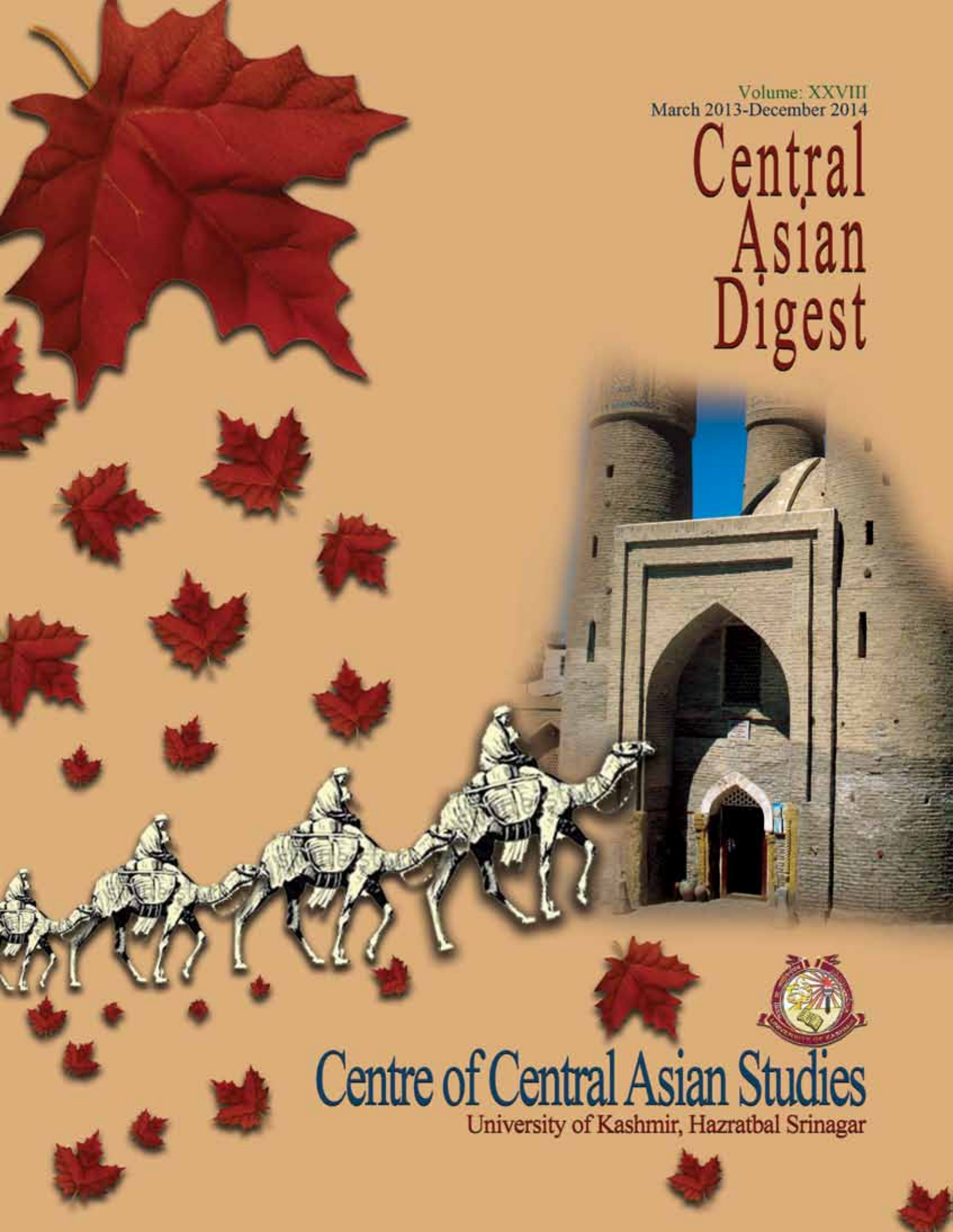


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Central Asian Digest



Centre of Central Asian Studies
University of Kashmir, Hazratbal Srinagar



"CCAS: A Dedicated Centre"

"I am pleased to know that yours is the only University in India that has a dedicated Centre for Central Asian Studies. When I look at Kashmir, I find that both geographically and historically, it links India to the lands and peoples of a very important part of Asia. We are deeply interested in strengthening our ties of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation with all of them.

In particular, we are adding a new dimension to our external relations by deepening and broadening our traditionally friendly ties with all the countries of Central Asia. We call it the 'New Silk Route Initiative.' I was in Kazakhstan last year to attend the first ever summit meeting to discuss issues pertaining to security and cooperation in Central Asia. I would like the academics working in your University to make a solid contribution to this effort."

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Prime Minister of India
16th Annual Convocation
University of Kashmir
19th April, 2003

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Editor:
Dr. Sheikh Talal

Design:
Nazir A Doshab

From the Chief Editor's Desk

This issue of the *Central Asian Digest* should have been in the hands of our esteemed readers almost a year before. A number of obstacles cropped up to hinder its progress - the last being the floods (September 2014), which brought destruction and death, and paralysed the whole system for months together. This was perhaps for the first time that the people of Kashmir saw the ferocious face of otherwise calm Jhelum. Thus amid the gloom of hopelessness and helplessness menacing the whole Valley, we had to pick up the thread from where it had been left.

During the past two years, our Centre witnessed many changes and the most important being the superannuation of our senior most colleagues. Parting is always painful: we miss them for they were undoubtedly men of vision and understanding who served the Centre at different levels with all their sincerity.

After I took over as the Director CCAS on 31 May, 2014, the Centre, as usual, remained busy with seminars, conferences, extension lectures and other related activities. A number of M.Phil. and Ph.D. scholars completed their research programme and were awarded degrees. To make the research pursuits more compatible in the furtherance of Indo-Central Asian relations, the scholars are directed to submit a brief summary of their research findings to be submitted to the concerned agencies. Simultaneously, attention is focused on the periodical publications of the Centre, the *Journal* and the *Digest*. During my visits abroad on the invitation of different reputed research institutes and universities, it was found that our publications together with the Centre's over all contribution have made tremendous impact on the concerned institutions outside the country. It was amazing to see the Centre's publications on display in different countries and also referred to by foreign scholars. This was really encouraging - thus making us realise that this Centre had some mission when seen through the eyes of its founders.

Although the mission is yet to be accomplished, it was never abandoned. Our predecessors took care of it to the best of their ability. The mission will go on, and the future programmes of the Centre will continue uninterrupted. During the year 2015 we have planned to complete the interdisciplinary research programme on the Silk Route; translate Persian, Arabic and Sanskrit manuscripts; explore the possibilities for improving bilateral and multilateral relations between India and Central Asia; share the platform with other Area Study Centres of India in order to address the regional issues; identify funding agencies to depute research scholars to their respective areas of research in Central Asia; digitise research output of the Centre and artefacts housed in Central Asian Museum so that these are available online for their optimum utilisation.

True, these programmes need a lot of support and encouragement, and we are hopeful that under the able guidance of our worthy Vice Chancellor, Professor Khursheed Iqbal Andrabi, the Centre will go ahead with its mission to produce valuable research works in accordance with its aims and objectives.

Finally, we are optimistic that the uniqueness of this issue of the *Digest* will be appreciated by the learned readers. It has become more appealing and rich in content. Besides providing a panoramic view of our activities during the years 2013-14, it carries a detailed report (prepared by the Editor) regarding the Conferences and Seminars organised by the Centre during the said period. The "Scholars' Corner" has also been enlarged and includes, besides articles and book reviews, special reports about some of our scholars who visited foreign countries in connection with their field work. The issue will be liked for it has much to offer to our esteemed readers whose encouragement will be deemed as a source of inspiration.



Prof. G. N. Khaki
Chief Editor

CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS

Synthesis of Raga and Maqam in Kashmiri Musical Culture

(20-21 June, 2013)

*Dr. Sheikh Talat**

The Centre Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir (KU), and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, Jointly organised this 2-day International Seminar at the University of Kashmir. The Seminar was



inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Prof. Talat Ahmed. Other dignitaries invited to grace the occasion with their presence on the dais were: Dr Sreeradha Dutta (Director, MAKAIAS), Prof. Sunita Dhar (Ex Head and Dean, Music and Fine Arts Faculty, Delhi University), and Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey (Director, CCAS).

Prof. Aijaz A Bandey, after welcoming the guests, highlighted the future programmes of the CCAS and reiterated that “Our Centre has always been making efforts to help the people of Kashmir to know about their history, culture and traditions. This seminar, which is first of its kind as for the theme is concerned, is also part of our effort to help the people to understand their musical culture and its relation with India and Central Asia, and for this purpose we have even established and maintained a museum called “Central Asian Museum.” Prof. Bandey said that the present Seminar “aims to investigate unique character of Kashmiri Sufiyana Kalam in contexts of interrelations between Indian and Central Asian Music in maqam-raga phenomenon and role of musical instruments which are connected with rendering of professional (art) music, through analysis of contemporary musical traditions of Indian ragas, Central Asian shash-maqam, and Uyghur muqam.”

Dr Sreeradha Dutta, in her special address, introduced MAKAIAS, and highlighted its objectives and achievements. “Our Institute works with focus on social, cultural, economic



* Assistant Professor (Research), Islamic Studies (CCAS) & Editor, *Central Asian Digest*.

and political developments in Asia. Till date, the emphasis has been on affairs in South Asia, Central Asia, and West Asia. We encourage and promote study in the field of secularism and universal brotherhood. Simultaneously, we work on the life, works and mission of Maulana Azad,” Dr. Dutta told the audience. With regard to the present seminar, she said that the advent of Islam changed a lot in our country including the music and fine arts. “Actually, the first conference on such a theme was organised by our Institute in November, 2012, and this one may be called part two of that - only the focus has shifted to Kashmir, and the aim is to put final the genesis of historical roots of Kashmiri and Indian music and how they evolved to the present form.”

Prof. Sunita Dhar delivered the Keynote Address in which she said that music and dance existed in Kashmir even in ancient times. Kashmir was a prominent centre for learning arts, music and dance. According to her, Kashmiri music resembled with the music of India, but “the advent of Islam overshadowed the cultures of Iran, Afghanistan and other parts of Central Asia including Kashmir.” About Kashmiri sufi music, she said that in its classical form, it was mostly borrowed from Central Asian music.

Prof. Talat Ahmed, in his Presidential address, said that “Kashmir was fortunate enough to be in the centre of many great cultures of Central Asia.” Appreciating the efforts of CCAS for organising this International Seminar, which according to him, was the “best platform” to discuss the genesis of Kashmiri musical culture. “I hope that CCAS will continue its efforts to conduct such seminars and workshops in future. I am happy to see young scholars and students participating in the seminar and showing great interest and enthusiasm in sufi music,” Prof. Talat said.

The Presidential Address was followed by screening of an audio visual on MAKAIAS titled “Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Continuing Legacy”. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Dilorom Karomat of MAKAIAS.

After the inaugural function, three technical sessions followed by a special one were held with Prof. Sunita Dhar as the Chairperson of the first session in which following three presentations were made:

- Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Saznawaz: *Kashmiri Sufiyana Kalam in my Imagination.*
- Ustad Mohammad Yaqoob Shaikh: *Qalinfab Tradition and Institute of the Rendering of Kashmiri Sufiyana Kalam.*
- Ustad Mohammad Mushta Saznawaz: *Peculiarities of Rendering Kashmiri Sufiyana Kalam on Saz-i-Kashmir.*

There was an interesting discussion on the above presentations made by well-known musicians of Kashmir. Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Saznawaz spoke in his mother tongue (Kashmiri), while Ustad Yaqoob and Ustad Mushtaq spoke in Urdu. It was Mr Nasir Mirza (of





EMMRC) who came to the rescue of our foreign participants and proved to be a wonderful Translator. Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Saznawaz said that his was the seventh generation involved in *sufiyana* music. He described at length its delicacies and difficulties. The other two musicians Ustad Yaqoob and Ustad Mushtaq spoke on very difficult but interesting themes. Participants from abroad including Dr Rachel Harris and Dr Alexander Djumaev had much to say or enquire after listening to the presentations.

Second technical session was chaired by Prof. G. Tsuge, and the three papers presented were:

- Alexandr Djumaev: *The System of 12 Maqams and Kashmiri Maqams (Sufiyana Kalam): The Common Character of Aesthetic Conceptions and Ideas.*
- Bisakha Goswami: *Sanskrit Medieval Manuscripts: Origin and Aesthetics of Indian Ragas and Names of Persian Maqams.*
- Jean During: *The Musical Chapter of an Indo-Persian Treatise on Medicine Named Tibb-i-Dara Shikoh.*

Third technical session was chaired by Dr Alexandr Djumaev. Three of the foreign participants deliberated on the following themes:

- Rachel Harris: *O'nikki Uyghur Mukams and Kashmiri Maqams: Relations Through the Ages.*
- Tsuge Geniche: *The Qalun: An Uyghur Psalter Depicted in Persian and Mughal Miniatures.*
- Jean During: *Kashmiri and Persian Maqams: Steps for a Comparative Historical and Musicological Study.*

The session ended with a detailed discussion on Kashmiri *sufiyana kalam* in which most of the participants showed keen interest. Dr Rachel Harris briefly introduced the historical and contemporary performance contexts of the Uyghur Twelve Maqam, and described the relationship between this repertoire and Sufi practice in the region. She discussed at length some of the structural, melodic and rhythmic characteristics of the Uyghur Twelve Maqam repertoire, and considered their similarities to the Sufiyana Kalam repertoire. "I speculate that the imposition of different forms of musical theory in the different locations may serve to mask deeper similarities in performance and aesthetics which are rooted in shared traditions of Sufism," she said. This was followed by the screening of Mr. M. K. Raina's documentary "*Mann Faqeer*" based on the *sufiyana kalam* music of Kashmir. At the end, the audience enjoyed a concert by Kashmiri musicians.

On the second day, three special lectures mentioned below were delivered by the delegates from abroad:





- Dr Alexandr Djumaev (Uzbekistan): *Aesthetics of Persian Music in Manuscripts*.
- Dr Rachel Harris (United Kingdom): *The Uyghur Maqam: Changing Contexts and Sounds in the 21st Century, From Dervish Songs to National Icon to Intangible Cultural Heritage*.
- Dr Geniche Tsuge (Japan): *Japanese Gagaku*.

Immediately after the lectures, an informal valedictory session was held in which almost all the delegates and some senior faculty members of the CCAS spoke on different issues that cropped up during the Seminar.

Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw (Former Director, CCAS), said that “students of history know that since 13th century, Arabian, Persian and Turkic cultures started influencing the Indian subcontinent, especially the northern part of it, but what developments took place, so far as the new genres in Indian literature, art and music are concerned, our learned participants, especially from Central Asia, deliberated on these interesting issues during the last two days. They informed us that in the past a number of musicians who came from *mawara-un-nahar* (Transoxiana), wrote treatises in their languages and are of great value. These need to be translated so that new information is acquired, analysed and then added to the existing one”.

Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey (Director CCAS) and Dr Sreeradha Dutta (Director MAKAIAS), assured the participants that the suggestions and opinions expressed with regard to the betterment of the future programmes and plans of the CCAS and MAKAIAS respectively, will be taken care of. Both the Directors expressed their gratitude and thanked the participants whose valuable contributions made the Seminar meaningful and interesting. They also agreed to have many more seminars and symposia in future on the themes of contemporary significance.

Dr Dilorom Karomat, Coordinator (representing) MAKAIAS, and herself an expert in the subject, referred to a number of old manuscripts and treatises belonging to India and



some parts of the Muslim world (Arab-‘Ajam): “Interrelation between the *Raga-ragini* and 12 *maqam* systems in India have produced amazing results and brought to a distinctive synthesis with its phenomenal pearl the *Sufiyana Kalam* in Kashmir.” Referring to her first visit to the Centre, she said that “it was like a dream come true to have this seminar in the beautiful valley where I spent many days almost a decade ago. I was here in connection with my research project and stayed with Dr Raja Bano - (then Associate Professor, CCAS, retired in 2008, a reputed scholar of Persian literature and author of half a dozen books) - who was responsible for making my visit successful. She always made me feel at home. I can never forget her friendship and the role she played.” Dr Karomat also expressed her gratitude to the then Director, Prof. Gulshan Majeed (Rtd. 2008), for his guidance at that time.

Dr Tareak A. Rather, Coordinator CCAS Seminars & Conferences, said that since its inception, CCAS has been organising seminars, conferences and workshops on the themes of geographical, historical, political, economic, sociological and literary significance. And the present one was first of its kind. Fine Arts, perhaps, never became a theme of any of our seminars. “I am a sociologist”, Dr Tareak said, “and seldom interested in these things, but this event has forced me to think a lot. For the first time I realised that it (*sufiyana kalam*) is something delicate but interesting. It was really amazing to see the (non-Kashmiri) foreign participants talking about *our* music. I listened to them carefully.” Dr Tareak expressed his gratitude to Ustad Ghulam Mohammad Saznawaz,* a legend, so far as Kashmir’s *sufiyana* music is concerned, who despite his ill-health had come during the first technical session and delivered a lecture on the theme. Dr Tareak deliberated on the possibilities of holding such seminars in future also. On behalf of the Centre, he thanked the MAKAIAS authorities for their cooperation, and all the participants and employees of the Centre who contributed in their own way to make this International Seminar a memorable event.



* Saznawaz Sahab passed away on 13 .02. 2014, less than eight months after attending this International Seminar. Born in 1940, Saznawaz was the son of great *sufiyana* music maestro Ustad Ramzan Joo. He could play all instruments like *santoor*, *sitar*, *table*, *saz-e-kashmir*, and *madham* used in *sufiyana* orchestra called *Panjhatheyari*. He served Radio Kashmir for a long time. He was honoured on many occasions and was the first Kashmiri *Sufiyana* musician to receive the prestigious *Padam Shri Award* by the President of India for his “life time contribution to *Sufiyana* music of Kashmir.”

Co-operative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects

(29 June – 1 July, 2013)

Summary:

Dr. Sheikh Talal

*Dr. Tareak A. Rather**

INAUGURAL SESSION

Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, this 3-day International Conference was jointly organised by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir (KU), and the Centre for Research in Rural and



Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh. The inaugural session of the Conference was held in the historic Gandhi Bhavan of the University of Kashmir. The dignitaries present on the dais were: Mr.N.N.Vohra (Governor J&K State), Mr. Salman Khursheed (Union Minister of External Affairs), Mr. Omar Abdullah (Chief Minister J & K State), Professor Talat Ahmad (Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir), Dr Yashpal Malhotra (Executive Vice Chairman, CCRID), Dr.S.S.Gill (Director General, CCRID), and Professor Ajaz A.Bandey (Director, CCAS).

Professor Talat Ahmad, during his welcome address, gave a brief profile of the University and welcomed the distinguished guests from India and abroad. While referring to the significance of the Conference he said that “It is no secret that this subject matter acquires special urgency in these days especially when India is looking for all-round cooperation with Central Asian republics.” He also requested the Union Minister of External Affairs to provide internship opportunities to the students of this University so as to make them to understand India’s policy towards other countries. Professor Talat congratulated the Directors of CCAS and CRRID respectively for holding an international conference on such a significant theme.



* Associate Professor (Sociology, CCAS), and Coordinator of Conferences and Seminars.



He also appreciated the efforts made by the Coordinator of the Conference, Dr Tareak A. Rather and his team.

Dr Rashpal Malhotra, after giving his introductory remarks with regard to the theme of the Conference, read out the Prime Minister's message and quoted him as saying that "maintaining and sustaining partnership with Central Asia is significant part of India's Foreign Policy through government of India's project of **Connect Central Asia**." Mr Malhotra expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs for its patronage and consistent support.

Dr S.S. Gill, in his special address, gave details about the achievements and future programmes of the CRRID, and stated that all programmes carried out by it are action oriented and act as a bridge between the governments and the people.

Professor Aijaz A. Bandey gave the background of the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) and said that it was established in 1979 by the government of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah (after much deliberations with the experts) to revive the old relations between the two regions. "Needless to say," Prof. Bandey said, "Kashmir has remained a significant part of the Silk Route, and due to its geographical proximity to Turkistan and Tibet, and the establishment of overland caravan routes linking the vast region, it (Kashmir) played an important role in the intercourse of religious, political, social and cultural domains during ancient and medieval times."

Mr Salman Khurshid, in his inaugural address, repeatedly made it clear that "peace and stability in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan are vital for India and South and Central Asia at large." Highlighting the cultural, spiritual and commercial connection between India and Central Asian Republics during the Soviet period, Mr Khursheed said that since their independence India has been trying to revive those relations with the individual republics through **Connect Central Asia policy**, and that the present international conference was part of that larger exercise. "Trade is a cementing factor", the Minister said, "and another way of connectivity is tourism and people to people contact." He also underlined the importance of energy security, International North-South Corridor, educational relations between India and Central Asia. Another important aspect the Minister deliberated upon was "religious extremism and terrorism which do not affect individual societies alone, and are two major challenges which should unite India and the countries of Central Asia."

Mr Omar Abdullah, in a similar posture, highlighted the traditional ties between India and Central Asia with special reference to the Silk Route and the geographical proximity of Jammu and Kashmir State. He spoke in favour of reviving relations with the region but "expressed his disheartenment while referring to the lack of cooperation from Pakistan, India's "unfriendly neighbour", through which India could vastly improve her relations and





Informal Interaction

connectivity with Central Asian Republics.

Mr. N.N. Vohra, in his Presidential address, highlighted the challenges that India and the countries of Central Asia are facing. "It would be fruitful," the Governor said, "to have dialogues on having the understanding of the factors that disrupt normal life in both the regions". Mr. Vohra prayed for the success of the conference and expressed his hope that it will come up with useful proposals and recommendations thus helping the Government to revive and strengthen relations between the countries of Central Asia and India.

Lastly, Dr. Tareak A. Rather, Coordinator of the Conference, presented the vote of thanks. A book on *Central Asian Agrarian Transformations*, authored by the Coordinator himself, was also released during this session.

TECHNICAL SESSION- I

Chairperson
Shri Ajay Bisaria

Regional Cooperation: Challenges and Prospects

Five experts presented their papers in the first technical session. First paper was presented by Professor Bakytzhan Abdyrain who spoke on the economic cooperation of India and Kazakhstan. He stated that economy is the key to intensification of cooperation between India and Kazakhstan. In this respect he stated that energy cooperation between the two countries could prove prospective, given the present demand and consumption of fuel in India. Simultaneously, however, he outlined some of the grave problems that hamper the cooperation initiatives like regional insatiability etc.

Prof. Khodjamakhmad Umarov (Tajikistan), spoke about the economic integration in post-Soviet Central Asia and highlighted the importance of the existing road Dushanbe - Kabul - Jalalabad - Peshovar - Lahore - Amritsar - Chandigarh - Delhi. According to him,



“The state of this road is assessed as satisfactory and in the near future the new possibilities like the construction of the Trans-Afghan railway can add and therefore, connect South Asian railways with Eurasia.”

Dr. Nirmala Joshi (New Delhi), deliberated on the issues and prospects of regional cooperation in Central Asia and its ramifications for India. Dr. G. M. Shah (Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi), highlighted the prospects and challenges of intra-regional cooperation for development in Central Asia. Dr. Shah said that “there are enormous opportunities in furthering intra-regional cooperation in the field of irrigation, hydro-power generation, livestock rearing, minning, hydrocarbon extraction, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and fine arts.”

