



Two-Day National Conference
on
**“Kashmir and Central Asia:
Revisiting Links and Legacies”**
(November 29th -30th , 2023)

Organized by
Centre of Central Asian Studies
University of Kashmir, Srinagar.



Concept Note

Kashmir's relation with Central Asia is well documented and has become a reality from ancient times; so much so that it has a distinction to be a meeting ground of the great movements of peoples and ideas which took place in the Indian Sub-continent; leaving a deep mark on its political, economic, social and cultural landscape. The immigration of saints artisans and traders through the ages had an inconceivable effect on the cultural landscape of this region; developing links and relations from both sides. For example, the message of Buddha, from India spread through central Asia from Kashmir. With the spread of Islam in Central Asia, the region within a few centuries emerged as a great knowledge hub of mediaeval times; giving impetus to path breaking developments in different disciplines of knowledge alongside religious sciences. In fact, this region and its cultures have played a significant role in the development of an Islamic civilisation that remodelled and refreshed the prevalent trends in art, architecture, literature, and thought. Thus, the influx of scholars and literary personalities from Central Asian region in Kashmir and other Indian centres of culture and learning experienced benevolent encounter of ideas with the indigenous scholars led to an aura of co-existence, mutual understanding and tolerance.

To further strengthen Indo-Central Asian shared legacy, an effort is to be made to promote the age old ties and forge new links which may lead to better relations in diverse contexts. It is only befitting that a serious and deep study be undertaken of all the historical data and facts relating to the aforementioned movements of ideas and peoples from Central Asia to Kashmir, so as to analyse and interpret their significance and impact towards exploring ways and means for future cooperation between India and Central Asia.

In this backdrop, the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, contemplates to hold a National Conference on the theme “**Kashmir and Central Asia: Revisiting Links and Legacies**” in November, 2023. In view of the proposed theme, the deliberations will cover the period from the earliest times to the turn of the 20th century and will primarily embrace the issues regarding different aspects of literature, philosophy, art, culture and political relations etc. The conference will also devote attention to the ways and means for developing closer collaboration between India &

Central Asia and will pass resolutions and make recommendations with regard to the issues deliberated upon. The recommendations and the resolutions passed in this regard will be sent to the relevant quarters for consideration.

Sub-themes / Areas:

1. Indo- Central Asian literary legacy, its significance in present day world.
2. India and Central Asia relations: prospect and retrospect
3. Central Asian mystic thought and emergence of different Sufi orders in Central Asia; its promotion and significance in Kashmir.
4. Contribution of great Persian literary masters of Kashmir and Central Asia in the development of composite culture of tolerance, love and accommodation.
5. Significance of spread of Buddhist traditions in Central Asia from Kashmir and emergence of great Buddhist centers in Central Asia.
6. Role of ruling dynasties of Central Asia and Kashmir in the promotion of scholarship, trade and religious beliefs.
7. Any other significant topic not covered under the mentioned sub-themes but related to the broader idea of the theme.

Call for Papers/Abstract:

We enthusiastically invite presentations/papers centered around above-mentioned themes and areas. Please submit your abstracts exclusively via **caklinkages@gmail.com**. The abstracts should be succinct, containing no more than 200 words. It should be written in clear and concise English, adhering to proper spelling and sentence structure.

The abstract must provide a lucid exposition of the paper's importance, the sources referenced, and the study's outcomes. A diligent Committee will scrutinize all submitted abstracts to confirm that the paper's title aligns with the seminar's intended focus. Acknowledgment will be issued upon successful submission of the abstract. The deadline for abstract submissions extends until **October 25, 2023**.

Important Dates:

Last Date of Submission of Abstract : October 25, 2023.

Notification of the acceptance: October 31, 2023.

Last Date of submission of full papers: November 10, 2023.

Prof. (Dr.) Tabasum Firdous

Director

(Convener)

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir

1. Dr. Abid Gulzar

Sr. Assistant Professor

(Coordinator)

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir

2. Dr. M. Ajmal Shah

Sr. Assistant Professor

(Coordinator)

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir

3. Dr. Asif Mohi ud Din

(Co-Coordinator)

Centre of Central Asian Studies

University of Kashmir