMBRA - A PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM COLONY THAT STARTED FLOURISHING AFTER THE BHIWANDI RIOTS IN 1984. SINCE 1992, PEOPLE DISPLACED IN THE RIOTS STARTED MIGRATING TO MUMBRA - MOSTLY MUSLIMS WHO FELT PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE IN A CITY WHERE THEY WERE TARGETED DURING THE RIOTS. HE SAID, "PEOPLE OFTEN REFERRED TO MUMBRA AS 'CHOTA PAKISTAN'. I WANTED TO UNDERSTAND WHY THERE IS A CERTAIN BIAS TOWARDS PEOPLE LIVING THERE." ACCORDING TO HIM, WHAT AFFECTED HIM MOST WAS HIS DAILY COMMUTE HOME TO KALYAN, WHICH IS A FEW STATIONS AWAY FROM MUMBRA. WHEREAS 'AAKHRI PANAH' LOOKS AT MUMBRA, ANOTHER FILM 'AMAN XI KHOJ' LOOKS AT ANOTHER AREA THAT WAS AFFECTED BY THE RIOTS - DHARAVI. THE FILM TRIES TO UNDERSTAND AND DOCUMENT THE WORK OF THE MOHALLA COMMITTEES - ORGANISATIONS THAT WERE FORMED IN THE SLUMS FOR FOSTERING COMMUNAL HARMONY AND INTEGRATION AFTER THE RIOTS. WOMEN HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE MOHALLA COMMITTEE BY ORGANISING ALL-WOMEN IFTAAR PARTIES, AN ISSUE THAT HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED BY THE FILMS.