Mr Sharshenbek Ismailov (Kyrgyzstan), highlighted the issues and possibilities with regard to the cooperative development, peace and security in Central Asia. In case of Kyrgyzstan, he said that agricultural sector being the largest one in that country, the system of financial-credit and investment support to agricultural cooperatives should be directed to the expansion of the network of agricultural cooperatives through the involvement of public and other sources of funding to stimulate economic activity of the rural population that supports the growth of employment and increase the income of the villagers. The organization of agricultural cooperatives easier access to financial resources and the development of a network of rural agricultural credit cooperatives will spur wider development of agricultural co-operative movement in Kyrgyzstan and will also contribute to a qualitatively new relationship between the agricultural entities to combine their efforts to address the economic and food security.

TECHNICAL SESSION- II

Chairperson
Rajiv Sikri

Security and Strategic Concerns in Central Asia

Six papers were presented during this session. Mr. P. Stobdan (Ambassador), deliberated upon the strategic scenario in Central Asia and delineated its significance from Indian perspective. Dr. G. N. Khaki (CCAS), made his presentation on radicalism and its challenge to revivalism in Central Asia and pointed out some of key concerns that majority of devout Muslims in Central Asia confront. Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata (JNU), presented his paper on Central Asia's security concerns and underlined the great game and regional powers' perspectives on peace and stability in Central Asia. Dr. Abdulkhay Muminov (Uzbekistan), laid stress on international legal issues of regional security in Central Asia. Dr. Sanjay Deshpandey (JNU), spoke about the security of Central Asia after 2014. His presentation pointed towards the issues likely to emerge after the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan and the neighbouring Central Asian republics.



Ms Dana Borumbayeva (Kazakhstan), discussed the possibilities of intra-regional strategic cooperation. She focused on Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and said that territorial contiguity gives an opportunity to these countries to develop a long term strategic partnership to secure their national interests. Therefore, the Republics concerned must identify common threats such as religious extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, energy insecurity, water insecurity, etc.

TECHNICAL SESSION- II

Chairperson

Rajiv Sikri

Sub-theme Continued

Five experts shared their view in this session. Mr. Abdullahi Hakim (Tajikistan), expressed his views with regard to the geopolitical changes in Central Asia and envisaged some potential areas where regional security could be strengthened. He said that “America’s invasion on Afghanistan drastically affected the geo-political significance of Central Asia.”

Dr. Sheikh Iftikhar Ahmad (CRRID), spoke on the rise of transnational Islamic movements and other militant organisations in Central Asia. “Central Asia,” he said, “has been the land of *Sufis* who taught non-violence and brotherhood, and the need of the hour is to promote the teachings of these *Sufis* with all religious fervour.”

Dr. Meena Singh Roy (IDSA, New Delhi), delineated the engagements of Central Asian republics in the regional security framework and highlighted India’s future concerns in this regard. She said that regional and multilateral approach is the best way out to overcome non-traditional threats. However, Pakistan, China and Iran must be included in the multilateral approach for maintaining stability and security in the Central Asian region.

Prof. Arun Mohanty (JNU), emphasised the Indo-Russian strategic cooperation in Central Asia and argued that India and Russia have remained very good friends in the past. Therefore, Russia is willing to give sufficient space to India in Central Asia and India too is comfortable with the presence of Russian stake holders in that region. However, increasing number of the NATO forces together with the role of United States in Central Asia, is a matter of concern for Russia. “Despite the increasing ties between India and the US, India-Russia strategic partnership has a positive impact on the security of Central Asian region”, Prof. Mohanty said.

The session concluded with the presentation of Dr. Nilan Kumar (JNU). He argued that besides affecting political stability in the region, rapid modernisation, rise of population and uneven distribution of resources on the one hand, and deterioration of environmental condition in the Aral Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Illy River, on the other, are the glaring examples of growing concern for environmental insecurity in Central Asia. Hence, environmental security should be the state policy of the Central Asian Republics.



TECHNICAL SESSION- III

Chairperson
Ashok Sajjanhar

Foreign Policy Dimensions and Afghanistan Conundrum

This session began with the presentation of Dr. Mohindra Dutta. She spoke about India-Tajikistan initiatives with regard to peace and security in Afghanistan. Dr. Dutta suggested that education, health, establishment of micro industries etc. could be the preliminary steps in this regard. Professor K. Warikoo, discussed China-Central Asia cooperation and its impact on the neighbouring countries especially India. He accentuated that China is currently the major player in the neo-geopolitics of this region. Dr. Sanjay Kumar Pandey's presentation about Central Asia-Afghanistan relations identified array of steps which the "Central Asian republics are currently taking to safeguard themselves from the post-2014 Afghanistan that they predict negatively." Professor Surinder K. Sukla, presented a paper on public diplomacy and foreign policy dimensions of India and Central Asia. Prof. Sukla suggested that trade can play a very important role in such developments. Finally, Chairperson Ashok Sajjanhar, concluded the session with some important comments with regard to the foreign policy dimensions and Afghanistan conundrum.



TECHNICAL SESSION- III

Chairperson
Bakytzhan Abdyraim

Sub-theme Continued

Four experts presented their papers in this session. Prof Bakytzhan Abdyraim (Kazakhstan), opened the session with his views on various possibilities of post-2014 Afghanistan and its repercussions for India and Central Asian republics. Mr. Kholikov Bakhtiyor highlighted the new challenges and threats to security of Central Asia after the withdrawal of Coalition forces from Afghanistan. He opined that it will pose a greater threat to Tajikistan in the form of terrorism, drug-trafficking, etc.

Professor Mushtaq A. Kaw discussed at length the NATO withdrawal and regional vulnerabilities, and argued that despite a decade long presence of American forces in Afghanistan, the Taliban forces have not been weeded out completely. He suggested that India should not hesitate to talk to the government of Pakistan and the Taliban forces. Prof. Kaw hoped that both China and US can play an important role in managing regional stability.

Dr. Arpita Roy Basu's paper revealed that "regional security can be understood in the language of regime formation which gives an understanding to the countries concerned to look after their common interests and prevent any kind of external threats." However, "it is a distant reality to make any kind of regime formation in the Central Asian countries," Dr. Basu said.

Dr. Monir Alam said that turbulence in Afghanistan is a continuous process. It shows the failure of coalition forces after whose withdrawal there will be bleak chance of stability and security in the country. "This is largely because of the unprofessionalism and inefficiency of Afghan army which will be again dependent on both NATO and western countries for military and economic support. At the same time, the role of SCO and CSTO is also required to bring stability to the region," Dr. Alam opined.

TECHNICAL SESSION- IV

Chairperson

Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw

Transition and Development Concerns

This session included eight research papers. Dr. Punit Gaur (CRRID), spoke on the nation building process in post-Soviet Kazakhstan. Dr. Gaur's paper revealed the ideological foundation of various national projects which seem to threaten many sections of Kazakh population such as ethnic minorities in spheres like education and employment. The speaker underlined that the response of minorities towards such coercion is migration, which has now become a norm in Central Asia at large.

Dr. Laura expressed her views related to nation building process in contemporary Kazakhstan. She delineated that "nation is a relative term, but most of the academicians work on the Western notions of nation, which is more deterministic approach and thus entirely based on political and economic aspects, leaving many other aspects which are peculiar to most of the Central Asian nations."

Dr. Darakhshan Abdullah presented a paper delineating the impact of post-Soviet transition on women in Central Asia. Her major point was that "women were and are the most vulnerable category in Central Asia." Dr. Phool Badan spoke on the social and economic implications of migration in Central Asia. Ms. Burul Namazova (Kyrgyzstan), gave an extensive presentation on the development of cooperative credit system in Kyrgyzstan, an agricultural country, where the benefits related to credit system could increase the productivity of farmers and would help in clean ecological agricultural system. Dr Gurinder Kaur and Dr. Vijay Laxmi shared their views on health as a development indicator in Kazakhstan. They pointed out that there is an urgent need to pay attention to the socio-cultural aspects of health in Kazakhstan. Dr. M. Afzal Mir spoke on the potential gains from hydropower resources in Tajikistan. "Tajikistan is the 3rd country in the world in terms of producing hydro-electricity, and if its total potential is exploited, Tajikistan would become Kuwait of Central Asia", Dr. Mir claimed.



TECHNICAL SESSION- V

Chairperson
Prof. G. M. Mir

Connecting with Central Asia: Social and Economic Implications

Seven presentations were made by the experts during this session. Mr. Rajiv Sethi highlighted the importance of Silk Route with special reference to the state of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh. He also appreciated India's "Connect Central Asia Policy". Prof. Ajaz A Bandey focused on the sub-continental branches of Silk Route and discussed their current significance. He accentuated the need for geo-political stability so as to make the said Route advantageous.



Dr. Yelena Rudenko (Kazakhstan) expressed her views on the significance of Kazakhstan's position in Central and South Asia. She suggested that India should come forward and develop relations with an oil-producing country like Kazakhstan. Dr. Shamim Ahmad spoke on the Silk Route and tourism potential in Central Asia. He highlighted the major areas of tourism in Central Asia at large and Tajikistan in Particular. Dr. Manzoor Hussain sketched out the social implications of drug trafficking in Central Asia. Dr. Imtiyaz ul Haq spoke on the normalization of Indo-Pak relations and discussed at length how such normalisation could serve as a bridge between Indo-Central Asia relations while allowing India to exploit the rich hydro-carbon and other potentials of the region. His point was that stability in Indo-Pak relations is vital for India- Central Asia cooperation. Prof. G. M. Bhat dealt with the socio-economic developments in South and Central Asia.

TECHNICAL SESSION- VI

Chairperson
P. Stobdon

Regional Organisations and Role of External Actors

This session started with the presentation made by Dr. Sanjeeda Warsi who deliberated upon China's presence in Central Asia and its impact on India's security. Dr. Khayrullah Umarov (Uzbekistan) highlighted the Sino-Russia relations in the framework of SCO. Dr. Marlen Sugralinov (Kazakhstan), paid attention to the "specific material circumstances relating to the assessment of the military-political situation in Afghanistan and other related issues."

Dr. Sharad Kumar Soni focused on the issues regarding Mongolia's interactions with the SCO, which, according to him, "is a nascent organization still in the process of defining itself." He said that Mongolia will continue to promote its Northeast Asian identity and its non-membership strategy toward the organization. Within SCO, Mongolia is primarily interested in the matters related to economic cooperation, particularly energy, infrastructure and transit traffic.



Dr. Rafiuddin Makhdumi spoke about Mongolia's emerging democracy and improving human rights situation. He said that democracy is getting stronger with the passage of time, and the (recent) Presidential election (held in presence of international observers headed by the United Kingdom's ambassador to Mongolia) can be quoted as one of the instances.

Dr Sheikh Talal gave a wide-ranging expression related to China's policies and native reaction in Eastern Turkistan. Discussing at length the impact of China's policies on the Muslims of East Turkistan (i.e. the historical name of today's Xinjiang), the speaker said that as a result of continued Han migration and human rights violation, the region (along with Tibet and Inner Mongolia) has become extremely volatile. Furthermore, continued unrest together with overall situation and religious fervour working in the whole of Central Asia, China seems to be sitting on a volcano of which the eruption one may expect anytime. But before that happens, Dr Talal suggested, China should resolve the issue by fulfilling her promises made with the concerned people almost 90 years ago. The presentation was appreciated and commented upon especially by the ambassadors P. Stobdan and Rajiv Sikri.



Valedictory Session

Mr. Mohammad Akbar Lone (Minister for Higher Education, Government of Jammu and Kashmir), was the Chief Guest on this occasion. While addressing the gathering of scholars and diplomats, the Minister emphasised the need to highlight the historical legacy of Silk Route and its role with regard to India's relations with the countries of Central Asia. He also underscored the importance of cooperation among different educational institutions of the two regions.

Mr. Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty (Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs), in his valedictory address, spoke on the need to encourage academic linkages by holding such international conferences so as to strengthen the ties between the two regions. He highlighted some potential areas of cooperation like agriculture, narcotics, higher education, human trafficking, poverty alleviation, migration, remittances, etc. Mr. Chakravarty suggested that



young scholars should be encouraged to participate in workshops and seminars organised by the universities of Central Asian Republics.

Professor Talat Ahmad (Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir), in his Presidential address, supported Mr.Chakravarty's view and deliberated upon the possibilities of collaboration with the universities of Central Asia, University of Kashmir, and CRRID. He said that he would be delighted to see young researchers going to Central Asia for their field work.

Mr. Yashpal Malhotra (Executive Vice Chairman, CRRID), who presented the vote of thanks, also urged young researchers to come forward to undertake fieldwork in Central Asia. He floated the proposal of "Scholar Exchange Programme."

Prof. Bakytzhan Abdyraim (Military Strategies Studies Centre, Kazakhstan), expressed his gratitude to the organisers of the Conference for arranging such a platform to discuss India-Central Asia relations.

Prof. Nirmala Joshi (Director, the India-Central Asia Foundation, New Delhi), congratulated the organisers of the Conference, appreciated their hard work, and expressed her desire that such conferences be organised in future also.



Ambassador Ashok Sajjnahar pointed out the significance of organising the conference in Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), as "the state shares the closest physical as well as socio-cultural proximity to the Central Asian region."

Ms. Burul Namazova (Board Member of the Association of Legal Entities, Union of Cooperative Societies, Kyrgyzstan), and Ms. Dana Borumbayeva, (Head of International Office, Centre for Military and Strategic Research, Kazakhstan), expressed their desire that more and more such fruitful conferences be organised to augment India-Central Asia interactions.



Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia

(11-12 June, 2014)

The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS, KU) and Kashmir Society (Srinagar), jointly organised this two day Conference on Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia. Dignitaries invited to grace the occasion included His Excellency



Mr. N. N. Vohra, the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (also the Chancellor of the University), Professor A. M. Shah (Vice Chancellor, KU), Professor Zaffar Ahmed Reshi (Registrar, KU), Mr Farooq Renzu Shah (Chairman, Kashmir Society), and Professor G. N. Khaki (Director, CCAS). The inaugural session was held in the Convocation Hall of the University of Kashmir. It was attended by a large number of teachers, scholars, social activists, dignitaries from State Government, and senior citizens.

Prof. G. N. Khaki formally welcomed the guests and spoke about the objectives of the Conference. He said that “organising seminars and conferences at national and international level constitute the most essential activity of the programmes of our Centre. The present Conference aims to study and analyse the multidimensional aspects of medieval Central Asian and Kashmiri society. The theme of the seminar has been conceived fundamentally for two reasons: a) Kashmir, known as *irani sagheer*, constitutes a prominent part of Central Asia which is the thrust area of our Centre’s research programme; b) to explore the intellectual treasures in view of the fact that significant contributions were made by the scholars of medieval times in both the regions.” As regards the theme itself, Prof. Khaki said that “the history of Central Asia is full of secrets and mysteries. During its long march of historical development, the region witnessed the rise and fall of many great empires. The expansion and consolidation of Islam not only exposed the region to the global process of economic





and cultural growth, but fashioned its civilizational glory also.”

Mr. Farooq Renzu Shah, in his address, introduced his organisation (**Kashmir Society**) and said that it has remained active on various issues since 1995. Referring to the theme of the seminar, he said that “Kashmir has been epitome of great *sufi* ideology which believes in mutual brotherhood and love. And it was from Central Asia that we received scholars and saints whose tremendous contribution has left indelible mark on our society.”

Prof. A. M. Shah said that “Central Asia has been a place of great literature and culture. And in this regard, there is a great responsibility on us, at the University, to connect to the society and see how best we can pass on this rich past to our younger generation.” Prof. Shah also delineated his vision for the University saying that “we don’t only need to concentrate on the present, but see how we want this university to be 15 years from now.”

Mr. Saeed Beg Sa’idov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan, was the Guest of Honour at the event. He said that “I am a frequent visitor to the Centre of Central Asian Studies (KU), and I know that it (Centre) is doing good work on our Central Asian Republics. Some scholars of the Centre especially Professor Ghulam Rasool Jan visited our country several times.” Mr Sa’idov also presented some books to the Director CCAS.

Mr. N. N. Vohra, in his Presidential address, advocated the revival of historical linkages between Central Asia and India. To quote him: “Historical linkages between India and Central Asia which got destroyed during the colonial rule were very valuable. These relations were not only confined to art, culture, literature and history but a host of other arenas including the flora and fauna. Many trees in Kashmir have come from Central Asia. Many fruits in India come from Central Asian countries. We need to revive the historical linkages between Central Asia and India and conduct research on the relations between the two.”

Dr Tareak A. Rather, Coordinator, presented the vote of thanks. Before the session ended,





some books were released by the Governor.

All the technical sessions of the Conference were held in the Conference Hall of the Centre. A number of papers on significant themes were presented. To name some: Prof. Syedah Ruqayya (Head, Department of Persian, KU), spoke (in Persian language) on the *Shahnamah* of Abul Qasim Firdousi and highlighted the ethical aspect of this splendid work. "A thorough study of *Shahnamah*", Prof. Ruqayya said, "makes it clear that the work which consists of sixty thousand verses, deals with the religious, educational, philosophical and ethical aspects of an empire of great kings and heroes for whom the author is all praise." Prof. Ruqayya concluded that Firdousi was proud of his poetry and claimed that "I have created a great palace of poetry. No rain and wind can spoil it. I cannot die as the seeds of my poetry are scattered all over..." Dr Darakhshan Abdullah (Associate Prof., CCAS), deliberated upon the customs and traditions of medieval Central Asia. Dr Afaq Aziz spoke on the cultural relations between India and Kashmir in the light of some place names. Dr Abid Gulzar presented his paper (in Urdu) on "*Ehd-e- Taimuriah kay 'Ilmi 'Aathaar*." Others who presented their papers included Dr Jahangir (Assistant Prof., Department of Persian, KU), and Dr Wahid Nasaru (Sr. Assistant Professor, CCAS).



The 2-Day Seminar ended with a splendid Valedictory Function which was presided over by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. A. M. Shah. He congratulated the Centre for organising such conferences and seminars on the themes of high relevance and importance. The Director CCAS, Prof. G. N. Khaki, expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor and other dignitaries present on the occasion for their extraordinary concern and encouragement.



Management of Socio-psychological Issues in Post-flood Scenario of Kashmir

(29 October, 2014)

The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), the Medical Service Centre of India (MSCI), and the Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement (JKRTI), jointly organised one day workshop in the Conference Hall of the Centre.



Director CCAS, Prof. G. N. Khaki, in his inaugural address, discussed at length the problems that cropped up after the devastating floods in the Valley. “Jhelum has been revered as the lifeline of Kashmir,” Prof Khaki said, “because thousands of Kashmiri families depend on it, the Pandit community worships it as the “mother river”, during my own life I saw it always calm, but last month it showed its horrific face, unseen by generations.” Prof. Khaki told the audience that the “aim of this Workshop is to look into what happened in the floods and how to prevent such disasters in future.”

Dr Sheikh Ghulam Rasool (Chairman, K & K RTI Movement), referred to various factors responsible for the devastation. According to him, “The calamity has been in the making for the last 50 years so to say, and deforestation is one but most important factor.” Quoting the concerned authorities, he said that “Our State does not have a Flood Forecasting System. Its Disaster Management System is also rudimentary.” Dr Rasool gave a detailed account of the activities of his Movement with regard to the flood victims and relief works.

Dr Ansuman Mitra (Joint Secretary, Medical Service Centre of India), and Prasanta Kumar Roy (Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology, Institute of Psychiatry, Kolkata), emphasized the need to provide every kind of help to the flood victims. Both the Doctors delivered lectures on Psychological issues and highlighted the ways and means to help the depressed victims. “As doctors we are fully aware of the situation, it is horrible, we have seen many victims rather patients whose recovery seems impossible.” Dr Roy said.

Dr Tareak A. Rather (Associate Professor, CCAS), deliberated on the social issues that followed the floods. He also referred to the efforts put in by the Government at different levels to prevent such catastrophe in future. At the same time, he warned that hasty decisions may lead to deterioration. “The Central Water Commission (CWC) decided to send its team of experts to assess the causes behind the unprecedented deluge; that is appreciable, but it will be a folly on their part if the team is here to find possibilities of diverting the historic Jhelum, as revealed by the press days ago.” Dr Tareak concluded.

Dr Abdul Rauf Shah (Sr. Assistant Professor, CCAS), being a Geographer, spoke on the climate change, deforestation, carbon footprints, etc. Referring to the famous 14th century

intellectual, poet, and saint, Sheikh Nooruddin Wali, Dr Rauf said: “Centuries ago, he warned us of the unprecedented calamity if we fail in our duty of safeguarding the forests. Today, our mountain climate is not what it was two three decades ago. It does not snow much. Apart from deforestation, “Carbon Footprint” is also on the rise in this paradise.”

Dr Fayaz A. Loan (Documentation Officer, CCAS), said that he witnessed some unfortunate incidents with regard to relief works at some places around the Dal Lake. “Every day people come on the roads to highlight their plight. They accuse the government of being “callous” towards their troubles.” Dr Fayaz continued, “Government should come up with a comprehensive rehabilitation package for the flood victims.”

Mr Farooq Ahmed Kuthu (Chief Spokesperson, J&K RTI Movement), reiterated the efforts put in by the Movement and assured the audience on behalf of his organisation that it will do whatever is possible to help the victims. He thanked the authorities of MSCI and the Director CCAS for their cooperation and support. “We feel honoured to have this Workshop in the Conference Hall of this prestigious Centre. It helped us in many ways: since morning we have been listening to scholars, writers, and students belonging to different disciplines-- history, geography, sociology, economics, etc. We talked about the floods and what they left behind and finally came to know how all these (aforementioned) disciplines are involved.” Mr Kuthu concluded.

Finally, participants including university teachers and media persons who spoke at the end, appreciated the efforts of MSCI and JKRTI Movement with regard to the victims of the devastating floods and their relief works.



J&K RTI Act, 2009: A Step Towards Transparency and Accountability (26 November, 2014)

One day national seminar on a theme of contemporary significance - “**J&K RTI Act, 2009: A Step Towards Transparency And Accountability**” - was jointly organised by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS, KU), J&K RTI Movement (JKRTIM),



and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi, on 26th of November, 2014, in the Conference Hall of the Centre.

The inaugural session began with the address of the Director CCAS, Prof. G. N. Khaki, who, after welcoming the guests (also from different parts of the country), highlighted the

significance of the aforementioned RTI Act and said that “apparently, it came into being to curb the menace of corruption and misgovernance by making the government officials accountable. But unfortunately, majority of the people in the State are still unaware of the provisions of this legislation.” However, he was hopeful that the concerned activists, who are already working hard, will leave no stone unturned to educate the people in this regard.

Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, founder-Chairman of J&K RTI Movement, introduced his Movement and said that its tremendous efforts to make the public aware of their rights are already going on. “The State Government is under legal obligation,” Dr. Rasool said, “to create awareness among citizens especially disadvantaged communities, but no such efforts have been made till date in this regard.” He gave a detailed background of the Movement, its achievements, and the dangers and difficulties it has been facing since its inception. Dr. Rasool, at the outset, referred to an incident involving the second Caliph of Islam, and said that the right to information, as we call it today, actually evolved with the advent of Islam.

Mr. Venkatesh Nayak, Programme Coordinator, CHRI, gave a detailed background of RTI Movement in India and Jammu & Kashmir, and also referred to such movements working in the Central Asian States. “We must believe in transparency and accountability,” Mr. Nayak said, “because they need each other so that together they enable citizens to have a say about issues that matter to them, and a chance to influence decision-making.”

