The raid of Mahmud of Ghazni on Somanatha in 1026 has given rise to a variety of historical reactions. Turko-Persian sources give graphic, sometimes exaggerated accounts as late as the 17th Century. Sanskrit and Jaina texts written after the raid describe activities involving the temple but are silent about the raid and do not show animosity towards the Muslim traders of Somanatha.

Why, therefore, did the British in the 19th Century make Somanatha the symbol of intense hatred between the Hindus and the Muslims—an idea that was eagerly embraced by religious nationalisms of the 20th Century? This presentation by Romila Thapur will explore the many voices that go into the making of a history and ideologies that are determining relations between Hindus and Muslims today.

Romila Thapar
Professor Romila Thapar is emeritus professor of history at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, where she taught from 1970 to 1991, after teaching at Delhi University. She specializes in early Indian history, and is the author of many books, most recently *Early India*, an enlarged revision of the earlier Penguin *History of India*.

APRIL 10, 2003
7:30 p.m
Levis Faculty Center, third floor