Prof. G. M. Mir (Director, ASC), said that “the enactment of RTI Act 2005, at the national level, was/ is not applicable to our state under Article 370. Therefore, an urgent need was there to have a similar law in J&K State. Now that the law is there, people want to use it but they need guidance to go ahead.”

Dr Tareak A. Rather (Associate Professor, CCAS), while referring to the Act, highlighted the rights of the people and said that “Under this Act, we have the right to inspect Government files and records, public works and offices, and above all, if the information requested involves any person’s life and liberty, then the concerned authority is supposed to provide the same within 48 hours.”

Some participants belonging to the aforementioned organisations made useful power point presentations which were appreciated and enjoyed by the audience. Books introducing the RTI organisations and guiding the people about the Acts, were also distributed. During the valedictory session, it was unanimously decided that many more such seminars and workshops will be organised in future in collaboration with the CCAS. The Seminar was attended by a large number of scholars, some of them from different parts of the country, teachers, social activists, students, and media persons. Dr Fayaz A. Loan, Documentation Officer (CCAS), Coordinator of the Seminar, thanked the participants whose interest and deliberations made the seminar meaningful.



Lalded and Nund Reshi
As Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood
(3-4 December, 2014)

Two-day National Seminar on “*Lal Ded and Nund Resh - As Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood*”, jointly organized by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) and the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, was inaugurated



on 3rd December, 2014, in the Conference Hall of the Centre. Delegates, faculty members, Scholars and students drawn from various parts of the country attended the inaugural function.

Prof. G. N. Khaki (Director, CCAS), formally welcomed the guests and introduced the theme. He said that 14th and 15th centuries constitute one of the prominent and formative phases in the history of Kashmir, as it accounted for momentous, religious and cultural change. Dr. Khaki opined: “Kashmir’s illustrious litterateurs and scholars have been the torch bearers of secular perspective, acculturation, tolerance, communal harmony and co-existence in times of cultural polarization and religious animosity. Consequently, the message of human brotherhood and love that emanated from the synthesis of Islamic and Shavite philosophies of Kashmir, became an indispensable part of our culture, the manifestation of which is found in the poetry of Lalded and Sheikhul ‘Aalam.”

In his inaugural address, Justice (Rtd.) Bashir Ahmad Kirmani, at the outset, discussed at length Kashmir’s religio-political condition before the advent of Islam, and then the factors that led to the success of this new faith in a very short time. Justice Kirmani highlighted the literary legacy of Kashmir and emphasized the need to have the works (poetry) of Lal Ded and Sheikhul Aalam translated with commentaries so as to make it understandable for the common people.





In his keynote address, Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef, well-known poet and Social Activist, referred to some “valuable insights” regarding the theme of the seminar. Mr Zareef spoke at length, his interesting and informative address was enjoyed by the audience. He revealed a number of significant anecdotes with regard to *kashmiriyat* and Hindu-Muslim Brotherhood. After the inaugural session, he was “gheraoed” by the young scholars and students of the university and had to answer a volley of questions posed by them about the religio-political history of Kashmir.

Prof. M. Ashraf Wani, Dean Academic Affairs (KU), Chief Guest on the occasion, persuaded the learned audience to study and evaluate both Lal Ded and Sheikhul ‘Aalam in the light of source material available in different parts of the valley.

The session ended with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Wahid Nasaru.

The inaugural session was immediately followed by two technical sessions chaired by Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, and Prof. Gulshan Majeed, Former Director, CCAS, respectively. Prof. Bashar Bashir, Mr. Aijaz-ul Haq, Dr. Afaq Aziz, Dr. Maroof Shah, Dr. K.C. Sharma, Dr. Naseem Gul, and Dr. Mushtaq Haider, presented their papers during these two sessions.

On day 2, three technical sessions were held. Session- I was chaired by Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences (KU). Session-II was chaired by Prof. Bashar Bashir, Director, Markaz-i-Noor, (KU). Session-III was chaired by Prof. Roop Krishan Bhat, Former Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi. The prominent paper presenters were: Prof. Bashir Ahmad, Head (Head, Environmental Sciences), Dr. Wahid Nasaru, Dr. S. Iqbal Quryshi, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Naseem Gul.

Prof. Gulshan Majeed delivered a special address. Prof. G. M. Mir, Director, ASC (CCAS) concluded the seminar with his valuable observations. Prof. G. N. Khaki, Director, CCAS formally thanked all the scholars and the guests. Mr. Abid Gulzar, Coordinator of the seminar, moderated the proceedings.



RESEARCH PURSUITS

Activities of the Faculty

Prof. G. N. Khaki (Islamic Studies)

Publications:

- “Islam and Globalization: Inferences from Central Asia,” in *Globalizing Eurasia Potentials and Challenges*, Mir, G. M. ed., published by Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, 2013, pp. 365-390, ISBN: 81-921335-0-9.
- “Interface Between Globalization and Islam with Special Reference to Post-Soviet Central Asia,” *Al-Ameed* (Quarterly, Adjudicated Journal for Research and Humanist Studies), Vol. 9, December 2013, Iraq, pp.17-39, ISSN: 2227-0345.

Book Chapters:

- “Cultural Interaction Between India and Central Asia: Studying the Role of Islam,” in *Perspectives on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation: South and Central Asia*, ed. Rashpal Malhotra and others, published by Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, 2013, pp.325-336, ISBN: 81-85835-65-9.
- “Radicalism: An Impediment to Islamic Revivalism in Central Asia,” in *Central Asia and its Neighbors Prospects of India's Cooperation*, ed. Rashpal Malhotra, Sucha Singh Gill and Davinder K. Madaan, published by Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) Chandigarh, 2014, pp. 275-286, ISBN: 978-81-85835-69-1.

Joint Publications:

- “Socio-Religious Developments in Iran (1925-1979),” (with Ashiq Hussain), *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology*, American Research Institute for Policy Development, New York (USA), Vol.2, No.2, June, 2014, pp.253-276, ISSN: 2333-5750.
- “Expansion and Consolidation of Islam in Iran to the End of Qajar Period,” (with Ashiq Hussain), *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, University of Azerbaijan, Vol. 17, No.3, June, 2014, pp.34-48, ISSN: 2223-2613.
- “Buddhism and Islam: Inter-Religious Dialogue on Ethics,” (with Shabir Ahmad Mugloo), *Journal of Henry Martin Institute*, Henry Martin Institute, Hyderabad, Vol.33, No.1, June, 2014, pp.45-55, ISSN: 0970-4698.
- “Role of Education in the Social Transformation of Iran From Pahlavi to Khomeini,” (with Altaf Ahmad), *International Journal in Management and Social Science*, Vol.2, No.11, November, 2014, pp.133-142, ISSN: 2321-1784.
- “Islamic Banking and Finance in Post-Soviet Central Asia with Special Reference to Kazakhstan,” (with Bilal Ahmad), *International Journal of Islamic Banking and Finance*, published by American Research Institute for Policy Development, New York, United States of America, Vol.1, No.1, December 2013, pp.11-22, ISSN: 2374-2666.

Reports and Abstracts Published:

- “India-Central Asia Relations: Prospect and Retrospect,” published in *Historical Civilizational and Cultural Relations of India, Iran and Central Asia:Centuries of Continuity*, University of Guwahati (Assam), February2014.
- “Historiography in Medieval Central Asia: A Study of Abu-Jafar Muhammad bin Jareer Al- Tabari,” published in Sixth International Conference on *The Role of Muslim*

Scholars in the Promotion of Human Civilization, College of Arts and Humanities, Ismailia Suez Canal University, Egypt, March, 2014.

- **“Islam and Multi-Faith Structure in Post-Soviet Central Asia,”** published in *Humanities and Social Sciences*, 20th-21st November, 2014, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.
- **“Significance of Abd-ur-Rahman Jami’s Sufi-Poetic Discourse in the Literary Legacy of Medieval Persia,”** published in *Heritage of Abd-ur-Rahman Jami*, Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in India, November, 2014.

Papers Presented:

- **“Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia: A Study of Turkmenistan,”** at the National Seminar on *Contemporary Central Asia: Continuity and Change*, 27-28 February, 2013, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.
- **“Significance of Manuscripts in the Promotion of Culture and Historical Studies,”** at the International Scientific Conference on *Manuscripts are the First Source for Studying the National Heritage*, 13-14 March, 2013, National Institute of Manuscripts, Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan (Ashqabad).
- **“Importance of Manuscripts in the Promotion of Cultural Heritage: A Critical Study of Bahiristani Shahi,”** at the National Seminar on the *Manuscript Sources of Kashmir*, 18-20 June, 2013, Deptt. of Persian, in collaboration with National Mission For Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.
- **“Radicalism: A Challenge to Revivalism in Central Asia,”** at the International Conference on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, 29 June- July 01, 2013, jointly organized by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, and CRRID, Chandigarh.
- **“Muslim Contribution to Modern Education: Approaches and Prospects,”** at the National Seminar on *Muslim Response to Modern Education: Approaches and Prospects*, 2-3 July, 2013, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora (Kashmir).
- **“Interface Between Islam and Globalization,”** at the International Scientific Conference on *Recent Trends in Twentieth Century Islamic Thought*, 25-30 October, 2013, Abbasid University of Babylonia, Iraq.
- **“India-Central Asia Relations: Prospect and Retrospect,”** at the International Seminar on *Historical, Civilizational and Cultural Relations of India, Iran and Central Asia: Centuries of Continuity*, 6-8 February, 2014, University of Guwahati (Assam), in Collaboration with MAK AIS, ICCR, and UGC.
- **“Historiography in Medieval Central Asia: A Study of Abu-Jafar Muhammad bin Jareer Al-Tabari,”** at the Sixth International Conference on *the Role of Muslim Scholars in the Promotion of Human Civilization*, 3-5 March, 2014, College of Arts and Humanities, Ismailia Suez Canal University, Egypt.
- **“Status of Makhtumkuli’s Poetry in World Literature: A Study in Compatibility,”** at the International Conference on *Magtymguly Pyragy and Universal Human Cultural Values*, 14-16 May, 2014, National Institute of Manuscripts, Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan.
- **“Methodological Approach to the Study of the Sciences of the Holy Qur’an,”** at an International Conference on *Second Global Conference on Islamic Sciences*, 9-13 October, 2014, Al-Abbas University, Iraq.



- “Islam and Multi-Faith Structure in Post-Soviet Central Asia,” at the International Conference on *Humanities and Social Sciences*, 20-21 November, 2014, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.
- “Significance of Abd-ur-Rahman Jami’s Sufi-Poetic Discourse in the Literary Legacy of Medieval Persia,” at the International Seminar on *Heritage of Abd-ur-Rahman Jami*, (devoted to 600th Birth Anniversary of, Great Tajik Persian Poet Abd-ur-Rahman Jami), 27 November, 2014, Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan (in India), in Collaboration with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Institute of Indo-Persian Studies of India, New Delhi.

Lectures Delivered:

- “Role of Indo-Central Asian Scholars in the Promotion of Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia,” at 2-day Conference on *Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia*, 11-12 June, 2014, jointly organized by CCAS, KU and Kashmir Society, Srinagar.
- “Historical Legacy of Central Asia: An Overview,” on 18-07-2014, General Orientation Course (15 July - 14 August, 2014), UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir.
- “Relevance of Nursi’s Educational Thought in the Contemporary World,” at an International Workshop on *Role and Place of Said Nursi’s Thought in 21st Century*, 21-22 August, 2014, organized by Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora (Kashmir) in Collaboration with Istanbul Foundation for Science and Culture, Turkey.
- “Management of Socio-Psychological Issues in Post-Flood Scenario of Kashmir,” at a Workshop organized by the CCAS (KU), in Collaboration with J&K RTI Movement, 29 October, 2014.
- “Contribution of Lal Ded and Nund Resh to Universal Brotherhood,” at the National Seminar on *Lal Ded and Nund Resh as Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood*, 3-4 December, 2014, organized by CCAS, KU, in Collaboration with Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi.

Editorial Assignments:

- Chief Editor, *The Journal of Centre of Central Asian Studies*, CCAS, University of Kashmir.
- Chief Editor, *Central Asian Digest*, CCAS, University of Kashmir.
- Assistant Editor (book), *Globalizing Eurasia: Potentials and Challenges*, published by CCAS, University of Kashmir, 2013.

Membership:

- Advisory Board, *Security and Society* (Journal), University of Jammu (March 2013 –).
- Advisory Board, *al-muheet*, journal published by Al-Abbas University, Iraq.
- Advisory Board, International *Journal of Development and Sustainability* (ISDS), International Society for Development and Sustainability, Japan (since 2014).
- Executive Member, **Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies**, Kolkata (IAAPS).
- Committee for Student Amenities and Grievances, University of Kashmir, 2014.
- Disaster Management Committee, University of Kashmir.
- Editorial Board, *International Journal of Spirituality*, Department of Spiritual Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora (Kashmir).

Academic Visits Abroad:

- Ashqabad (Turkmenistan); Baghdad (Iraq); Cairo (Egypt); Bangkok (Thailand).

Prof. G. M. Mir (Geography)

Publications:

- “Revival of Silk Route Branches Via Nubra Valley: Opportunities for Indo-Central Asian Bilateral Relations,” *Perspectives on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation: South and Central Asia*, Ed., Malhotra, R., et al., CRRID, Chandigarh, 2013, pp.187-90, ISBN: 81-85835-65-9.
- “Water Security and Regional Development in CAS,” *Trans-border Water Management*, Allahabad, 2014, pp. 137-48.

Editorial Assignments:

- Editor (Book): *Globalizing Eurasia: Potentials and Challenges* (Proceedings of International Conference, CCAS), MP Printers, New Delhi, 2013, ISBN: 978-81-921335-0-9.
- Associate Editor: *Journal of Central Asian Studies* (2013).
- Editor: *Journal of Central Asian Studies* (2014 –).

Conferences/Seminars – Sessions Chaired:

- Chaired one technical session at a 3-day International Conference on “*Cooperation Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*,” jointly organized by CCAS (KU) and CRRID (Chandigarh), held at Kashmir University (Srinagar), 29th June – 1st July, 2013.
- Chaired one technical session on ‘Agricultural Geography’ at a 2- day International Conference on “*Regional Development, Sustainable and Socio-economic Development in J & K*,” jointly organized by Institute for Social Change and Action (ISCA), New Delhi & P.G. Department of Geography and Regional Development (KU), 5-6 June, 2013.

Workshop:

- Participated in a Regional Workshop on “*Saffron Mission: Achievements and Challenges*,” initiated by Government of India for J & K, held at Srinagar, 17 May, 2014.

Research Project:

- Completed preliminary work of the undertaken research project titled, “*Geo-politics of Routes, Resources and Relations: A Contradictory Model Emerging in Central Asian States*.”

Administrative Assignment:

- As Director ASC, participated in UGC’s Review Committee Interface Meet at its main office in New Delhi, on November 12, 2013, and made a presentation with regard to the achievements and future academic programmes of the Centre. It was on the basis of this presentation that UGC extended the term of Area Study Programme of the Centre till 2019 and provided an amount of Rs. 60 lacs along with some posts on recurring side.

Nominations:

- Nominated on various National and Regional Academic Bodies for knowledge updating research innovation, designing and extension.



Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw (History)

Publications:

Book Chapters:

- **“India-Central Asia Cooperation: A Regional Context of Corridors, Connections and Communities,”** *First India-Central Asia Dialogue*, New Delhi: Indian Council of World Affairs, 2013, pp. 155-66.
- **“Rethinking Islam in Contemporary Central Asia,”** In *Central Asia Today: Countries, Neighbors, and the Region*, ed. Sunatullo Jonboboev, Mirzokhid Rakhimov and Reimund Seidelmann, Germany: CUVILLIER VERLAG Gottingen, 2014, pp. 393-418.
- **“New US Silk Route Project for Post-2014 Afghanistan: Myth or Reality,”** *Journal of Central Asian and Caucasian Studies*, Vol.9, No.17, 2014, pp. 75-98 (International Strategic Research Organisation, Ankara Turkey).
- **“Reviving Indo-Central Asian Route Links Through Kashmir,”** *The Silk Road: Trade, Caravan Serais, Cultural Exchanges and Power Games* (ed.) Mansura Haidar, New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2014, 54-66.

Papers Presented:

- **“Islam in Central Asia: Between Ideology and Culture,”** at a Workshop on *Patterns of Regional and Interregional Cooperation: Central Asia, its Neighboring Countries, and Europe (2012-2015)*, organized by the University of Bielefeld (Germany) TU Dortmund University (Germany), University of Giessen/Centre for Development and Environment (Germany), January 4-6, 2013.
- **“Islam & Islamic Studies in Central Asian Perspective,”** at an International Conference *Islam & Islamic Studies in a Changing World: Challenges & Opportunities*, College of Islamic Studies, Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Thailand, January 14-16, 2013.
- **“Experiencing Changes in Post Soviet Central Asian Society,”** *Contemporary Central Asia: Continuity & Change*, 2-Day national seminar, February 27-28, 2013, Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- **“Post-2014 Afghanistan & Regional Security Scenario,”** Keynote Address at a 2- day National Seminar on *South Asia And Central Asia: Dimensions, Opportunities And Challenges of Mutual Cooperation*, South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, March 1-2, 2013;
- **“US Pull out from Afghanistan: A Study in Regional Vulnerabilities,”** at a 3-day International conference on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, organized by CRRID Chandigarh and Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir from June 29 to July 1, 2013 at University of Kashmir.
- **“Post-2014 Scenario: Afghanistan and South & Central Asia,”** at a 3-day International Conference on **Post-2014 Challenge and Prospect: Eurasia and China**, organized by the Institute of Central Asian Studies, Xinjiang University, Urumqi, China, from September 12-14, 2013.
- **“Rethinking Islam in Central Asia,”** at a 3-day International Conference on *Security, Economic and Social Challenges in Central Asia: A Region Between Cooperation and Competition*, organized by TU Dortmund University Germany from October 4-6, 2013.
- **“Changing Forms of Islam in Central Asia,”** at an International Conference on *Religion and Society*, organized by the al-Farabi Carnegie Program on Central Asia, Washington DC and Institute for Public Policy, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic from February 24-25, 2014.

Academic Visits Abroad:

- Germany (October 2013); Thailand (October, 2013); Kyrgyzstan (February 2014)

Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey (Archaeology)

Publications:

- **“Socio-economic & Political Motivations of Russian Out-migration from Central Asia,”** *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, XXX, doi.org/10.1016/j.euras.2013.3.004, ISSN: 1937-190X, Impact factor: 0.58; H Index: 3.

Papers Presented:

- **“New US Silk Route Project for Afghanistan: Problems & Prospects,”** at a 3-day International Conference on *Post-2014 Challenge and Prospect: Eurasia and China*, organized by the Research Centre for Central Asian Development, Xinjiang University, September 12-14, 2013; also chaired a technical session.
- **“The Sub-Continent Branches of Silk Route and their Relevance Today,”** at a 3-day International Conference on *Cooperative Development, “Peace & Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, jointly organized by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, and CRRID (Chandigarh), 29th June – 01st July, 2013.

Academic Visit Abroad:

- Pakistan.

Dr. Rafi-ud-Din Makhdoomi, Associate Professor (Persian)

Publications:

Book Chapters:

- **“India’s Role in Mongolia’s Third Neighbour Policy,”** *Perspective on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation: South and Central Asia*, Eds. Rashpal Malholtra, Sucha Singh Gill, Neetu Gaur, CRRID, Chandigarh, pp. 275-284, ISBN: 81 85835-65 9.
- **“Messenger Services in the Mongol Empire,”** *The Silk Road, Trade, Caravan Serais, Cultural Exchanges and Power Games*, ed. Mansura Haidar, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, 2014, pp. 261-272, ISBN: 978-81-7305-528-7.

Paper Published:

- **“Sino-Mongolian Relations: New Scenario & Impending Concerns,”** *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, Holland, Vol, V, Issue 4, October-December, 2013, pp. 32-42, ISSN: 1877-4199. (Co-authored with Suraya Basu).

Papers Presented:

- **“Democratic Kazakhstan: Promoter of Peace and Security in Eurasia,”** at a National Seminar on *Contemporary Central Asia: Continuity and Change*, organised by Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi, 27-28 February, 2013.
- **“Emerging Democracy in Mongolia: A Perspective on Human Rights,”** at an International Conference on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, Jointly organized by CCAS (KU) and CRRID (Chandigarh), at the University of Kashmir, June 29th – July 01, 2013.

- **“India-Kazakhstan: Forging New Relations to Bolster Bilateral Cooperation,”** at the First International Scientific Conference on *Eurasian Studies*, organised by the Centre for Military and Strategic Research, Astana (Kazakhstan), 20-21 September, 2013.
- **“Trade Relations Between Seljuqian Central Asia and India with Special Reference to Horse Trade,”** at an International Conference on *The Indian Shilpa and the Cultural Rsurgence from the Sassanids to Seljuqs*, organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, 27-28 March, 2014.
- **“Shamanism During the Medieval Period,”** at a Conference on *Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia*, jointly organised by CCAS and Srinagar-based Kashmir Society, at the University of Kashmir, 11-12 June, 2014.

Dr. Tareak Ahmed Rather, Associate Professor (Sociology)

Publications:

- **“Language Nationalism and Dilemmas of Minority Groups in Central Asia,”** *Eurasian Politics: Ideas, Institutions and External Relations*, ed. Ajay Patnaik & Tulsiram, New Delhi, 2013, pp. 105-114, ISBN: 978-93-81904-79-4.
- **“Impact of Male Labour Migration on Women in Post-Communist Uzbekistan,”** *Globalizing Eurasia: Potentials and Challenges*, ed. G. M. Mir, 2013, pp. 249-265, ISBN: 978-81-921335-0-9.
- **“A Sociological Appraisal of Migration in Central Asia: Impact on the Well Being of Women in Post- Soviet Uzbekistan,”** in *Perspective on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation South and Central Asia*, ed. Rashpal Malhotra, Sucha Singh Gill, Neetu Gaur, CRRID, Chandigarh, 2013, pp. 337-344, ISBN: 81-85835-65-9.
- Book: ***Youth in South and Central Asia: A Discourse of Changes and Challenges***, 2014, Partridge: A Penguin Random House Company, USA, ISBN-10: 1482819309, ISBN-13: 978-1-4828-1930-4, Ebook ISBN: 978-148281929-8.

Papers Presented:

- **“From Collective to De-collectivization: Agricultural Reforms and Economic Marginalisation in Uzbekistan,”** at an International Seminar on *Post-Independence Development Strategies in Central Asia*, Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 29-30 November, 2013.
- **“Impact of Afghan Drawdown on Kashmir,”** in a Symposium on *Afghanistan In 2014 And Beyond: The Domestic, Regional And International Dynamics*, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, 17 January, 2014.
- **“Contested Spaces, Societal Security and Populations in Central Asia: Problem Areas and Effective Practices,”** at the VI International Scientific-practical Conference on *The Role of Migration in the Socio-Economic and Demographic Development of Sending and Receiving Countries in Eurasia: The Case of Eastern Europe and Central Asia*, held in Moscow (Russia) on November 5, 2014 and in Yerevan (Armenia) on 6 & 7 November, 2014, respectively. The Conference was organized by the Institute of Social and Political Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Higher School of Modern Social Sciences (Faculty), Lomonosov State University, Institute of Philosophy, Sociology & Law, and the National Academy of Sciences (Republic of Armenia).

Dr. Mohammad Afzal Mir, Associate Professor (Economics)

Book Chapters:

- **“India-Kazakhstan Relations: Special Reference to Trade and Investment,”** in Rashpal Malhotra, Sucha Singh Gill, and Neetu Gaur, ed., *Perspectives on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation South and Central Asia*, CRRID (Chandigarh), 2013, pp. 145-160, ISSB: 81-85835-65-9.
- **“Potential Gains from Hydropower Resources,”** in Rashpal Malhotra, Sucha Singh Gill and Davinder K. Madaan, ed., *Tajikistan in Central Asia & its Neighbours: Prospects of India's Cooperation*, CRRID (Chandigarh), 2014, pp.205-214, ISBN: 978-81-85835-69.
- **“Energy Economics of Jammu and Kashmir State: An Analysis,”** (co-authored with Mohammad Ibrahim Wani), in Pankaj Kumar and Rakesh Ranjan, ed., *Contributing Sustainability*, Victorious Publishers, Delhi, 2014, ISBN:978-93-84224-08-0, pp.189-197.

Research Articles Co-authored:

- **“India's Economic Relations with Central Asian Republics,”** (with Ishfaq A. Malik), *International Journal of Development Studies*, Vol.3, No.1, January-March 2014, pp.75-86, ISSN: 2278-8654.
- **“Energy Economics of Central Asian Republics,”** (with M. Ibrahim Wani), *International Journal of Development Studies*, Vol.3, No.1, January-March 2014, pp. 87-101, ISSN:2278-8654.
- **“India's Trade Potential with Central Asia: An Application of Gravity Model Analysis,”** (with Ishfaq A. Malik), *International Journal of World Peace*, Vol. XXXI, No.3, September 2014, pp. 53-60, ISSN: 0742-3640.

Papers Presented:

- **“Tourism Sector in Jammu & Kashmir: Issues and Challenges,”** at a National Conference on *Socio-economic Complexion of North- Western India With Special Emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir*, 5-6 March, 2013, organized by Govt. Degree College (Boys) Anantnag (Kashmir), sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Chandigarh.
- **“Potential Gains from Hydropower Resources in Tajikistan,”** at an International Conference on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, 29th June - 1st July, 2013, jointly organized by CCAS (KU) and CRRID (Chandigarh), at the University of Kashmir.
- **“Development Strategies in Post-Independent Uzbekistan: A Study of Farm Sector Restructuring and Food Gains,”** at an International Conference on *Post Independence Strategies in Central Asia: Perspectives, Policies and Performance*, 29-30 November, 2013, organized by MMAJ Academy of International Relations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Centre for Research in Rural And Industrial Development (CRRID, Chandigarh), at Jamia Millia Islami(New Delhi).
- **“Energy Economics of Central Asian Republics: An Analysis,”** at an International Conference on *Shifting Paradigms in Applied Economics and Management: Course Corrections*, 1-2 August, 2014, organized by Faculty of Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (Jammu).

Workshop:

- Participated in a 2- Day Workshop on, **Data Analysis Using SPSS**, 20-21 February, 2014, P. G. Department of Computer Sciences (KU), in collaboration with SPSS South Asia India Ltd.

Dr. Darakhshan Abdullah, Associate Professor (History)

Publications:

- “**Globalization and Central Asia: Socio Economic Challenges to Uzbek Women**,” in *Globalizing Eurasia, Potentials and Challenges*, G. M. Mir ed., Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, 2013, pp. 285-293, ISBN: 978-81-921335-0-9.
- “**India and Central Asia 16th - 21st Century Contacts: An Appraisal of Historical Contacts**,” *International Journal of Management, IT and Engineering*, Vol. 3(3), 2013, pp. 430-440, ISSN: 2249-0558.
- “**Ritualism and Institution of Family in Central Asia: Continuity and Change**,” *International Journal of Multi-Dimensional Research*, Issue, 7, December, 2013, pp. 1-8.
- “**Education in Central Asia with Special Reference to Czarist Period**,” *European Academic Research*, Vol. II, Issue 1, April 2014, pp. 60-75.
- “**Transition and Central Asian Women**,” in *Central Asia and its Neighbours: Prospects of India's Cooperation*, Rashpal Malhotra, ed., CRRID, 2014, pp. 199-204, ISBN: 978-81-85835-69-1.

Papers Presented:

- “**Tarikhi Kashmir of Sayyid Ali: A Critical Review**,” at a National Seminar on *Manuscript Sources of Kashmir*, 18-20 June, 2013, organized by Deptt. of Persian (KU), in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.
- “**Transition and Central Asian Women**,” at a the International Conference on Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia, 29th June – 1st July 2013, jointly organized by CCAS (KU) and CRRID (Chandigarh) at the University of Kashmir.
- “**Customs and Traditions of Central Asia: A Challenge to the Soviet Cultural Policies**,” at a seminar on *Culture and Literature in Medieval Central Asia*, 11 June, 2014, organised by CCAS (KU) in collaboration with Kashmir Society, Srinagar.

Workshop:

- Participated in a 10-Day workshop on “**Quantitative Techniques in Social and Allied Sciences**,” 16-25 December, 2013, Department of Economics, University of Kashmir.

Dr. Tabasum Firdous*, Sr. Assistant Professor (Political Science)

Publications:

- “**Neo-cold War in Eurasia**,” in *Globalizing Eurasia: Potentials & Challenges*, ed. Prof. G. M. Mir, 2013, pp. 231-236, ISSN: 978-81-9213385.
- “**India and Central Asia: An Overview of Relationship**,” in *India, Central Asia: Three Millennia of Contacts*, ed. D. N. Tripathi, New Delhi, 2013, pp. 245-249, ISBN: 9788173052941.
- “**Indo-Kazakh Relations: Problems and Prospects**,” in *Eurasian Politics: Ideas Institutions and External Relations*, ed. Ajay Patnaik and Tulsiram, New Delhi, 2013, pp. 333-337, ISBN: 978-93-81904-79.

* Presently Deputy Director, UGC Academic Staff College, KU.

- **“India’s initiatives in Central and South Asia: Problems & Prospects,”** in *Geo-Politics*, Moscow, Issue XIX, 2013, pp. 37-41, ISSN: 2221-2868.
- **“Implications of US Withdrawal from Afghanistan,”** in *Epilogue*, March, 2013, pp. 28-30, ISSN:0974-5653
- **“India’s Response to New Great Game in Central Asia,”** in *Journal of South Asian Studies*, 02(01)2014, pp. 33-44, ISSN: 2307-4000.

Papers Presented:

- **“Challenges to Democracy in Uzbekistan,”** organized by Iran & Eurasian Research Center, **Tehran (Iran)** on February 18-19, 2013. Theme: *Iran and the Regional Cooperation in Eurasia*.
- **“US Exit From Afghanistan: Challenges and Options Beyond 2014,”** March 6-7, 2013, Theme: *Perceived Indian Role in Afghanistan After 2014*, organized by the Department of International Relations, Conflict & Peace studies, Islamabad, (Pakistan).
- **“India and Turkmenistan Relations Since 1991,”** at an International Conference organized by the National Institute of Manuscripts of the Academy of Sciences, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, June 2013. Theme: *Mahmoud Pahlivan and the Turkmen Cultural Life in the XIII Century*.
- **“Panchayat and Women Participation,”** organized by institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, September 28-29, 2013. Theme: *Empowerment of Elected Women Representatives in the Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir: The Road Ahead*.
- **“Indian Foreign Policy in the Writings of Chingize Aitimov,”** at an International Conference organized by the Turkish Manas University, and Issy – Kul Forum Bishkek, (Kyrgyzstan) from November 14-17, 2013. Theme: *Chyngyz Aitmatov and the Issyk-Kul Forum*.
- **“Gender Disparity and Policies of Inclusion; A Case Study of Education of Women in Kashmir,”** organized by Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive policy University of Jammu, March 26-28, 2014. Theme: *Gender Disparity and Policies of Inclusion*.

Courses Attended:

- Participated in a 4-weeks Refresher Course in Summer School (inter- disciplinary) organized by the UGC-Academic Staff College, Naseem Bagh, University of Kashmir, 10-30 September, 2013.

Dr. A. R. Shah, Sr. Assistant Professor (Geography)

Publications:

- **“Trends in Cereal Crop Production in Jammu And Kashmir State,”** *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research*, Vol.5, Issue 2, March, 2014, pp. 645-648.
- **“Productivity Levels in Kyrgyzstan: A Study of Regional Variation,”** *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research*, Vol.5, Issue 1, pp. 300-303, January, 2014.
- **“Cropping Pattern in Kyrgyzstan: An Analysis of Output Productivity,”** *International Journal of Current Research*, Vol.6, Issue 6, June 2014, pp. 7200-7201.
- **“Dimensions of Climatic Change in Turkmenistan: Spatio Temporal Analysis,”** *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research*, Vol.4, Issue 11, pp.1821-1823, 2013.

- “**Role of Tourism in Income Generation and Employment in Kashmir Valley,**” *Journal of Recent Scientific Research*, Vol. 5, Issue 12, pp. 2301-2303, December, 2014.

Paper Presented:

- **Environmental Degradation Assessment: A Study of Pulwama Town (J&K State)**, at a 2-day Conference jointly Organised by Department of Geography (KU) and International Geographical Union (IGU), held at KU, 4-5 June, 2014.

Research Project Submitted:

- **Impacts of Environmental Factors on Crop Production in Kyrgyzstan**, 2013, CCAS.

Dr. Wahid Nasaru, Sr. Assistant Professor (Sanskrit)

Book Translated:

- Translated **Baraf Aashna Parinde**, (a 445-page novel in Urdu by Taranum Riyaz), into Devnagari, Samayam Prakshan, New Delhi, 2013, ISSN:978-81-7138-270-5.

Papers Published:

- “**Contribution of Gujarat to Prabandh Literature and Jain Religion, In the light of Jan Prabandh,**” *Gagananchal*, Issue No. 2, Indian Council for Cultural Relation (ICCR), New Delhi, 2013, pp. 29-33, ISSN: 0971-1430.
- “**Tasawwuf, Moulana Rumi & Vedanta Philosophy: An Analytical Study,**” *Gagananchal*, Issue No. 6, ICCR, New Delhi, 2013, pp. 34-38, ISSN: 0971-1430.
- “**Ras-Vivechan,**” *Vitasta*, Department of Hindi (KU), Issue No. 17, 2013, pp. 78-100, ISSN: 2278-1242.
- “**Kavya Ras Dosh and Nivaran,**” *Vitasta*, Department of Hindi (KU), Issue No. 18, 2014, pp. 78-85, ISSN: 2278-1242.
- “**Concept of Yoga in the Jain Philosophy,**” *Sahatiya Yatra*, Patna (Bihar), Issue No. 03, 2014, pp. 34-44, [ISSN 2346-1906].
- “**A Comparative Study of Islamic Tasawwuf and Yoga: In the Light of Indian Philosophy,**” Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, 2014.

Papers Presented:

- “**A Survey of Gilgit Manuscripts,**” at a National Seminar on *Manuscripts Sources of Kashmir*, June 18th – 20th, 2013, P.G. Department of Persian (KU).
- “**An Analysis of Persian Mathnavi Yousuf Zulaikha Under the title Katha- Kutuka,**” at a National Seminar on *Translated literature in Sanskrit from Indian and Western Languages*, March 8th–10th 2014, organized by MSP Rastraya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University), Janakpuri, New Delhi.
- “**A Comparative Analysis of Yousuf Zulaikha of Jami and Katha- Kutuka of Srivar,**” at an International Conference on *Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia*, June 11th–12th 2014, Jointly organized by Centre of Central Asian Studies (KU) and Kashmir Society (Srinagar).
- “**Contribution of Lal Ded to Kashmir Society,**” at a National Seminar on *Lal Ded and Nund Reshi As Torch Bears of Universal Brotherhood*, December 3–4, 2014, jointly organized by the Centre of Central Asian Studies (KU), and Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, held at the University of Kashmir.

Workshop/Training Courses:

- Participated in a 3-week workshop on **National Mission for Manuscript Logy and Paleography**, sponsored by National Mission for Manuscripts, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, 15 March -05 April, 2013, organized by PG Department of Persian, University of Kashmir.
- Participated in a 3-week **Research Methodology Refresher Course in Humanities**, 27th October - 16th November, 2014, UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir.

Seminar Coordinated:

- 2-Day National Seminar on **Lal Ded and Nund Reshi as Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood**, jointly organized by Centre of Central Asian Studies (KU) and Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, (in view of World Philosophy Day), 3-4 December, 2014.

Research Project Recommended/In Hand:

- Project Recommended by the UGC (Amounts Rs. 14.22 lakh) “**Examining Sufism and Yoga as Determinants of Communal Harmony and Mutual Co- Existence**”
- “**Kathasarit-Sagar as a Source of Information of Central Asia and Adjoining Areas.**” (Completed)

Dr. Afaq Aziz, Sr. Assistant Professor (Kashmiri)

Publications:

- Book: **Tareekhi Siyasati Kashmir**, (Vol. I), 2013, Karwani Tahqeeq-o-Saqafat, Srinagar (Kashmir), ISBN: 978-81-923718-0-1 (The Book was released by the then Finance Minister, J&K State, Mr. Abdul Rahim Rather, on 9th of November, 2013).
- Book: **Central Asian Place Names As Depicted in Kashmiri Poetry**, 2013, Kitab Mahal, Srinagar (Kashmir).
- “**Yatoo: Nasbname**,” in *Sheeraza* (Urdu monthly), published by Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (J&K Govt.), Srinagar, Vol. 51, No. 6, 2014, pp.26-40, ISSN: 2277-9833.
- “**Jangnama: Sinfi Mutala**,” in *Anhaar*, Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, pp.113-119, 2014, ISSN: 2249-5-51X.

Papers Presented:

- “**Kashmir Ki Riwayaati Mousiqi Ka Pasmanzar Aur Maqam Ka Virood**,” at the international seminar on *Synthesis of Raga and Maqam in Kashmiri Musical Culture*, jointly organised by CCAS, KU, and MAKAIAS, Kolkata, at KU, 20-21 June, 2013.
- “**Cultural Relations Between India and Central Asia in the Light of Some Place Names**,” at a two day Seminar on *Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia*, jointly organized by CCAS and Kashmir Society at the University of Kashmir, 11-12 June, 2014.
- “**Kaeshir Jangnam’a: Sinfi Mutala**,” at a national seminar on *Kashmiri Literary Genres: Distinctive Features*, Department of Kashmiri, 10-12 December, 2013.
- “**Kashmir Heritage: An Overview**,” national seminar held on the occasion of *Heritage Week*, organised by the Academy of Art, Cultural and Languages (Srinagar), 21 November, 2014.
- “**Universal Brotherhood in the Poetry of Lalded**,” at a 2-day national seminar on *Lalded and Nundreshi as the Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood*, jointly organised by CCAS (KU) and ICPR (New Delhi), held at KU, 3-4 December, 2014.

- **“Shams Faqir: Akh Mushkil Pasand Shaaier,”** at a 2-day national seminar on *Sufi Poetry of Kashmir*, Department of Kashmiri (KU), 10-11 December, 2014.

Refresher Course:

- Participated in a **3-Week Refresher Course in Humanities**, 27 Oct -15 Nov, 2014, UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir.

Dr. Fayaz A. Loan, Documentation Officer

Publications:

- **“Myth and Reality of the Google Search Results in Terms of Count Estimation,”** (with Reyaz Rufai), *International Journal of Information Dissemination and Technology*, 4(2), 2014, pp.101-105, ISSN: 2229-5984.
- **“Research Contribution of the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar in the field of Medical Sciences,”** (with Refat-un-Nisa, Nadim Akhtar Khan, Asmat Ali, and Humma), *International Journal of Digital Library Services*, 4(1), 2014, pp. 35-49, ISSN: 2250-1142.
- **“Open Access Digital Repositories in Asia: Current Status and Future Prospects,”** *International Journal of Information Science and Management*, 12(2), 2014, pp. 35-45, ISSN: 2008-8310, URL.

Book Chapter:

- **“Evaluation Criteria for Judging the Quality of Online Information,”** in Anna Kaushik and Nirmal Kumar Swain, ed., *Cutting Edge Technologies and Academic Librarianship*, New Delhi: Ess Ess Pub., pp. 347-355, 2014, ISBN: 9788170007135.

Papers Presented:

- **“RTI and Access to Information With Special Reference to J&K,”** at 1-day National Seminar on *J&K RTI ACT, 2009: A Step Towards Transparency and Accountability*, jointly organised by CCAS (KU), CHRI (New Delhi), and J&K RTI Movement, 26 November, 2014.
- **“Current Status of the Global Open Access Digital Repositories: A Sase Study of the Library and Information Science,”** at the International Virtual Conference on *Information Retrieval on Scientific Literature: Emerging Frontiers and Challenges*, Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana (Ambala), Haryana, 10-11 June, 2014.
- **“Managing Information Crises in the newly Establishing Libraries: Sharing Experiences of the Central Library, Central University of Kashmir,”** in the National Symposium on *Perspectives on Metrics based Research Evaluation* organised by DLIS, University of Kashmir, March 10 – 12, 2014.
- **“Usage statistics of the World eBook Library by the Central University of Kashmir,”** in the National Symposium on *Perspectives on Metrics based Research Evaluation*, organised by the DLIS, University of Kashmir, March 10 – 12, 2014.

Lectures Delivered:

- **“World Wide Web: An Ocean of the Open Access Information,”** UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir, October 14, 2014.
- **“Open Access Web Resources,”** 7 June, 2014, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar.
- **“Open Access Web Resources in the Field of Law,”** 7 June, 2014, School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

Conference/Workshop Coordinated/Participated:

- One-day National Seminar on **J&KRTI ACT, 2009: A Step Towards Transparency and Accountability**, organised by the CCAS, KU, in collaboration with Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, New Delhi, and J&KRTI Movement, 26 November, 2014.
- Participated in a **Refresher Course in the Library and Information Science**, organised by UGC Academic Staff College, University of Jammu, February 17-March 09, 2014.
- Coordinated one day workshop on **Management of Socio-Psychological Issues in Post-Flood Scenario of Kashmir**, organised by the Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, in collaboration with the Medical Service Centre (MSC), India, and the J&KRTI Movement, 29 October, 2014.

Abid Gulzar, Assistant Professor (Persian)

Publication:

- “**Gulshan-e-Raaz-e-Jadid Ka Ek Tanqeedi Mutal’a**,” in *Jadoo Nawa Iqbal*, 2014, pp.143-164, published by Iqbal Institute of Culture & Philosophy, University of Kashmir, ISBN: 978-93-82288-26-8.

Papers Presented:

- “**Manuscripts Of Kashmir: The Endangered Heritage**,” at a National Seminar on *Manuscript Sources of Kashmir*, June 18th –20th 2013, P. G. Department of Persian (KU).
- “**The Manuscript Heritage of Jammu & Kashmir and the Role of Academia**,” at a National Seminar on *The importance of Research and Manuscripts in Literature*, 28th-30th March, 2014, organized by National Mission for Manuscripts (New Delhi), in Collaboration with Centre for Professional Studies in Urdu, University of Jammu.
- “**Ahd-e-Taimuriah Ke Ilmi Aasaar**,” at the International Conference on *Literature and Culture in Medieval Central Asia*, June 11th–12th, 2014, organized by Centre of Central Asian Studies (K.U), in Collaboration with Kashmir Society (Srinagar).
- “**Gulshan-e-Raaz-e-Jadid Ka Ek Tanqeedi Mutal’a**,” at a Seminar on *Iqbal Ka Tasaw’wure-Khudi*, on November 13th, 2014, organized by Iqbal Institute of Culture & Philosophy, KU.
- “**Towards Global Peace – An Analysis of the Teachings of Lal Ded & Nund Reshi**,” at a National Seminar on *Lal Ded and Nund Reshi As Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood*, December 3rd–4th, 2014, organized by Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS), University of Kashmir, in Collaboration with Indian Council of Philosophical Research, (ICPR), New Delhi,

Workshop:

- Participated in 3-week UGC sponsored **ID Refresher Course in Humanities**, 27th October - 16th November, 2014, organized by UGC Academic Staff College, KU.

Seminar Coordinated:

- 2-Day National Seminar on **Lal Ded and Nund Reshi as Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood** (in view of World Philosophy Day), 3rd- 4th December, 2014, sponsored by Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR).

Project Recommended/In Hand:

- Research Project Recommended by the UGC (Amounts Rs. 14.22 Lac.) entitled “**Examining Sufism and Yoga as Determinants of Communal Harmony and Mutual Co- Existence**.”

- “Translation, Explanation and Critical Analysis of *Gulshan-e-Dastoor*.”

Dr. Sheikh Talal, Assistant Professor (Islamic Studies)

Paper Presented:

- “Eastern Turkistan: China’s Policies and Native Reaction,” at a 3-day International Conference on *Cooperative Development, Peace and Security in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects*, jointly organized by CRRID (Chandigarh) and CCAS (Kashmir University), 29th June – 1st July, 2014.

Refresher Course:

- Participated in the 66th General Orientation Course at the UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir, 13th Oct – 8th Nov, 2014.

Editorial Assignments:

- Compiled and Edited the *Central Asian Digest*, Vol. XXVII, 2013 as Co-editor

Dr. Suriya Gul (Naqati), Assistant Professor (Islamic Studies)

Papers Presented:

- “Contribution of Sufis to the Promotion of National Integration,” at an International Seminar on *Pluralist Democracy and National Identity*, University of Chandigarh, 22-23 October, 2013.
- “Imam Khomeini’s Views on Islamic Brotherhood,” at an International Conference organized by Imam Khomeini Foundation and held in Tehran (Iran) on the death anniversary of Imam Khomeini, 2013.
- “Lal Ded and Nund Reshi as Torch Bearers of Universal Brotherhood,” at a 2-day National Seminar (on the same theme) jointly organised by CCAS(KU), and Indian Council for Historical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, and held at KU, 3-4 December, 2014.

Interview/Workshops, etc.:

- Interviewed by the *Sahar* Urdu TV Channel, Tehran (Iran), 2013.
- Participated in a 10-day workshop on “*Quantitative Techniques in Social and Allied Sciences*,” Post Graduate Department of Economics, University of Kashmir, 16-25 December, 2013.
- Participated in the 66th General Orientation Course, organised by the UGC Academic Staff College, University of Kashmir, 13 October - 8 November, 2014.



Lectures Delivered on Research Methodology (2013)

Date	Speaker	Theme
04.06.2013	Prof. G. M. Mir	<i>Techniques in Social Science Research</i>
05.06.2013	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	<i>Research in a Broader Framework</i>
06.06.2013	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	<i>Research in a Broader Framework</i>

11.06.2013	Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey	<i>Research Questions</i>
13.06.2013	Dr. M. Afzal Mir	<i>Sampling</i>
18.06.2013	Prof. G. M. Mir	<i>Statistical Methods Applicable to the Disciplines of Geography, Sociology and Economics</i>
19.06.2013	Dr. M. Afzal Mir	<i>Economic Transformation in Central Asian Republics</i>
25.06.2013	Dr. Afaq Aziz	<i>Studying Place Names</i>
26.06.2013	Dr. Afaq Aziz	<i>Historical Linguistics</i>
27.06.2013	Dr. Sheikh Talal	<i>Objectivity in Research</i>
02.07.2013	Prof. G. N. Khaki	<i>Significance of Methodology in Historical Research</i>
03.07.2013	Prof. G. N. Khaki	<i>Islam in Central Asia</i>
04.07.2013	Dr. Tabasum Firdous	<i>Research Methodology in Social Sciences</i>
09.07.2013	Dr. Tabasum Firdous	<i>Democracy in Central Asia</i>
10.07.2013	Prof. M. Sultan Bhat	<i>Sampling and Types of Sampling</i>

(2014)

Date	Speaker	Theme
03.02.2014	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	Research Methodology: <i>An Overview</i>
03.02.2014	Mr. Abid Gulzar	Research Design: <i>Definition, Purpose & Types</i>
04.02.2014	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	Research Methodology: <i>Objectivity and Subjectivity</i>
04.02.2014	Dr. Darakhshan Abdullah	Research Design: <i>Objectives</i>
05.02.2014	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	Report Writing: <i>Chapertisation</i>
05.02.2014	Dr. M. R. Makhdumi	Research Design: <i>Source Material</i>
06.02.2014	Prof. G. M. Mir	Research Design: <i>Criteria and Trends</i>
06.02.2014	Dr. Darakhshan Abdullah	Research Design: <i>Hypothesis</i>
08.02.2014	Mr. Abid Gulzar	Formulation of Research Problem: <i>Identification of Problem</i>
08.02.2014	Dr. Darakhshan Abdullah	Research Design: <i>Scope and Relevance</i>
12.02.2014	Mr. Abid Gulzar	Formulation of Research Problem: <i>Statement of Problem</i>
12.02.2014	Dr. M. R. Makhdumi	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Primary & Secondary Source</i>
13.02.2014	Mr. Abid Gulzar	Formulation of Research Problem: <i>Review of Literature</i>

13.02.2014	Dr. Abdul Rauf Shah	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Sampling</i>
15.02.2014	Prof. G. N. Khaki	Research Design: <i>Purpose of Research & Research Gap</i>
15.02.2014	Dr. Tareak A. Rather	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Pilot Study</i>
17.02.2014	Prof. G. N. Khaki	Research Design: <i>Approach to Research</i>
17.02.2014	Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey	Compilation: <i>Footnoting</i>
18.02.2014	Dr. M Afzal Mir	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Sampling</i>
18.02.2014	Dr. Sheikh Talal	Compilation: <i>References and Bibliography</i>
19.02.2014	Dr. M. Afzal Mir	Analysis, Interpretation and Presentation of Data
19.02.2014	Dr. Tabasum Firdous	Analysis, Interpretation and Presentation of Data
20.02.2014	Prof. G. M. Mir	Compilation: <i>Steps & Tabulation</i>
20.02.2014	Dr. Afaq Aziz	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Primary and Secondary Sources</i>
22.02.2014	Prof. G. M. Mir	Compilation: <i>Statistical Techniques</i>
22.02.2014	Dr. Abdul Rauf Shah	Research Tools and Techniques: <i>Instruments of Data Collection</i>
24.02.2014	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	Report Writing: <i>Aids for Writing a Research Report</i>
24.02.2014	Dr. Tareak A. Rather	Report Writing: <i>Findings</i>
25.02.2014	Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw	Report Writing: <i>Criteria for Delimiting Topic for Further Research</i>
25.02.2014	Dr. Sheikh Talal	Compilation: <i>Appendices</i>

Guest Lectures

Name of the Guest	Topic	Year
Dr. Alexandr Djumaev, Uzbekistan	<i>Aesthetics in Persian Manuscripts</i>	2013
Dr. Rachel Harris, UK	<i>The Uyghur Muqam: Changing Contexts and Sounds in 21st Century, From Dervish Songs to National Icons to Intangible Culture Heritage</i>	2013

Dr. Geniche Tsuge, Japan	<i>Japanese Gagaku</i>	2013
Prof. Khodjamakhamad Umarov, Head, Department of Macroeconomic Studies, Institute of Economic Studies, Ministry of economy of the Republic of Tajikistan	<i>Tajik Economy</i>	2013
	<i>Uyghurs in Central Asia</i>	2013
Prof. Laura Yerekesheva, Head, Central and South Asian Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty, Kazakhstan	<i>When Cultures Merge: The Inter-religious Interaction in 19th Century Kazakh Steppe</i>	2013
Prof. Khodjamakhamad Umrov, Tajikistan	<i>Tajik Economy after Independence</i>	2014
	<i>Central Asia's economic Development Lies in Cooperation</i>	2014
Prof. Ajay Patnaik, Chairperson, Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi	<i>Recent Developments in Ukraine: Myth and Reality</i>	2014
Maliheh Sadat razavi, Islamic Azad University Mashad, Iran	<i>Seven Basic Steps of Research</i>	2014
Dr. Dibyesh Anand, Head, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster, London, UK	<i>Tibet, Xinjiang and Kashmir</i>	2014



Appointments

1. Mr. Abid Gulzar

Joined as Assistant Professor (Persian) on 2nd March, 2013. Before coming to the Centre, he taught Persian at the Government Degree College, Bemina, Srinagar.

2. Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey

Relinquished the post of Director DIQA and took over as the Director of CCAS from Prof. G. R. Jan on 9th April, 2013.

3. Prof. G. N. Khaki

Became Director of CCAS on 31st May, 2014. He took over from Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey.

4. Dr. Fayaz Ahmed Loan

Who was on the "Extraordinary Leave" w.e.f. 18th August, 2012 (during which period he served the Central University of Kashmir as Assistant Librarian), Joined back as Documentation Officer on 14th July, 2014.



Retirements

1. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Halwai, Assistant Professor (Research), Sociology.....31.03.2013.
2. Dr. Ghulam Rasool Jan, Professor (Persian), former Director31.05.2013.
3. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw, Professor (History), former Director.....30.04.2014.
4. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Mir, Technical Officer (Central Asian Museum).....30.04.2014.
5. Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Bandey, Professor (Archaeology), former Director.....31.05.2014.
6. Mr. Iqbal Ahmed Dar, Technical Officer (Central Asian Museum).....31.12.2014.



Aijaz Ahmad Wani, at Eid Gha Mosque, Kashgar (Xinjiang) During his Field Study



CCAS Faculty and Non-teaching Staff (31.05.2014)



‘LEST WE FORGET’

Dr. Sheikh Talal

“Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”

Verily, they were the invaluable members of CCAS, the unparalleled Centre, where we all grew up in age, in experience, and in position. They were our Seniors, former Directors, and Officers, who attained the age of superannuation and left, one by one, leaving others to wait for their turn, and to ponder over what they left behind – their dedication and cooperation, discipline and determination, experience and knowledge, and not to speak of those unforgettable memories and moments we shared at the Centre for decades together. With deep humility, we express our gratitude for their contributions, support and kindness they rendered for the betterment of the Centre and for their juniors, scholars and students. Despite the inevitable parting, they are with us, in our hearts and in our minds: we did not bid them farewell “with a heavy heart”, as is said and done on such occasions—instead, with all fervour we congratulate them on their retirement for this is the right time for them to look back with pride and satisfaction on years well lived and look forward to start a new life, and think that retirement is not an end to life, but a chance to do all what they had been putting off because they had no time. And now, let them enjoy what they are yet to enjoy; let them spend quality time with their families and explore new horizons, and let it dawn upon them that “future is an open empire after retirement.” Let us pray for their health, prosperity and long life, and let their days be filled with elation and triumph.

Below, we give, in a chronological order, a brief profile of each of these brilliant (former) members of the CCAS team:

Dr. Mushtaq A. Halwai, Assistant Professor (Sociology):

Born and brought up at Sopore, Mr. Mushtaq A. Halwai, after obtaining his bachelor’s degree from Sopore Degree College, went to Aligarh Muslim University where he passed his Master’s in Sociology with flying colours. After a gap of several years, Mr. Halwai joined the Centre as a research scholar and successfully completed his M.Phil. (on *Dupkas of Ladakh: A Sociological Study*) and Ph.D. (on *Modernisation of Muslims and Buddhist Dards of Ladakh*) programmes.

His appointment as Research Associate in the Centre was made in view of his abilities and aptitude for research. Besides working on the research projects assigned to him by the Centre, he was involved in a number of academic -cum- administrative assignments: for almost half a decade, Dr. Halwai worked as the Convenor of Research Scholars’ Affairs. He also worked as one of the Editors of the *Central Asian Digest*, and Editorial Assistant, *The Journal of Central Asian Studies*, a CCAS publication of international repute. He retired as Assistant Professor (Sociology, CCAS) on 31.03.2013.

Although Dr. Halwai’s major works deal with different aspects of the Ladakh region, his (referred) book entitled *Ethnicity in Uzbekistan: A Case Study in Culture and Identity*, (released in 2009 at the International Conference organised by the Centre), won appreciation



even from abroad. In September 2009, Dr. Halwai's knowledge and experiences with regard to the far flung areas of Ladakh, where he had been several times in connection with his research projects, made him a prominent team member of the "Silk Route Expedition -Leh-Chushul-(Phase-III), headed by Dr. G.N. Khaki. The Report of the Expedition was not published until Prof. G. R. Jan took over as the Director, CCAS. He entrusted the job to Dr. Halwai who worked hard (with this writer of some assistance) to come up to the expectations of the Director. The Report was published and widely acclaimed.

Dr. Halwai got little time to serve the Centre, but his contribution with regard to the Affairs of the Research Scholars and Editorial Assignments is known to all. He will be remembered for his struggle, hard work, interesting discourses, and not to speak of his sense of humour.

Prof. Ghulam Rasool Jan (Persian):

Dr. G. R. Jan started his career as a teacher in the Department of Higher Education (J&K Govt.) and served there for six years. He joined the university service as Assistant Professor in the Department of Persian. Nine years after, he shifted to the Centre of Central Asian Studies as Associate Professor and subsequently became Professor less than a decade after. In 2011, Prof. Jan became Director of CCAS, a position which he held till his retirement on 31.05.2013. He served the university for 25 years.



Prof. Jan is a well-known scholar of Persian language and literature. His contribution to the subject hardly needs any introduction. He taught the Persian at graduate and post graduate levels. His mastery over this language and its accent made him popular even in the countries where it is spoken. He has guided a number of research scholars, and has to his credit, 7 M. Phils and 3 Ph.Ds. His two important books (in Urdu) which brought him laurels, are: *Shaykh Yaqoob Sarfi: Life and Works* and *Tuhfatul Ahbaab* (Vol. 1), of which the second volume is yet to be completed. His latest publication is *Persian/Tajik-Kashmiri-English Dictionary*. Besides, during the last twenty years, Prof. Jan has contributed a large number of research papers which appeared in the journals of international repute. His research works took him to several foreign countries including Pakistan (Baltistan), Iran and Tajikistan where he is recognised as an erudite scholar and often invited to deliver lectures and participate in the conferences. In view of the valuable contribution to his discipline, he was honoured, on several occasions, by reputed academic institutions of the said countries. In 2010, he received Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad Ghalib Award at the Ghalib Institute, New Delhi.

As Director CCAS, Prof. Jan proved to be meticulous in every respect. He was always particular about the publications of the Centre. It was under his able guidance that besides some research projects of historical and contemporary significance, three issues of the *Central Asian Digest* were regularly brought out. One of the issues (Vol. XXVI) was released (on 17.9.2012) by the Vice President of India, Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari, at the Governor House, Cheshma Shahi. Another important publication brought out was the widely acclaimed Report on the *Silk Route Expedition: Leh-Cheshul (Phase III)*. Needless to say that the said Expedition with Dr. G. N. Khaki as the Team Leader (and this writer as one of the team members), had completed its survey in October, 2009, but the Report was yet to be published. Prof. Jan received letters of appreciation from different corners of the world.

During Prof. Jan's tenure, the Centre organised an International Conference on

Globalization and Eurasia: Changes and Challenges, which was inaugurated by the Governor, Mr. N. N. Vohra on October 18, 2011. Again, a National Seminar in collaboration with the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID, Chandigarh), was organised on a theme of contemporary importance, *India and Central Asia: Perspectives on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation*. The Seminar was held in Chandigarh (17-19 October, 2012). Moreover, mention must be made of a high-level delegation from the Republic of Kazakhstan. It came with the aim to facilitate more academic collaboration between the Centre of Central Asian Studies (KU) and the academic institutions of Kazakhstan. Besides, many scholars of international repute who visited the Centre and delivered special lectures were: Mr. Sudhir T. Devare (Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs), Mr. Hakan Wahlquist (Keeper, Sven Heden Foundation, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences), Prof. Abdul Matin (Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aligarh Muslim University), Prof. Naseer Ahmed (School of Economics, Central University Hyderabad), Prof. Vasant Schinde (Director Department of Archaeology, Deccan College, Pune), Prof. S. L. Bhat (Expert in Space Law, and Advisor to United States), etc. Mr. Saeed Beg Sa'idov, the Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan in India, also a well-known poet (of Tajik language), made several visits to the Centre. It may not be out of place to mention that Prof. Jan has been introducing Mr. Sa'idov's writings and even reviewed one of his beautiful poetic collections titled *Nakhat-e-Kashmir*.*

Despite the fact that Prof. Ghulam Rasool Jan had not sufficient time to add too much to the Centre's beauty, he will be remembered for his efforts, and for his simplicity and sincerity.

Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw (History):

Dr. Mushtaq A. Kaw joined his alma-mater as Assistant Professor in the Department of History. In 1992, he shifted to the Centre of Central Asian Studies as Associate Professor and eventually became Professor in 2001. During his 28 years' service, he held the following important positions: Chief Proctor, Director CCAS, Director ASC, Director South Campus (KU), Dean, College Development Council, etc. He also served his fraternity as the President, Kashmir University Teachers Association (KUTA). Prof. Mushtaq A. Kaw attained the age of superannuation on 30.04.2014.



While in the Post Graduate Department of History, he taught several significant courses like Central Asian History, Modern World Civilization, Medieval History of India and Kashmir, Research Methodology, etc. He did not give up teaching even after joining a Research Centre like CCAS. Despite being a strict Research Guide, he produced 18 M. Phils and 8 Ph.Ds. Some scholars are yet to complete their research programmes under his guidance.

As Director CCAS (and then as Director ASC), Prof. Kaw's strenuous efforts came to fruition when Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed to link the University of Kashmir with reputed educational institutions of China, Central Asia and Turkey. As a result, the Centre, already known to some Central Asian academic institutions, was now internationally recognised as a Research Institute of repute. Simultaneously, holding of successful international conferences and seminars paved the way for the Centre's faculty

* Book Review, *Central Asian Digest*, Vol.XXV, 2011, pp. 3-34.

and research scholars to travel to different parts of the world in connection with their respective research projects and field surveys, or, to participate in relevant conferences and workshops. In 2011, the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Talat Ahmed wrote with regard to the aforementioned MOUs:

“It is noteworthy that the Centre has been able to sign several MOUs with many prestigious universities and other institutes within the country and abroad to seek academic cooperation with Turkey, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan for carrying out joint research and exchange of faculty and research scholars. It is a good sign that many of the researchers of the Centre have been to these countries to undertake studies on various issues.”

As a result of these MOUs, foreign dignitaries, scholars and academicians of substance were seen perpetually visiting the Centre, delivering lectures, and interacting with the faculty – thus making us feel proud on the one hand, and creating a sense of responsibility on the other. Those were the years when Centre’s research works and periodicals appeared on the scene one after the other.

Prof. Kaw’s scholarship is well-known. He is a prolific writer and his works include his well-researched and voluminous book *The Agrarian System of Kashmir : 1586-1819*, and more than fifty research papers which have appeared in different national and international journals of repute. His write-ups intermittently appear in the Valley’s renowned Dailies, which reveal his understanding of the burning and significant issues of the contemporary world. During the years 1998-2014, Prof. Kaw extensively travelled to a number of countries (including Germany, Hungary, United States, Turkey, Pakistan, China, Japan, etc.) in connection with his research programmes and invitations. He is a frequent visitor to the Central Asian Republics where he is invited to deliver lectures and attend meetings of prestigious academic institutions of which he is still a Member.

Space does not permit to mention Prof. Kaw’s role and achievements as Director, South Campus (KU), or, as the Dean, College Development Council—positions which kept him on his toes. Indeed, it was his ability, as we all witnessed, to steer the institutions he headed, through tough situations and to move them away from the old system and stagnation to such a level so as to meet the contemporary demands. To our understanding, as an administrator, his effort was to handle each problem with sincerity and not to allow personal feelings to dictate his course of action.

Professor Mushtaq Ahmed Kaw will be remembered by one and all for his fascinating personality, multidimensionality, and above all, for his leadership quality.

Bashir Ahmed Mir (Technical Officer):

Mr. Bashir Ahmed Mir joined the Centre on 15th of December, 1979, almost a year after the Centre itself was established (1978). He worked in different capacities: as Junior Assistant, he served the CCAS Office for several years and then shifted to the Central Asian Museum and finally retired as Technical Officer on 30.04.2014.

Mr. Mir had the honour to work with almost all the Directors who always spoke high of him. For instance, in the beginning of his career, the founder-Director, (late) Professor



* “The Vice Chancellor’s Message,” *Central Asian Digest*, Vol. XXV, 2011, p. 4.

S. Maqbool Ahmed, wrote with regard to his capabilities that “Shri Bashir has been working in the Centre in different capacities and has impressed me with his hard work and conduct.” His contribution as Technical Officer was appreciated by all the Directors. Professor Aijaz A. Bandey, during whose Directorship Mr. Mir retired, had this to say: “Mr. Bashir is a hardworking officer and his work and conduct is exemplary.” In fact, throughout his service, Mr. Bashir Ahmed Mir proved to be a dedicated, helpful and honest worker, and this is why his colleagues at the Centre will miss him a lot.

Prof. Aijaz Ahmed Bandey (Archaeology):

Before joining the Centre, Dr. Aijaz A. Bandey served the State Government first as the Curator, Dogra Art Museum (Jammu, 1984-86), and then Sri Pratap Singh Museum (Srinagar, 1986-89). His appointment as Curator-cum-Lecturer (Archaeology) in CCAS was made in August 1989. He became Professor in 2009 and since then held two important positions – Director DIQA and Director CCAS. He retired on 31.05.2014.



Dr. Bandey took over at a time when the Centre's most important wing - the Central Asian Museum (CAM) was in a dilapidated condition as it had suffered heavy damages due to a thunder storm in August 1988. Though less than a decade old, the Museum was still in its infancy and needed to be restored and enriched. With a Museum Assistant like Iqbal Ahmed at his elbow, Dr. Bandey accepted the laborious challenge of cataloguing, repairing and then cleaning artefacts, guiding in building display cases, and finally arranging the entire collection for public viewing. Over the years, he was able to extend and develop the Museum's substantial collection. Dr. Bandey's hard work brought new life to the Museum which took him years to enrich it, decorate it, and make it one of the best museums in South Asia.

Although the Central Asian Museum consumed much of his time and energies, he managed to teach post graduate courses like Ancient History of Kashmir and Architecture of Ancient India. He also taught Research Methodology courses. As a Research Guide, he produced 3 Ph.Ds and 8 M.Phils, with some still working under him. A well-known archaeologist, Prof. Bandey has to his credit a long list of scholarly publications including his books of which the latest and most important is his *Prehistoric Kashmir* (2008). It may not be incongruous to reproduce what Manjil Hazarika wrote about this book: “it is quite comprehensive and noteworthy in terms of the multidisciplinary methodological approach taken into account for formulating the discussion and providing explanations to the problem. The societal assessment and economic approach taken by the author is the most important contribution of the book which may also be applied in other parts of the country in prehistoric studies.”*

As an archaeologist, Prof. Bandey's field-out research activities include explorations at Pahalgam, Bomai (Sopore), Manasbal, Nubra-Turtuk, Jammu area, etc. He has been a valued member of a number of excavation teams throughout India. As a Trained Conservator, his contribution brought laurels to the Centre. He participated in the preservation and conservation of paintings of Jain Temples in Karnataka, earliest documents of India (excavated at Gilgit), some 30,000 ancient coins in Sri Pratap Singh Museum, and miniature paintings on paper in the Museums of J&K.

* Book Review by Manjil Hazarika, *Central Asian Digest*, Vol. XXVII, 2013, p. 47.

As Director DIQA, Prof. Bandey served his fraternity well. With a graceful smile he would greet his colleagues from all over the University, both seniors and juniors, and with same respect and fairness. He did not play favourites to the best of our knowledge. He made decisions about colleagues based on Job performance. He knew very well how to handle “promotion problems” of his colleagues. He maintained mentoring relationship to help them move up the ladder and enhanced their ability to achieve their objectives. He exhibited kindness towards all knowing that they too were having lives outside the office. These are not fictional accounts but real stories revealed by men and women whose knotty problems he solved.

As Director CCAS, Prof. Bandey had little time to go ahead with his plans to add to the grandeur of the Centre. However, during his one year Directorship (April 2013-May 2014), the Centre organised two International Conferences on significant themes. It was for the first time in the history of the Centre that “Fine Arts” became the theme of an International Seminar in June 2013. Some faculty members were facilitated to go abroad in connection with their research programmes. A number of research scholars also got the chance to go to foreign countries for field surveys.

Professor Aijaz Ahmed Bandey will be remembered by the fraternity for his charming personality and especially for the quality to keep his cool even in the most challenging and tough situations.

Iqbal Ahmed Dar (Technical Officer):

A product of the famous Tyndale Biscoe School, Srinagar, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed studied Applied Arts (Fine Arts) and obtained his degree in 1982. As per records, he is the first to get this degree from the University of Kashmir. After completing his studies, he joined the local press and worked in different capacities, such as Finishing Artist, Cartoonist, and Photo Journalist. For some time, he also worked as a Freelance Artist and Designer. On 1st February, 1984, Mr. Iqbal joined the University Service and actually started his carrier as a Museum Assistant in the Central Asian Museum, an organ of the CCAS. For three decades, he worked with dedication and retired as Technical Officer on 31.12.2014.



Mr. Iqbal worked hard to make the Central Asian Museum what it is today. Established in 1980, the Museum was then in its infancy and needed honest and dedicated workers like him. In August 1988, this less than a decade old Museum suffered heavy damages due to a thunder storm and remained closed for almost a year. Its renovation and further development got a boost after the appointment of (Dr.) Aijaz A. Bandey as its Curator, and the duo left no stone unturned to make it one of the best in the country. During the last twenty years, this writer saw him always busy in the Museum making drawings, writing labels, and sometimes working like carpenters or painters. In fact, he was responsible for coordinating and overseeing all aspects of exhibit and collection works. The Director General of Museums (Government of India), while on his visit to the Central Asian Museum, had to appreciate Mr. Iqbal's efforts with regard to the “Display and Designing of Artefacts and showcases arranged by him.”

Besides serving the Museum, Mr. Iqbal was involved in other activities of academic significance and proved of great help to the Centre. He participated in a number of expeditions and surveys conducted by the Centre during the last thirty years. For instance, he was an

active member of all the teams which surveyed the Imperial Mughal Road, Manasbal Area, Bumai (Sopore), the Silk Route Expedition: Phase-I, etc.

Similarly, as an Artist, Mr. Iqbal received letters of appreciation from the prestigious Sahitya Academy for the beautiful jacket he designed for a book on Ghalib by Professor Marghoob Banihali, a well-known scholar of Kashmir (and a former acting Director of CCAS). He was also honoured for organising *Sonzal-2008*.

The Visitors' Book at the Museum reveals that Mr. Iqbal's hard work and dedication has always brought laurels to the Centre and will be remembered for his services.



Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey taking over as Director CCAS from Prof. G. R. Jan



Prof. G. N. Khaki taking over as Director CCAS from Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey



"It is the quality of a great soul to despise great things, and to prefer moderation to excess"

SPECIAL ARTICLES

Status of Makhtumkuli's Poetry in World Literature: A Study in Compatibility

Prof. G. N. Khaki*

Born and brought up in Persia, Makhtumkuli (1733-1813), is the founder of contemporary Turkmen poetry, language and literature. He developed a realistic style of writing which attained the heights of popularity and eventually made him the "National Poet of Turkmenistan." As against the philosophical treatises, more akin to Persian poetry, Makhtumkuli went beyond the conventional limits and used the format of Turkmen national poetry and its epic traditions. The profound quality of his poems have dominated the minds of all Turkic people living in the vast region from the Oxus to the Transcaucasia. His diligent mind, poetic style and eloquence influenced his predecessors to such a degree that he is revered not only as one of the tallest poets but a 'saint in disguise' with sound spiritual dimensions. He played a prominent role in shaping the cultural diversity of Turkmenistan and made an everlasting contribution to its originality. Makhtumkuli's poetry, by and large, remained in obscurity until mid-1990's, when Dr. Youssef Azoumon, an ethnic Turkmen from Iran, translated and published Makhtumkuli's *Songs from the Steppes of Central Asia*. Makhtumkuli was introduced to the western literary world in 1842, when Alexander Chodzko (London) translated and published three of his songs into English, followed by the German translation (and publication) of thirty of his poems by the well-known Hungarian scholar Vambery.

Makhtumkuli is believed to have started his poetic journey at the age of 20. He incorporated the universalistic features of poetry in his compositions. He was one of the prominent trend setters in the frequent usage of the Turkic language and poetry. In a similar fashion, the concepts of patriotism, love for native language and idealism is reflected in the poems of renowned Lebanese poet Gibran Khalil Gibran (1883-1931), e.g. *Dead Are My people* and *My Countrymen*. Khalil Gibran, in conformity with Makhtumkuli, often uses native and formal language with frequent spiritual terms. For instance, he says: "Spare me the political events and power struggle, as the whole Earth is my homeland and all men are my countrymen." Makhtumkuli also describes the tragic and devastating effects of social and political events, and of war and conflicts on the lives of ordinary people.

Makhtumkuli wrote on a variety of subjects which appealed various strata of Turkic people. The human suffering and social injustice which he witnessed forced him to pay attention to the worldly matters. He started thinking more and more about the happiness of his people. This is what one finds in the poems of the celebrated Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Rumi (604-672 AH), known throughout the world for his exquisite poems and words of wisdom who devoted himself to the cause of happiness to be administered among the masses. He says: "Every object, every being is a jar full of delight and happiness." In view of their compatibility both the personalities attained the status of spiritual leaders and teachers with extraordinary capabilities.

The compatibility and juxtaposition of Makhtumkuli's poetry viz-a-viz its style, format and thematic approach, with prominent and renowned poets round the globe, demonstrate his vision, genius and versatility. Viewing life from the point of view of human morality,

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Makhtumkuli's poetry is an embodiment of love and compassion for his people, and his revolt against the corrupt and unjust society. He gives an account of a destitute:

*The poor man, woes barefoot, showing his need
At meetings they will seat him low indeed
While if he rides a horse it's called an ass
A rich man's ass of course, is called a steed*

The above poetic exposition of the sufferings inflicted on poor was the theme and subject matter of Sādi Shirazi (1200-1292) of Iran. He says: "All human beings are like organs of a body; when one organ is afflicted with pain, others cannot rest in peace." His best known works *Bostan* (The Orchard) and *Gulistan* (The Rose-Garden) consist of stories aptly illustrating the standard virtues as justice, truth, liberty and modesty. Both these poets attached great importance to the truth and the concept of a perfect man.

Turkmen authors often compare Makhtumkuli to William Shakespeare (1564-1616), who was a master in exploring the multiple facets of nature like human strengths, sufferings and weaknesses — the key to his popularity and survival of his literary genius together with its applicability across cultures and times. Even John Milton (1608-1674), in his *Paradise Lost*, affirms an ultimate optimism in human potential — a concept found in the major part of Makhtumkuli's poetry.

Sir Mohammad Iqbal (1877-1938), who was born only sixty four years after the death of Makhtumkuli, remained restless throughout his life to see the Muslims united into a single nation state. He says:

*Eak hoon Muslim harem ki pasbani kay liyay
Neel kay saahil say layker ta ba khak-e-kashgar*

Iqbal seems to have come across the works of Makhtumkuli who was impatient to see his people (Turkmen) united into a single nation. Iqbal's renowned works like *Baang-e-Dara* (1924), *Baal-e-Jibrael* (1935), *Zarb-e-Kaleem* (1936) and *Armaghan-e-Hijaz* (1930), by and large, represent the same ideology. Both these poets insist on remembering past, doing well in the present and preparing for the future while emphasizing love, enthusiasm and energy to fulfill the ideal life. Both are of the opinion that an individual can never aspire to higher dimensions unless he leans of the nature of spirituality. Makhtumkuli's praise of religious figures with special reference to Twelve Imams (*athna 'asharia*) is found in the poetic composition of 'Allama Iqbal:

*Zindah haq az quwat shaberi ast
Batil akher dagi hasrat meri ast
(Truth is alive because of the courage and power of Hussain (Shabir) and
falsehood perishes at the end)*

Some of the prominent happenings in the life cycle of Makhtumkuli, not to talk of his poetry are also akin, similar and most compatible to the events and episodes of some of the distinguished Sufi poets of sub-continent. It is believed that Makhtumkuli as a Sufi and follower of Baha-ud-din Naqshband sought the blessing of then known Sufi Shah Girbat who declined to meet him. Makhtumkuli in response wrote his famous poem "I Took Up My Pen" which revealed his literary stature and got the doors of the Sufi saint opened for him. Same happened with Amir Khusro (1253-1325), who urged to meet his Sufi master Khwaja Nizam-ud-Din Awliya in Delhi (India). On his refusal, Khusro took recourse to his pen:

*Tu an shahi ki bar aiwan-i-qasrat
Kubutar gar nasheenad baz gardad
Faqiri mustamandi bar dar a'mad
Beyayad andorun ya bahar gardad*

(Thou art such a king that when a pigeon perches upon the top of thy palace, it becomes a falcon. A poor and distressed person is standing on thy threshold. Is he permitted to get in or go back?)

Makhtumkuli is believed to have experimented with new forms of poetry as a consequence of which most of his poems became popular among the Turkmen. This was the case with the famous poets of Kashmir almost three centuries before the Turkmen poet opened his eyes: Lala 'Arifa (1301-1367) and Sheikh-ul-'Alam (1376-1431) made frequent use of new forms of poetry which eventually attained the status of folk songs. These poems are even today known to every ordinary Kashmiri. It is quite interesting to note that Sheikh-ul-'Alam's *Shruk* and Lala 'Arifa's *Wakh* bear the same value and merit in poetry as that of Makhtumkuli. Lala 'Arifa, Sheikh-ul-'Alam and Makhtumkuli, share a common style and have a great compatibility as all are widely revered by their countrymen, and their poems are often quoted as proverbs in their respective regions. George Bernard Shaw has rightly said "Great men think alike."

In his poem, *Everything Openly*, Makhtumkuli describes the beauty and charm of his motherland (Central Asia) in the following couplet which elevates him to a poet of nature:

*When Nawruz falls, the world takes color openly
Clouds cry aloud, mountains gather haze openly*

The same thing we find in the poetry of Ghulam Ahmed Mehjoor (1887-1952) who was born seventy four years after the demise of Makhtumkuli. Mehjoor, popularly known as *sha'ir-e-kashmir* (the Poet of Kashmir), describes the natural phenomenon with all its manifestations in his poetic compositions that persuades a common man to ponder on the natural beauty God has bestowed the mankind. Mehjoor says:

*"Come to me the moon night, full of charm, light and stars.
Blossoming of flowers, grand waterfalls and mountain peaks instigate you."*

Another revolutionary poet of Kashmir who appeared on the scene almost a century after Makhtumkuli, was Abdul Ahad Azad (1903-1948). He was a younger contemporary of Mehjoor but died before him. Like Makhtumkuli, this selfless Kashmiri poet wrote with missionary zeal and conviction. He too was dissatisfied with the prevailing social order. Azad was perhaps the first to introduce political themes, social criticism and even new forms of poetry into the pre-partitioned Indian literature.

In view of the universal appeal of poetic compositions of Makhtumkuli, several Russian and Turkmen scholars, after tremendous efforts, collected his works from various scattered sources. The President of Turkmenistan, Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, termed Makhtumkuli "a spiritual leader of the human soul." To quote the President's words: "Makhtumkuli's poetic world turn into the national philosophy, a hymn to the genuine love for the motherland and native people." To Vambery, the celebrated Hungarian scholar, "Makhtumkuli's poems are deemed second to the *Qur'an* among the Turkmen people." Likewise, a distinguished Russian orientalist, V. V. Bartold, while referring to Makhtumkuli, says that the "Turkmens are the only people (among the Turkic peoples) who have a National Poet."

Palummetng Oil Prices: An Alarm to Oil Producing Countries*

Mohammad Ibrahim Wani**

Dr. M. Afzal Mir

In modern times, hydrocarbons have attained the status of life blood of an economy and the continuous rise in oil prices, however, has made most countries perturbed particularly those largely dependent on energy imports. The high oil prices usually leads to high inflation, current account deficit, balance of payment crises, were some of the challenges these countries faced. The recent crash of oil prices in international market has, however, given a significant relief to these countries; but anxiety to oil producing countries as sharp crash means less revenue earnings which otherwise means loss of significant revenue receipts. Hence, the countries of the world which depends largely on oil revenue has now a herculean task to deal with decline in revenue caused due to decreasing oil prices and their growing budgetary and financial requirements.

The present scenario existed in the oil market due to the coming of Oil Shale in the market. The brief history of **Oil Shale** begins in the recent past. The USA being the major oil consuming and large economy of the world, was concerned about the country's dependence on imported energy resources since the heat of first oil price shock in 1970-79, which led them to think about an alternative sources of sustainable energy, accordingly the '**invisible hand**' of Adam Smith led the result of '*Shale Revolution*' in 2014, added 4 million new barrels of crude oil per day and impacted USA,s energy import trend, thereby effected the world oil market prices. The global crude oil production is currently about 75 million barrels per day in which additional supply of shale oil has a crucial significance.

The **smell** of Oil Shale was found in many places worldwide, by far the largest deposits in the world are found in the United States in the '*Green River Formation*', which covers portions of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, and North Dakota. Estimates of this oil resource in place are recoverable; and even a moderate estimated at 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from Oil Shale in the '*Green River Formation*' is three times greater than the proven oil reserves of Saudi Arabia. Presently USA demand for petroleum products is about 20 million barrels per day. If Oil Shale could be used to meet a quarter of that demand, the estimated 800 billion barrels of recoverable oil from the Great River Formation would last for more than 400 years. Given this greater availability of domestic energy resources, the United States would reduce dependence on imported energy and has already impacted the global oil market resulted in the world oil prices as prices plummeted from \$115 - \$59 per barrel in December, 2014(Fig-01). It is expected that the prices may likely to fall further below the current level of \$48 a barrel with the passage of time.

Notwithstanding the fact, such a scenario would create a havoc on the oil producing Countries and the regions having hydrocarbon potential like Gulf Region, Central Asian republics, Russia and Venezuela, whose major revenue budgets comes from the hydrocarbons would led them to think about not to remain dependent only on single (energy) sector rather to diversify their respective economies otherwise such a scenario may cause the '**Duch Disease**' and accordingly may have to face another '**Great Depression**' in the near future.

Saudi Arabia and Russia, the world's largest hydrocarbon producers will suffer 14% and

* Courtesy: Rising Kashmir, Srinagar, 20th January, 2015.

** Ph. D. Scholar, Economics, CCAS.

4.5% of their GDP respectively if oil prices will stay at around \$59 per barrel in 2015 as per the estimates. In the meanwhile, the heat of this oil price crash is good for oil importing economies like **India** and **China** as RBI Deputy Governor Urjit Patel said, “dramatic” fall in global oil prices is a fortunate thing for Indian economy and may help to save \$50 billion on import bill which would give **break** to inflation to large extend. Hence, those oil producing countries that primarily depends upon oil sector should consider the present heat of oil price crash as a great alarm. Besides, keeping in view the development in science and technology and serious endeavors of scientists in pursuits of finding alternative sources of energy need to learn a lesson ‘*not to rely on oil sector only*’ but to diversify their economies for sustainable economic growth and development.



Mr. Abid Gulzar Coordinating the Seminar on Lalded and Nund Reshi



Dr. Wahid Nasaru Preseting Vote of Thanks at the Seminar on Lalded and Nund Reshi



Dr. Fayaz A. Loan Coordinating the Seminar on J&K RTI ACT-2009

NEWS SCAN ON CENTRAL ASIA

Compiled by:

*Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Loan**

Turkmenistan and Gas-Expansion Plans:

Turkmenistan's President, Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov, gathered regional leaders in his marble capital ostensibly to mark *Navruz*, the Persian New Year, 20-21 March, 2013. The biggest announcement to come out of the March 20-21 conclave – which included the Presidents of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Tajikistan – was a memorandum on building a yet-to-be-financed railway connecting Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The route would help Dushanbe overcome its enforced isolation by Uzbekistan. For Berdymukhamedov, the construction of alternative gas export routes is a more pressing issue. Turkmenistan, which is believed to hold the world's fourth largest gas reserves, will see new gas fields come into operation soon.

(Courtesy: EURASIANET & Murat Sadykov; March 28, 2013)

Energy Policy of Turkmenistan and the UN Resolution:

The UN General Assembly passed unanimously the resolution 'Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation.' This is the second resolution on this subject – the first one was passed in 2008. It was initiated by Turkmenistan and co-authored by 71 countries. Turkmenistan is working systematically and steadily to create a global system for safe and reliable transit of energy resources and infrastructures.

(Source: News on Central Asia; May 23, 2013)

Kyrgyzstan: New Kumtor Mine Deal:


Centerra Gold Inc., which runs the Central Asian nation's flagship Kumtor gold mine, has come under pressure to revise an agreement set in 2009 after a state commission said it was paying too little to run Kumtor and accused it of environmental damage leading to US \$457 million in fines. The gold mine is the largest operated in Central Asia by a Western company and alone worth roughly 12 per cent of Kyrgyzstan's economic output. Hundreds of stone-throwing protesters besieged the Kumtor gold mine, for several days, demanding its nationalization and more social benefits. They blocked the main road leading to the mine, entered a power transformer unit and cut electric supply for a night. More than 50 people were wounded and 80 detained in violent clashes between protesters and the riot police, who fought back with rubber bullets and stun grenades. Peace was ultimately restored when the protesters unblocked the road. According to Jantoro Satybaldiev, Prime-Minister of the KR, the protest caused US \$ 4 million in damage to the mine, and shares went down 6 cents to US \$4.11, on volume 520,000.

(Source: The Times of Central Asia; June 10, 2013)

TAPI Gas Pipeline Project Suspended:

All work on the U.S.-backed Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project has been suspended at the designing stage due to preparations for the pullout of NATO and U.S. troops from Afghanistan, according to the sources close to the project. "At the present moment there is no clarity in the U.S. Administration on the question of which

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of U.S. agencies will continue their work in Afghanistan after 1 January 2014, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the main sponsor of TAPI. “We expect that the situation with TAPI’s future will be clarified not earlier than in December,” the source was quoted as saying. Earlier the Government of Afghanistan indefinitely postponed a tender for TAPI pipeline construction, although a presentation of the project’s feasibility study was scheduled for November 22, 2013. The TAPI project aims to export up to 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year through a proposed approximately 1,800-kilometer pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. Estimated cost of the pipeline project is reported at \$7.6 billion.

(Source: The Times of Central Asia; October 24, 2013)

President Emomali Rakhmon Re-elected:

Tajikistan’s President Emomali Rakhmon won another 7-year term in office. He secured 83.6% of the vote in elections. Turnout was nearly 87%. The President, who has been in power for two decades, faced five challengers but the only genuine opposition candidate was barred from standing. “While quiet and peaceful, this was an election without a real choice,” international observers said. In a statement the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) said that the campaign lacked the political debate necessary for a competitive campaign environment. The ‘authoritarian’ leader has been in office for more than 20 years in the impoverished former Soviet republic. President Rakhmon, 61, did not campaign actively. Instead, he relied on extensive media coverage of his visits around the country, which his opponents say was heavily biased in his favour.

(Source: BBC News; 7 November, 2013)

China Urges Russia and Central Asia to Control Internet:

Guo Shengkun, China’s Minister of Public Security, said at a six-nation security conference in Tajikistan that Russia and Central Asian countries must strictly control the Internet and prevent “external forces” from trying to overthrow governments and “provoke a new wave of color revolutions,” according to news agency reports on Friday. Mr. Guo, who was apparently referring to Western nations, made the remarks at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the security alliance that is composed of China, Russia and four Central Asian nations that were once part of the Soviet Union.

“This is a serious threat to the sovereignty and security of countries in the region and is a shared concern of the S.C.O. member states,” Mr. Guo said, according to Reuters. The news agency quoted Mr. Guo as saying that “external forces are using the social-economic contradictions and problems” to try “to overthrow the authorities.”

(Source: The New York Times & Edward Wong; April 18, 2014)

Kazakhstan: Landmark Eurasian Union Treaty Signed:

The leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus signed a treaty in Astana on May 29, 2014, establishing a Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). The signing ceremony was set against a backdrop of heightened regional tension stoked by the ongoing political crisis in Ukraine. The three signatories squabbled over the shape of the union, amid ill-concealed concerns among Kazakhstani and Belarusian officials that Russia seeks to dominate the union. In Kazakhstan, authorities are also trying to stifle protests by a small but vocal minority that asserts Astana is signing away the country’s sovereignty. Host President Nursultan Nazarbayev struck an

upbeat note as he and other signatories Vladimir Putin (Russia) and Alexander Lukashenko (Belarus) set differences aside to create the EEU out of their existing Customs Union. The pact will go into effect on January 1, 2015. “We see the EEU as an open economic community, organically plugged into global communications as a reliable bridge between Europe and growing Asia,” Nazarbayev said. Putin – who paid tribute to his host for first proposing the idea of creating a Eurasian Union some two decades ago – hailed the treaty as a “milestone” that will create “a powerful and attractive economic development center, a major regional market uniting over 170 million people.”

(Source: EURASIANET & Joanna Lillis; May 29, 2014)

China Bans Ramzan Fasting in Xinjiang:

China ordered schools and government offices in the northwest Xinjiang region to ban fasting during the ongoing holy month of Ramzan. The ban orders are being issued through websites of schools and government agencies in the region as well. “Civil servants and students cannot take part in fasting and other religious activities,” said Turfan city’s commercial affairs bureau on its website. The local government in Xinjiang had earlier asked its employees to refrain from observing Ramzan saying fasting can hurt their health. The Chinese Communist Party and the local government in Xinjiang discourage large prayer meetings and gatherings due to fears of separatism. The fasting ban orders are believed to have come from Beijing’s Public Security Bureau. A weather bureau in Qaraqash County in western Xinjiang cited “instructions from higher authorities” while asking “all current and retired staff not to fast during Ramzan”. “China taking these kinds of coercive measures, restricting the faith of Uighurs, will create more conflict,” exiled World Uyghur Congress spokesman Dilxat Raxit said in a statement. “We call on China to ensure religious freedom for Uighurs and stop political repression of Ramzan.

(Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>, July 3, 2014)

Iran ‘no longer needs’ Turkmenistan’s Gas:


Iran’s Oil Minister, Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said on August 11 that his country no longer needed gas from Turkmenistan. Zanganeh went so far as to say, «Iran is importing Turkmen gas just because it is important to promote political and economic relations with Turkmenistan.» The oil minister’s comments could be bargaining tactics, as Iran has frequently sought to convince Turkmenistan to lower the price for its gas, or it could reflect a potential shift in Iran’s role in the international gas market. Zanganeh said that with Iran about to boost domestic gas production by some 200 million additional cubic meters starting in March, 2015, the country could «abandon completely gas imports from Turkmenistan.» These contrasts with his statements in May that Iran would continue to import Turkmen gas at existing levels.

(Source: Asian Times & Bruce Pannier; August 18, 2014)

Ashraf Ghani is New Afghan President:

Ashraf Ghani was sworn in as Afghanistan’s new President, replacing Hamid Karzai in the country’s first democratic transfer of power since the 2001 US-led invasion that toppled the Taliban. Moments after Mr Ghani took the oath, he swore in his election challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, as chief executive, fulfilling a political pledge he had taken to share power. The appointment also aimed to diffuse election tensions that had threatened to spark violence





between the country's north and south. In his first speech, Mr Ghani called on the Taliban and other militants to join the country's political process and lay down their weapons. "We are tired of war, our message is peace, [but] this doesn't mean we are weak." said Mr Ghani in a televised address.

Mr Ghani congratulated Mr Karzai for a peaceful and democratic transition of power, and thanked Mr Abdullah for making a national unity government possible. The former president has said he is glad to be stepping down after more than a decade of what the US ambassador recently said was one of the most difficult jobs in the world. The inauguration took place eight days after the political deal signed between Mr Ghani and Mr Abdullah. The US was represented by John Podesta, counselor to President Barack Obama. Other notable guests included Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain and Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari.

(Source: The National.....; September 29, 2014)

Caspian Summit at Astrakhan:

The fourth summit of the heads of Caspian states, held in Astrakhan city of Russia on 29 September 2014, delivered fairly beyond expectations. The Presidents of the littoral states – Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan – described it as huge success; the Presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan portraying it as a 'breakthrough.' In addition to squeezing their positions closer together on the Convention on the legal status of the Caspian, the littoral states broke into new areas such as Caspian ring railroad, joint economic forum and other initiatives. The states signed a 19-point document specifying the principles governing the final draft of the Convention on the legal status.

(Source: News on Central Asia; September 30, 2014)

Central Asia: Can China's Silk Road Vision Coexist with a Eurasian Union?

For Russia, Chinese economic expansion could put a crimp in President Vladimir Putin's grand plan for the Eurasian Economic Union. Putin has turned to China in recent months, counting on Beijing to pick up a good portion of the trade slack created by the rapid deterioration of economic and political relations between Russia and the West. Beijing for the most part has obliged Putin, especially when it comes to energy imports. But the simmering economic rivalry in Central Asia could create a quandary for bilateral relations.

Chinese President Xi Jinping elaborated on Beijing's expansion plans, dubbed the Silk Road Economic Belt initiative, prior to 2014 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which concluded November 12, 2013. The plan calls for China to flood Central Asia with tens of billions of dollars in investment with the aim of opening up regional trade. Specifically, Xi announced the creation of a \$40-billion fund to develop infrastructure in neighboring countries, including the Central Asian states beyond China's westernmost Xinjiang Province. An interactive map published on Chinese state media outlet Xinhua shows Central Asia at the core of the proposed Silk Road belt, which beats a path from the Khorgos economic zone on the Chinese-Kazakhstani border, through Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, before snaking into Uzbekistan and Iran. Turkmenistan, already linked to China by a web of pipelines, would not have a hub on the main route.

(Source: EURASIANET & Chris Rickleton; November 12, 2014).

Uzbekistan Students Protest against Forced Labour:

Uzbekistan's practice of sending forced labourers to pick the cotton harvest causes a furore among right groups abroad every year, but now there are rumblings of discontent from within the country. Students at the country's National University have taken the unusual step of publicly complaining about being forced to help with the harvest, publishing an open letter to members of their country's authoritarian leadership on the Dunyo Uzbeklari (World of Uzbeks) opposition website. Uzbekistan is one of the world's leading cotton growers but the harvest relies on forced labour to help farmers meet government-set quotas. Around one million people, including teachers, students and doctors, were drafted in to help pick the country's "white gold" last year. The crop, which is mainly exported to Bangladesh and China, brings an estimated \$1bn per year into the regime's coffers.

(Source: The Guardian; November 13, 2014)

Uzbekistan Bans Child Labour:

Uzbekistan's pledge to end child labour in its cotton industry is leading to an increasing number of adults being forced to work in the state-controlled industry, according to an assessment of the 2014 harvest by a coalition of labour rights groups. A report by the Cotton Campaign reveals that a ban on the use of child labour in the Uzbek cotton harvest has resulted in increased pressure on adults to fill the gaps. It says 4 million adults were forced to work in the harvest this year. Uzbekistan has faced sustained criticism over its use of mandatory manual labour in the cotton industry. In recent years, a ban on Uzbek cotton by leading retailers and fashion brands protesting against the use of millions of schoolchildren in the annual harvest led to government decrees demanding the enforcement of a 2008 ban on child labour. Earlier this year, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) praised the government for monitoring the situation to ensure that children were kept out of the harvest workforce. Yet, in its annual assessment of the Uzbek cotton harvest, the coalition reported that the government has imposed new quotas on schools, hospitals and local administrations, requiring them to send up to 60% of their adult staff into the fields. This demand seriously undermines the provision of key public services such as healthcare and education.

(Source: The Guardian; November 14, 2014).

NATO Flag Lowered in Afghanistan as Combat Mission Ends:

The 13-year NATO combat mission in Afghanistan formally ended Sunday with a ceremonial retirement of its green flag and a pledge by top officials of the U.S.-led coalition to remain reliable partners in Afghanistan's unfinished war against the Taliban and other militant groups. Scores of Afghan and foreign officials gathered to witness the symbolic shift to a new, much smaller NATO assistance and training mission. The event was held inside NATO headquarters in the Afghan capital and accompanied by a brass band and a color guard. "Our commitment to Afghanistan endures. ... We are not walking away," promised Gen. John F. Campbell, the U.S. commander of the outgoing International Security Assistance Force mission. Campbell and other Western officials stressed that their chief function under the new mission, named *Resolute Support*, will be to advise, train and assist Afghan security forces. They said, however, that a separate "non-NATO" contingent of U.S. forces will participate in force protection, logistical support and counterterrorism activities.

(Source: The Washington Post & Pamela Constable; December 28, 2014)

SCHOLARS' CORNER

Activities Abroad

The Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) has been deputing its research scholars to foreign countries in connection with their field surveys and other relevant engagements. In order to encourage them and to highlight their research activities abroad, the Scholars' Corner will, henceforth, include brief reports to be submitted by them on their return. The reports of scholars who visited different Central Asian countries during 2013-14, are published hereunder.

Mohammad Aslam Bhat*

Country Visited: Uzbekistan

Research Topic: ***Transitions in Post-Soviet Uzbek Society: A Study of Youth Culture***

Research Guide: **Dr Tareak A. Rather**

Period: 15 October to 15 December, 2012

My doctoral research topic – Transitions in Post-Soviet Uzbek Society: A Study of Youth Culture – presents an elaborate attempt to answer the questions of broad politico-cultural import vis-à-vis the youth transitions in Uzbekistan. Since this is an empirical study, subjects (respondents) were to be studied for getting the first hand empirical material. After having some connoisseur opinions and discussions, two months' field work in Uzbekistan was decided. Beginning in Tashkent City, I set up interviews with a few young people to whom I was introduced by my field supervisor Prof. V.S. Khan and then these young people referred me to other young people and so on. Same has been the case, once I moved to Samarkand, Bukhara and Fargana Valley. Altogether, sixty (60) "one to one" interviews and three (3) focus group discussions (FGD) were conducted. Two FGDs comprising of 10 young people each were conducted at University of World Economy and Diplomacy, and National University of Uzbekistan. And one special FGD with eight (8) young people, who were members of Kamolot (an Uzbek youth organisation) was carried at Institute of Oriental Studies. Concomitantly, achieving the 'emic' validity i.e. to understand the socio-cultural context, processes, and meanings of a cultural system from the perspective of the members of that system, during my field work stint in Uzbekistan, I had also discussions and consultations with the number of academicians and experts including Prof. R. M. Abdullaev, Director Institute of History, Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan; Prof. Ismat Bekmuratov, Dean Faculty of Economics, Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent; Prof. P. L. Dash, University of World



Aslam Bhat (Centre) with Students of Economics at Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

* Ph. D. Scholar, Sociology, CCAS (Degree awarded in April, 2014).

Economy and Diplomacy, Tashkent; Mr. Rajesh Mehta, Director Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture, Tashkent; James Pickeet, Doctoral Candidate, Department of History, Princeton University; Dr. Mirzokhid Rahimov, Asst. Prof. Institute of History, Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan, and Rahmatullaev Shavhatjon, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of History, Academy of Sciences, Uzbekistan.



Mohd. Younus Wani*

Country Visited: Kazakhstan & Germany

Research Topic: *Growth and Development of Industries in Soviet and Post Soviet Kazakhstan*

Research Guide: *Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey*

Period: 07 March to 07 April, 2014

The Researcher visited the area of study (Kazakhstan) and borrowed insights from the relevant people. He visited many relevant industries and interacted on the ground to reveal pragmatist approach to the problem under his study. The visit to Siamon Metallurgical Plant, Kazakh Technological University, Caspian University, Kazakh Agricultural University, etc. answered his purpose. The Scholar's visit to these places was aided with interaction with the Directors, staff and many others revealed lot of information. Visit to a number of universities and plants where scholar interacted with students studying technical or professional education. The researcher for the sake of unrolling veracity, went to many plants producing thermoelectricity, dealing with metallurgy, (copper, Iron, etc). He borrowed valuable insights from the staff of these plants and also enquired from them the reasons of growth of the plants that in one way or the other shaped the industrial productivity in Kazakhstan. To look into the agricultural stuff and the researcher's intent to see why Kazakhstan outdo others in the production of wheat, a thorough survey of the parts of Northern and Southern Kazakhstan was made which added glamour to the work. Chimkent, an area of great agricultural productivity, was also visited by the researcher to look into agricultural industry. Likewise, he visited Astana to see other resources that are rendering solid support to industries in Kazakhstan. His interaction with the Central Asian scholars in Berlin, Germany, also contributed to the refinement of the problem. To cap it all, the scholar's inquiry was to see industrial growth and its contribution to the aspects of development in the country.



Younus in interaction with the New Breed Familiar with Industrial Culture in Almaty, Kazakhstan

* Ph. D. Scholar, History, CCAS.



Firdous Ahmed Dar*

Country Visited: Kyrgyzstan

Research Topic: *Role of NGOs in the Socio-political Development of Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan*

Research Guide: Dr. Tabasum Firdous

Period: 5 January to 3 February, 2014

The empirical part of my doctoral thesis, followed by the dearth of research material with regard to the role of the NGOs in the socio-political transformation of Kyrgyzstan and their challenges and prospects since 1990s, demanded some field work so as to authenticate my the study. Therefore, I consulted the authorities including the Director CCAS, Director ASC and my Research Guide, Dr Tabasum Firdous, and requested them to allow me to visit the area on the grounds mentioned above. I am thankful to all of them for not only encouraging me to go ahead with my programme but also helped me in many ways.

Before going to the field, I prepared two interview guides one for INGOs/NGOs and another for the beneficiaries. In view on my budget and period, I randomly selected/shortlisted only seven INGOs said to be oldest besides being very active and financially sustainable. The selected areas were located close to Bishkek and Osh - 300 km away from the Capital. With regard to the beneficiaries, "snowball methodology" was used to find them out.

My field work lasted for one month (5 Jan to 3 Feb 2014). The collection of information (survey) was performed by interviews based on semi-structured interviews guide. For the convenience of the respondents, time and place of the meeting was arranged beforehand. Every interview lasted for 30-60 minutes. Total interviews conducted numbered 42 (in case of INGOs/NGOs 23, and Beneficiaries/Target groups, 19).

Throughout my stay in Kyrgyzstan, I was helped by many people in many ways. Without their guidance and assistance it was never possible for me to complete the survey. To mention some: Prof. Zakir Choteav, for his guidance and being with me during my field work; Jamiliya Urkunchieva, for her kind cooperation; and Armaan Ali and Noora, for making me feel at home. In fact, these are the people responsible for my successful field work which definitely added to the significance and originality of my research work.



Firdous with INTRAC (NGO) Officials, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

* Ph. D. Scholar, Political Science, CCAS.

Shireen Tramboo*

Country Visited: Kazakhstan

Research Topic: *The Socio-linguistics Paradigm in Kazakhstan: Issues of Choice and Practice in the Education System*

Research Guide: Dr Tareak A. Rather

Period: 10 November-6 December, 2014

In November, 2014, I was invited by the Department of Sociology, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Republic of Kazakhstan, to attend one month's internship programme. I reached Astana, the (new) capital of Kazakhstan on 10th November, 2014.

The internship did not only serve as a great learning experience but also facilitated the collection of necessary data and information based on the methodological tools like observation, interview, and discussions. It also acted as a ladder to the study of the Kazakh society, knowing its history, culture and traditions, besides developing an understanding of the sociolinguistic functioning at present. During the said period I was chosen as the student ambassador for this cultural exchange.

The focus of my research being the use of Kazakh language in the education system, was well taken care of in a systematic manner. Surprisingly, I did not find Kazakhs scared of or hostile towards the Russian speaking population. Instead, they are trying hard to motivate their new generations to be well acquainted with their mother tongue.

During the days I used to go around various university campuses, schools, coffee shops, local market places, libraries, hypermarkets, often daring to travel in local buses observing and interviewing the locals belonging to different backgrounds — parents, teachers and other resource persons. I was also able to spend time with some families and engage in discussions to get a measure of their approach to world view. My interaction with the students including foreigners helped me see the resemblance and difference between different cultures, and at the same time made me realise the richness of our culture and traditions passed on from Central Asia. The students there were too keen to know everything about Kashmir.

During my one month stay in Astana and Almaty (I left the Republic on 6th December), I observed some lingual similarities between Kazakh and other languages especially Urdu where a word carries the same meaning in both the languages like *samavor*, *chai*, *palaw*, *gul*, *piyaz*, *kalan*, *dost*, *piyala*, *sham*, *dukan*, *amaanat*, *naan*, etc.

Lastly, I am thankful to the Director CCAS, Director ASC and my Research Guide for encouraging and mentoring me by all possible means. I am also thankful to Dr Irfan Fazli, Department of Foreign Languages (KU), from whom I had learnt the basics of the Russian language before leaving for Kazakhstan.



Shireen (2nd from right) in Astana, Kazakhstan

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Articles

Significance of Central Asian Energy Sector in Global and Regional Perspective

*Mohammad Ibrahim Wani**

Situated on the Eastern flank of the Caspian Sea, the Central Asian Republics have significant hydrocarbon and hydropower potential reserves considered to be a possible source of diversification for countries heavily dependent on energy imports from West Asia and elsewhere. While the estimates of their reserves vary widely across different sources, there is consensus that the region has as much potential as the North Sea. These republics are undoubtedly characterized by distinct location away from the markets, forbidding geography, disruptive geopolitics, an unsuitable neighborhood and deficient infrastructure which have made their energy rich resources expensive to exploit and difficult to reach the prospective markets. However, the large investment made by world famous oil companies has raised the hope that energy rich republics will be in a position to transform their economies by meeting the domestic energy requirements and earn large revenues through the export of their increasing surplus energy production. On the one hand, these resources have a capacity to become the major source of economic growth of these republics and on the other, it offers an opportunity to their neighbours whose energy needs are increasing annually.



The energy (Hydrocarbon and Hydropower) is Central Asia's one of the crucial resources which other countries of the region intend to accelerate and harness as an integral part of their economic development. The development of energy potential is definitely going to usher in huge economic benefits in the form of infrastructure development, industrialization and revenue. Increase in hydrocarbon and hydropower generation together with bringing efficiencies in energy consumption in all the Central Asian republics, would not only provide energy at affordable cost for eco-friendly industrial development, but also turn the region into a net energy exporter. The consumption pattern of energy in these countries seriously demands efficiency in energy utilization, otherwise they are likely to face the crunch in the years to come.

Nonetheless, the region has world's 12.5% of hydrocarbon reserves which constitutes 10.6% of proven natural gas and 1.9% of proven oil reserves respectively. Taken together proven and probable(possible) reserves of oil and natural gas, the region has 102-193.3 billion barrels of oil and 507-608 trillion cubic feet of natural gas which constitutes the 23-25% of world proven and probable hydrocarbon reserves, given these reserves the region is going to hold a vital position in future. Though the share of the region is not so large, therefore, the impact in the normal times would be small in global scenario. However, in case of any eventuality in the Gulf region, Central Asian countries could be an alternative source as the proven and possible reserves of the region which will have a substantial impact on the global energy supply and demand. Also, even if the world energy scenario can't be changed by the proven reserves of the region in normal times, it will have tremendous impact when it comes to the element of natural gas and the countries already dependent like Eastern Europe, Central Asian neighbours together with other energy deficient countries like China and India. So, the diversification of hydrocarbon supply through development of regions like Central Asia

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may lessen the worries of countries solely dependent on Persian Gulf and the reserves alike.

In future, as the experts believe, the region is going to play an important role as an alternative to the sources of energy of which the exploitation is also becoming significant in respective economies in the process of technology, managerial expertise, and knowledge of international markets. Hence, such energy resources of Central Asia are vital to their geo-economic and geo-political future and path to the world economy.



The Impact of Persian on the 19th Century Kashmiri Poetry

Shugufta Majeed*

Despite Kashmir's intimate relations with Persia (Iran) during the ancient and medieval times, Persian language and culture could not influence or dominate what came to be known as *iran-e-sagheer* (Kashmir) and its language until the establishment of Muslim rule, when political and cultural relations between the two made it possible for this 'foreign' language (Persian) to 'rule' western Asia and become the highly prestigious language at the Courts. In Kashmir, it ruled for centuries and left indelible marks on her language and literature.

Kashmiri writers and poets borrowed appropriate similes, metaphors, and idioms to express new ideas that were unfamiliar to Kashmiri language and culture. They incorporated Persian loanwords and all such literary expressions and techniques that were prevalent in their scholastic writings. During the Mughal rule in Kashmir (1587-1752A.D), Persian was retained as Court language and thus enjoyed official patronage for centuries together. Consequently, translations of hundreds of *Mathnavis*, epics, tragedies and comedies were taken up. This also allowed the legendary Iranian heroes to become popular in Kashmir. However, localization of the events and names of flora and fauna make an interesting reading. Translations of Persian poetry also provided a major means of conveying Persian lexical items and expressions into Kashmiri. A large number of Persian poems including lyrics (*Ghazal*) and almost all the famous *Mathnavis* and *Epics*, were translated into Kashmiri verse. In these works, wherever the translators failed to find appropriate lexical items and idioms in Kashmiri, he used the original Persian words. Thus the increasing influence of Persian language paved the way for a new poetic form which came to be known as *Mathnavi*. Most of the Kashmiri *Mathnavis* are translations or adaptation of Persian *Mathnavis* with unchanged characteristics like *Shahnama* of Firdousi. Mahmud Gami, deeply studied the Persian poets especially Jami and Nizami, and introduced, besides Persian aesthetics, *Mathnavi* with its variety of colours, and *Na'at* to Kashmiri Poetry. His contemporary, Maqbool Shah Kralavari's *Gulrez* is also an adaptation of a Persian *Mathnavi*. Kralavari took certain liberties with the original one so as to make it acceptable to the local people. In Amir Shah Kriri's *Saam-naama*, one finds an extensive use of Persian vocabulary. Same is the case with Bulbul Naagami's *Saam-naama*. Similarly, *Ghazal* was also adopted in Kashmiri with Mahmud Gami the first to use this form with liberal Persian words. Rasul Mir, under the influence of Gami, gave it (*Ghazal*) a new turn. Wahab Parrey further developed the *Ghazal* with 781 of them available in his *Deewaan* (Collection). Wahab's translation of the great epic, *Shahnama*, into Kashmiri, show-cases him as a poet with immense mastery of the craft, knowing well how to use words appropriately in different situations. In this translation, Wahab successfully localizes the philosophical reflections of Firdousi.

Almost all the poets of Kashmiri language during 18th and 19th centuries were influenced

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by Persian poetic form, style and technique. To name some: Mirza Kamal-ud-Din Badkshsi, Mir Abdullah Baihaqi, Fhakhir, Momin Bibgami, Shah Gafoor, Soch Kral, Prakash Ram Kurigam, Lakhman Joo Bulbul, Shah Qalandar. Prominent among them and greatly influenced by Persian language are Mahmud Gami, Walli ullah Matoo, Rasul Mir, Maqbool Shah Kralavari, Wahab Paray Hajni, Amir Shah Kriri, Shamas Faqir , Wahab Khar, and others.

Most of these poets, it is believed, did not borrow the Persian lexical items and idioms to make their expressions clear, but to exhibit the knowledge of this language or to be applauded and rewarded by the scholars and rulers of the countries where it was spoken. Indeed, this attitude of the Kashmiri poets proved harmful with regard to the growth and development of their own mother tongue (Kashmiri). The native style was Persianised to the extent that the (local) people could make nothing out of it. As mentioned above, these borrowed idioms and expressions, etc. sometimes even replaced similar original Kashmiri expressions in the contexts where the Persian form was less appropriate. Therefore, the works of all these poets need to be scrutinized and studied thoroughly in order to make it clear as to what extent this foreign language influenced the Kashmiri (Language.)



Interfaith Dialogue: A Study of Christian-Muslim Relations in Post-Independent Central Asia

*Shabir Ahmad Mugloo**

Interfaith dialogue has today become an advanced discourse and practical form of engagement geared to promoting harmonious relations among peoples belonging to different faiths. Its contribution to peaceful cosmopolitan civilization, cultural advancement and the promotion of communal harmony and co-existence is noteworthy. It is through dialogue that cross-traditional tolerance, respect, and spiritual awareness can be developed. Dialogue demands that we treat each other as believers and become aware of the values which inspire each other in daily life as individuals and as members of society.

The contemporary world presents special challenges and opportunities for interaction between different communities. Globalization, on the one hand, and the reorganization of special ethnic and local identities, on the other, creates the risk of violent conflict as well as hope of constructive cooperation. Religious leaders play a special role in these interactions. Relations between people of different religions can determine whether the future of humanity will involve a great clash of civilizations or a successful civilization dialogue. The chaos, confusion, conflict, disharmony and fear that abound in the contemporary world have played an important role in promoting awareness of the need for inter-religious dialogue for peace. Such dialogue can open the doors of ideological contact and communication between followers of different faiths. The common plight which humanity currently faces provides the urgent need and relevant forum for the meeting of members of different religious traditions in dialogue. All efforts and contributions in this direction are highly commendable. The time has come for religion to play a more positive role in seeking to unite all men in building a free, just, moral and peaceful society. There is every need for different religious traditions to meet in dialogue to discuss, and advance with practical solutions for the sake of humanity.

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The history of Central Asia as a multi-ethnic and multi-religious region has always been influenced by the interaction between cultures and religions of the west and east. Intensive interplay of various cultures for more than two thousand years in the region has paved the way for co-existence, leading thereby, to a cultural code that promoted synthesis among the prominent cultures. Its significance has not only been mapped out globally, Christian-Muslim relationship has got currency in Central Asia from times immemorial. Just after the dissolution of USSR in 1991, the scholars of both the faiths are engaged in the promotion of dialogue through conversation, debates, seminars and other related means of mutual communication.

Although interfaith dialogue has been a continuing process in Central Asia, it has gained momentum in the recent years, by initiating large scale international initiatives. Among the five republics of Central Asia, Kazakhstan organized world conference of religious leaders with a view to strengthen the inter-mixing of races and cultural synthesis. As a result of this, three large scale interfaith forums have been established, which subsequently gathered competent and influential leaders from both the clergies under single platform. Among the five major ethnic groups of Central Asia, Muslims and Christians have been instrumental in promoting mutual bonds, the manifestation of which is visible in every area of activity. In 1995, a conference was organized by Uzbek government on the theme **“To Live under the One Sky”** in which Muslim and Christian leaders decided that every effort should be made to provide objective and positive images of the other religions to the adherents of faiths under reference. Another conference held in 2007 on **“Experience of Uzbekistan in Achieving Interreligious Harmony,”** was organized in London by the Three Faith Forum* with the support of Uzbekistan. Sheikh Azizjon Mansur (Vice-Chairman of Uzbekistan Board of Muslims), Father Sergey Statsenko (Vice-Chancellor of the Tashkent Orthodox Christian Seminary), and Dr. Roman Bensman (Vice-chairman of the Tashkent Jewish Religious Community), gave a detailed picture of interreligious dialogue and cooperation in Uzbekistan. Participants included HM Marshal of diplomatic corps, representatives of the foreign and commonwealth office, embassies of USA, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan, as well as academics from several British Universities. In June 2009, another international conference was held in Kazakhstan **“Role of Historical and Cultural Heritage in the Dialogue of Civilizations.”** This conference was attended by the representatives of non-governmental, non-commercial organizations, experts from scientific institutions and research centers, and leading politicians. It focused on subjects like the role of common history and cultural heritage of people in mutual co-existence and dialogue of civilizations. Participants discussed new perspectives on the development of understanding and good relations in Central Asia. Muslims, Christians and the followers of other religions have a thousand years history of co-existence, mutual tolerance, assistance and solidarity in Central Asia — “a melting of cultures with wide spread bilingualism and cultural hybridization,” where the interfaith dialogue becomes more relevant and imperative.



* Three Faith Forum is one of the United Kingdom's leading interfaith organizations. For 15 years it has worked to encourage harmony and confront prejudice. 3FF aims to build a relationship between people of different faiths and also a wider society, where religious and cultural differences can co-exist through empathy, respect and engagement.



Historical Importance of Place Names: A Case Study of Tehsil Kangan (Kashmir)

Mohammad Shafi Rather*

Throughout the twentieth century, place names, which form an important part of our history, received considerable attention in Europe. On the contrary, very little has been done in India where available works pertain only to the regional languages which doesn't fulfil the scientific base criteria. Studying a particular place name means to trace out its origin and history so as to acquire valuable information with regard to human civilization and culture. They throw light on geography, topography, physical conditions of places, the historical events, national and tribal immigrations and settlements, the ethnological policy, the constitution of society, the customs, traditions and mode of worship of inhabitants, the movements of former ages and several such valuable pieces of information which recorded evidences does not normally furnish. The names which appear on our maps can tell us a lot about nations, regions and even periods of which no records are available and no ancient monuments exist to reveal their past. Places bearing royal names indicate the date on which the village was found, the country to which it belongs, the boundaries and the regions of the country, etc. Therefore, study of a particular place name can provide us information with regard to the methods of constructing houses, buildings, dams, economic status, profession, spread of industry and trade, etc.



As an interdisciplinary study, the investigation of place names takes into account historical, folkloristic, mythological, linguistic, geographical and ethnological data. Besides providing insights into linguistics, histories, and habitats, spatial and environmental perceptions, place names sometimes become the sole remainders of long-lost languages, the only vestige of past inhabitants. In addition, all the major religions have left their imprints on place names in every part of the world.

Although Kashmir is well-known for its ancient written histories and other writings, yet none of the historians paid any attention towards a serious study of the place names of their motherland. Place names mentioned by Kalhana in his famous *Rajtarangini*, were, after much hard work, identified with brief notes by its English Translator, M. A. Stein. Similarly, *Jona-rajtarangini*, *Tarikh-i-Hassan*, and other medieval histories also mention some place names. An attempt was made to trace-out the place-names of Kashmir by Maharaja Ranabir Singh, who commissioned Pandit Sahibram in 1872, to survey all the *tirthas* in Kashmir, but unfortunately the survey remained unaccomplished due to unknown reasons. Recently, a Research Scholar (Department of History, University of Kashmir), worked on some place-names of district Pulwama. The work reveals that no systematic and comprehensive research work has been done so far on the area under study.

The area under study, called Kangan is a *tehsil* of District Ganderbal in the valley of Kashmir. As has been observed, most of the place names of Kashmir seem to be pregnant with a lot of significant information with regard to their social history –which for the most part, was not considered too significant to be recorded by the professional historians. Thousands of place-names like Srinagar, Burzhama, Gupkar, Gufkral, Varmul, Kamraaz, Maraaz, Sopore, etc., have great historical importance. In case of *tehsil* Kangan, as the experts believe,

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its 42 villages including Naranag (which has tourist and archaeological importance) and Gangbal (tourist place) with their mountains, rivers, roads, temples, shrines, etc. have their own geographic, historic, linguistic, cultural, religious, political, and strategic importance. Therefore, a new study, more authentic and more comprehensive in nature, needs to be done in this regard so as to trace out the origin, development and importance of the place names of the *tehsil* Kangan.



Economic Transition in Central Asian Countries: An Overview

*Shugufta-bint-e-Habib**

Transition economy is the one which changes from a centrally planned to a free market economy. Since independence, the Central Asian Republics (CARs) have adopted and pursued different strategies for economic transition. Uzbekistan adopted a special ‘Uzbek model’ for building a market economy which referred to a gradual, step by step approach, but dominant state role in economic reforms and state control remains pervasive in every sector of the economy. Studies have reflected that economic performance in Uzbekistan was the least; bad among the economies of transition and better than all Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Turkmenistan has maintained strict control over the economy and has lacked a serious transition strategy. Kazakhstan has the brightest future in Central Asia; because of its vast resource endowment base and huge foreign direct investment inflows. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan with less hydrocarbon resources to the rest, during early transition period, embraced the advices of financial institutions and followed whatever the IMF and World Bank said in order to have funds with a quite liberal approach among CARs. In the Republic of Tajikistan, civil war like situations exacerbated the economic crises and restricted the economic reforms.

Privatization refers to the process of transferring the ownership rights of public or state enterprises to private individual or group of individuals. Privatization in the Republics of Central Asia has been slow generally and its pace and progress varied from country to country. Typically the countries of Central Asia planned their privatization programme in three stages. The first stage focused on privatization of the small scale enterprises. The second stage entailed mass privatization of medium scale enterprises and the third stage involved case by case privatization of large scale enterprises including natural monopolies and infrastructure in some Republics. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, privatization has been glacially slow. The Republic of Turkmenistan started privatization of small scale enterprises in 1994; however, privatization of medium and large scale enterprises has rarely begun. In Kazakhstan privatization has proceeded farther than nearly any other Central Asian country with 2/3rd of all the firms already in private sector by 2006 according to EBRD. However, large scale enterprises in the energy, communication and transportation are still state owned. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan embarked on the rapid privatization program in 1992. By 1995, 62% of industrial sector was privatized. In the Republic of Tajikistan, privatization gained momentum in 1998.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) refers to the investment by foreigners in fixed assets for production capacity to make goods or produce services for profit making. FDI in the Republic of Uzbekistan has mainly taken the form of joint venture. The volume of FDI in

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the Republic of Turkmenistan has been very modest considering the country's enormous natural resources. The Republic of Kazakhstan ranks outstanding among the CIS in terms of attracting FDI, due to huge natural resources and sufficient human resources. The Republic of Kyrgyzstan has been able to attract but a small amount of FDI since 1991. In the Republic of Tajikistan, civil war like situations and political instability with security concerns were the main impediments in attracting FDI. This Republic attracts lowest FDI among CIS.

Foreign Trade:

Since independence, the CARs have diversified their foreign trade considerably. In Uzbekistan the bulk of foreign trade is still channeled through state owned foreign trade companies. The Republic exports mainly gas, cotton, gold and nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer. Main exports of Turkmenistan are gas, oil and cotton. Foreign trade and economic relations of Turkmenistan remain under state control. The Republic of Kazakhstan has also diversified its foreign trade to a great extent since independence. Fuel and oil products comprise major export items and import basket includes engineering supplies, fuel and power (major items), chemical industrial products, food, vehicles, mineral fertilizer, electric and electronic equipment and textile articles. Kyrgyzstan's exports include non-ferrous metals and minerals, wool, agro products, food, power electronic devices and some agri-equipments. Main imports are oil gas, ferrous metals, chemicals, drugs, machines, consumer goods, cloth and food. Though Republic has very liberal trade regime and no capital account restrictions, yet international trade has so far failed to boost its growth and productivity. The Republic of Tajikistan depends to a greater extent on the maintenance of its economic connections with other CIS states. Its primary export items include aluminum and cotton fiber and major import items include aluminum oxide, natural gas, grain and flour. Though this Republic remains dependent on CIS for imports, its exports are diversified to more than 55 countries outside the CIS.

Country-level Transition Indicators- 2013

Enterprises	Large Scale Privatization	Small Scale Privatization	Governance & Enterprises Restructuring	Price Liberalization	Trade & Financial Exchange System	Competition Policy
Kazakhstan	3	4	2	4-	4-	2
Kyrgyzstan	4-	4	2	4+	4+	2
Tajikistan	2+	4	2	4	4-↑	2-
Turkmenistan	1	2+	1	3	2+	1
Uzbekistan	3-	3+	2-	3-	2-	2-

Source: EBRD. Notes: The transition indicators range from 1 to 4+, with 1 representing little or no change relative to a rigid centrally planned economy and 4+ representing the standards of an industrialized market economy.

Upward and downward arrows indicate one-notch upgrades or downgrades relative to the previous year.

CARs have averted a full-blown economic collapse. The intensive export of raw materials and metals, foreign investment, credits from international financial institutions, upsurge of entrepreneurial activity of the local population and the desire of two powerful neighbors—Russia and China to avoid destabilization in the region all this enabled CARs to first avoid

a total breakdown of their economies and then start economic revival. The economic have been successful to a great extent however the desired fruits are yet to be achieved because of many loopholes.eg; the small FDI inflows into CARs reflect poor investment climate owing to incomplete structural reforms and low privatization. Regional cooperation such as removing trade barriers among CARs would attract FDI. Exports of CARs are mainly composed of primary products which make them vulnerable to abrupt swings in trade turnovers due to the volatile world market prices of these commodities. At the same time these Republics derive little gains from trade because of their limited exports of manufactured goods. Therefore regional integration and removal of border barriers in trade would not only ensure gains in trade but would offer more attractive environment for foreign investors.



Hydropower in Kyrgyzstan

*Ulfat Mohiudin**

The Republic of Kyrgyzstan is mainly an agriculture-based economy. After the dissolution of USSR, its significant share of GDP estimated from the industrial sector. The Republic has very low energy resource potential like coal and hydrocarbon reserves while hydropower is the only resource in abundance. Its water resources are being used more and more for the production of electricity and less for irrigation purposes. This has created the problem of water shortage in other Republics. The irrigation systems in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan depend on the hydrological system located in Kyrgyzstan giving the latter a monopoly over the water resources thus enabling it to generate more hydropower which could later be supplied to other states of Central Asia. Thus, water resources are powerful levers in establishing political and economic relations with neighboring states. Therefore, hydropower is an important source of sustainable energy supply for fulfilling the growing electricity demand.

The efficient use of rivers in Kyrgyzstan will help her to overcome energy crisis because these rivers have the potential to generate 140-160 billion kWh electricity per year. The estimated installed capacity of electric power stations is 3786 MW, where 3070 MW which is accounted as 90% of energy mix, falls on Hydropower stations, 716 MW on combined heat and power plants. Among renewable energy sources (RES) only hydropower plays a significant role in the energy sector of the country.

Hydropower sector of Kyrgyzstan has large impact on the socio-cultural conditions, and its development could multiply energy production for the whole Central Asian region for economic development as its share is 3.9% of the GDP, 16% of the industrial production, and 10% of the national budget revenues. As the country is deficient of other energy sources like coal, oil, and natural gas. Therefore, hydropower resources are capable of giving strong impulse to economic development of Kyrgyzstan.

Despite, the huge potential of approximately 26,000 MW, of which Kyrgyzstan is utilizing only 10%, could be fully exploited to meet her growing domestic energy needs besides producing surplus electricity to be exported to the neighboring countries. This will give more foreign reserves to help reduce its balance of payment deficit. Besides, it will also prove helpful to uplift the domestic economy by providing sufficient energy at cheap rates and employment opportunities to local people, which in turn will reduce the country's poverty to a great extent.



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India - Tajikistan Economic Relations

Sabira Quyoom*

Republic of Tajikistan has become a lynchpin of India's "Connect Central Asia" policy because of its geo-strategic location. India needs to develop friendly relations with that country so as to gain a strategic position in the region. Besides, there exists a huge potential for economic cooperation between the two countries. India has excelled in the fields of agriculture, industry and services due to application of modern technology. Therefore, Tajikistan sees India as a promising economy which can help her to develop by providing required materials, technical expertise and services after the two countries strengthen their relations. Tajikistan lacks technical expertise and India is in need of resources. Indian technical expertise, if applied wisely and judiciously to the untapped and unexplored natural resource base of Tajikistan, could prove beneficial for both countries. It would help the Tajik economy by way of joint ventures like creating employment opportunities and strengthening its industrial base which will ultimately pull this hilly economy out of poverty. India will also gain from this relationship as Tajikistan can prove to be a potential market for Indian goods and services. In addition, Tajikistan's hydroelectric potential could prove a boon to Indian industry.

Trade and Investment:

Despite 20 years' old economic relationship between India and Tajikistan, bilateral trade has remained much below the potential. It had increased from US \$ 10.68 million (2004-2005) to only US \$ 22.14 million (2012-2013). Indian exports to Tajikistan are valued at US \$ 15.83 million (2012-2013) and comprise mainly pharmaceuticals, tea, coffee, chemicals, textiles and clothing and machinery. Indian imports from Tajikistan are valued at only US \$ 6.31 million (2012-2013) of which major items are aluminium, cotton, dry fruits, vegetables organic chemicals and essential oils.

Indian private investment in Tajikistan includes a 5 star hotel being constructed by Cadila Health Limited (CHL). An Indian company Kamani Engineering Corporation Limited (KEC/RPG group) completed the construction of 116 km long power transmission from Sangtuda-1 hydropower plant to the Afghan border in October 2010. On a commercial contract, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) supplied a 7MV generator to Tajik company "Pamir Energy" and this project was completed in 2011.

During the Tajik President Imamali Rahmov's visit to New Delhi (1-4 September, 2012), India, as part of its ongoing developmental partnership with Tajikistan, announced new developmental projects including an IT Centre of Excellence; an e-network; including tele-education and tele-medicine; medical centres; laboratories; an Entrepreneurship Development Institute; supply of agricultural machinery and the implementation of a package of Small Development Projects (SDPs). During 2008-2013, 69% of total grants to Central Asian Region were committed to Tajikistan. These grants include funding for rehabilitation and modernisation of Varzob-1 hydropower plant through the Indian public sector units BHEL and NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation).

In order to strengthen their relations, leaders of both the countries signed six agreements introduced briefly here:

1. Programme of Co-operation (PoC) for the years 2012-2015 to facilitate exchange of materials in culture and art specialists, promotion of cultural heritage, performing art groups, art exhibitions and holding of days of culture in each other's countries.

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2. Programme of co-operation in the field of education to facilitate close contact between the educational institutions of the two countries including enhanced exchange of scholars, teachers and joint research as well. More importantly, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was set up to facilitate the speedy implementation of the agreement.
3. Memorandum of understanding (MOU) in the field of sports to provide a framework of co-operation in the field of youth development and participation in youth festivals, etc.
4. MOU between the Tajik Ministry of Energy and Industry and India's Ministry of textiles which envisages enhancing trade and economic relations in the field of textiles, clothing and fashion including research and development, investment co-operation and promotion of export of textiles in each other's market. A JWG has been established to ensure smooth implementation of this MOU.
5. Co-operation between the two countries in the field of social and labour relations.
6. Agreement between the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare of the two countries for exchange of information and experts in health and training. A JWG was set up in this regard.



Emergence of Islamic Banking and Finance in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Prospects and Challenges

*Bilal A. Malik**

Islam has laid down specific codification of ethics for doing business in principle and practice. Muslim economists and the financial experts have diligently wrestled with the issues pertaining to the socio-economic themes of the *Shari'ah*. The skillful utilization of classical doctrine of *Fiqh al-Ma'amalat* (Commercial Jurisprudence) proved to be of great significance in relating the economic framework of the *Shari'ah* with contemporary financial challenges. The principal objective of Islamic economics is to minimize the economic stratification of society, so that goal of socio-economic development and universal brotherhood is achieved. It is important to note that conventional banking uses the interest rate mechanisms to perform its operational tasks, while Islamic banking, on the contrary, neither charges nor pays interest but rather relies on the principle of profit-and-loss sharing. Banking services are one aspect of Islamic financial system which encompasses other spheres of financial intermediation such as those dealing with financial instruments, for example, Islamic bonds called "*Sukuk*", financial markets dealing with Islamic Mutual Funds and so on.

The Islamic banking transaction model of 'Profit-Loss Sharing' (PLS) was first pioneered undercover in 1963 by an Egyptian Savings Bank known as Mit Ghamr. However, the first Islamic bank of the world is considered to be Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) founded in 1975. Over the past decade, Islamic finance has been growing at an average rate of 15-20% annually. This impressive performance has greatly benefited many national economies, irrespective of faith or race, by fostering significant growth and increased employment opportunities. Today, Islamic banking is constantly gaining momentum among leading financial service providers in the world. Major global conventional banking entities like HSBC (London), Deutsche Bank (Germany), BNP (France), Citi Group (U.S), USB (Switzerland), Merrill Lynch and Barclay's (United kingdom) and a host of others have seen the promising trend of Islamic products and are exploiting the opportunities they offer by opening Islamic banking subsidiaries and windows.

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There has always been a demand among Muslims for financial products and services that conform to the *Shari'ah* maxims. The demand of a viable alternative resulted in the development of a system that increasingly enabled them to participate in the financial world without violating Islamic principles and without bearing the economic oblivion and disparity due to non-compliance with interest-based conventional banks. Although, most of the Central Asian Muslims had turned to Secularism but soon after independence a good proportion of Muslim population got passively indulged in the practical demand of the *Shari'ah* in socio-economic affairs. The cultural and historical inclination of the people towards Islam, the ongoing influence of Islamic activism in the region, the developing ties between Central Asian countries with Arab and other Muslim states finally lead to the evolution of Islamic banking and finance industry in the region. As a result, in the past five years, Islamic banking and finance industry has prospered across the former Soviet Central Asia. Today, each Muslim Majority country of the region has incorporated Islamic banking and finance to varying degrees depending on the nature of its political system and economic structure. The present study is of great significance as it is an attempt to expound; the theoretical framework of PLS financial operations; causes responsible for the emergence of PLS industry in Post-Soviet Central Asia; various challenges to be faced by the industry; and lastly to search out those areas where the industry could freely exploit its sources and services.



Research Scholars' Exams - Session 2014



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Book Reviews

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and Central Asia's Security Challenges (ed)

Author: Anatoliy A. Rozanov, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, Almaty-Minsk-Geneva, 2013

Pages: 176, [ISBN 978-92-9222-269-7].

Reviewed by:
*Yasmeena Ara**

Edited by Anatoliy A. Rozanov, the book under review presents the work of a multinational team of researchers analysing the evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its role in resolving security issues in Central Asia in different dimensions. The book begins with a brief introduction (shared with Roza M. Turarbekava, one of the contributors) and consists of 8 chapters with footnotes followed by a 3-page conclusion shared with the aforementioned contributor.

Alena F. Douhan (Chapter-1), gives a detailed account of the SCO, its evolution, status, structure, membership, and main fields of activity. According to the author, the dissolution of the USSR forced the countries involved called “Shanghai Five” (i.e. China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) to solve the problems around the former Soviet-Chinese state borders. With regard to the objectives of the SCO, the author says that the main focus to date has been on the maintenance of international peace and security and the fight “primarily against international terrorism, separatism and extremism” (p. 7). SCO's cooperation with other countries and relations with other international organisations have also been emphasised in this chapter.


Maryia V. Danilovich (Chapter-2), deals with the Chinese and Russian approach towards SCO during different periods. Its primary purpose, the author claims, is to fight against non-traditional threats to security or what the Chinese call “three evils” i.e. terrorism, separatism and extremism. The author has dealt with the factors responsible for the transformation of “Shanghai Five Mechanism” into Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Finally, the situation in SCO (during the period 2006-2012) and adjustment of approaches in China and Russia have been discussed at length.

Anatoliy A. Rozanov (Chapter-3), deals with SCO's security issues and tries to make the point by giving examples that presently the organisation is focusing on the fight against the ‘three evils’ including drug trafficking (as mentioned above). Rozanov concludes that the potential of SCO to promote regional security has not been fully implemented yet. He says, “The Organisation certainly has its own place in the architecture of regional security... however, in our opinion, it is unlikely that it will play a much more substantial role” (p. 49).

Maryna V. Shavialiova (Chapter-4), at the outset, discusses at length the background of cooperation of SCO states in the energy sector, which according to him takes place at two well organised levels – formal and informal. But the functioning of the United Energy System became a major problem in the relations between the Central Asian members of the SCO. Although the United Energy System of Central Asia (then Middle Asia) was established during the Soviet period, its development and institutional formation took quite a long time and this process is not yet complete. The author assumes that “the parties will continue their



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cooperation in the more familiar bilateral format. The institutions of the SCO – the Business Council, the Forum and the Energy Club – could be involved as advisory bodies or additional mechanisms of interaction within the SCO framework, attracting observer-countries and dialogue partners” (p. 71).

Maryia V. Danilovich (Chapter-5), has used Chinese sources and seems to be well acquainted with the language. The author discusses what is called “instrumentalisation” of SCO in view of China’s role in Central Asia, and then the role of both in SCO during the last two decades (divided into several periods). After analysing the interaction between China and the Central Asian States through the SCO, the author concludes that “...the SCO became a “tool” for consolidating the role of China in Central Asia in accordance with the development of the situation in the designated time period” (p. 90).

Roza M. Turarbekava (Chapter-6), has attempted to explain the regional security with special reference to the “Third Player” i.e. Kazakhstan, its importance within the region and Organisation, its relations with China during different periods, and joint efforts to curb international terrorism. Regional security issues, according to the author, received a new meaning after the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa (1998). As a result, a joint statement was approved on 3 July, 1998, in Almaty (Kazakhstan), which said that “...*national separatism, ethnic intolerance and religious extremism* is unacceptable” and that measures will be taken to “combat *international terrorism, organised crime, illegal trafficking of weapons...* in any of the five states” (p.94). Finally, the author claims that Kazakhstan’s position as the “third player” was important and its assessment within the framework of the SCO, particularly with a view to fight the “three evils”, was positive.

Zhenis M. Kembaev (chapter-7), has described at length the political and legal aspects of Kazakhstan’s participation in the SCO which is of particular importance in view of its member states including the key actors like Russia and China. After introducing the theme, a detailed background follows which makes it clear that how significant the SCO is for Kazakhstan especially with regard to the foundation of her foreign policy. The author suggests that while contributing to the development of the SCO, Kazakhstan will actively support the idea of a “multi-polar world”, and advocate the intensification of multilateral economic cooperation within the SCO.

Murat T. Laumulin (Chapter 8), introduces the goals and objectives of Kazakhstan’s foreign policy together with her place in the world community and in the Eurasian integration process. This is followed by the author’s discussion on Kazakh-SCO relations in the context of security in Central Asian region. Kazakhstan, as the Chapter reveals, rejuvenated her foreign policy during the years 2010-2012, and is already going beyond the borders of Central Asia. “To the world community Kazakhstan is a dependable Eurasian state with its own interests and ambitions,” the author concludes (p. 134).

Finally, the book concludes that energy is one of the promising areas of cooperation in the Organisation, where the interest of the key actors like Russia and China together with Central Asia could be harmonised. It is still underdeveloped and institutionally very weak. Second, the security issue is still important, and despite the growing threat of terrorism and ‘Muslim radicalism’, the SCO has not produced any new and effective security mechanisms. As a result, questions constantly arise in the expert community, as well as in the political circles of the Member States. The Organisation is badly in need of what the author calls “common conceptual and normative documents” for its better functioning (p. 137).

In sum, the book is a good read and very helpful for researchers who, as the ‘contents’ and the long ‘List of References’ reveal, will get a lot of new information (and new sources) with regard to the Organisation under reference. Surprisingly, the book carries no Index which is so important especially for the researchers to save their time.

Control and Subversion: Gender Relations in Tajikistan

Author: Colette Harris

Publisher: Pluto Press, London, Sterling and Virginia

Year of Publication: 2004

Pages: 212

Reviewed by:
*Suraiya Nazeer**

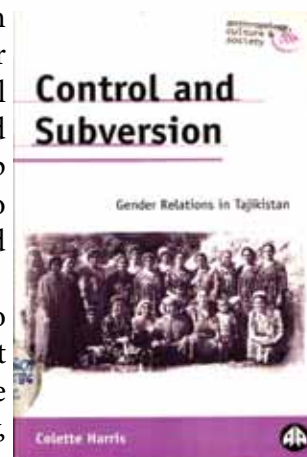
The book deals with the gender relations in a Muslim society with special focus on the Republic of Tajikistan which inherited poor economic infrastructures and entrenched traditional and cultural values from the Soviet Union. The book has six chapters followed by a 7-page conclusion, notes and a rich bibliography. With the help of interesting narratives, the book provides fascinating insights into gender issues also relevant to other Central Asian Republics and other regions.

The author, Colette Harris, in the first instance, intends to inquire into the nature of the gendered power relations that produce and enable domination, and their function within the layers of social relation. Second, the formation of human identity, the struggles around parental subjugation of children and their attempts to separate from their parents. Third, the way subjects their (gender) identities and the significance of these for social control.


Chapter I deals with the inner relations, gender norms, identities (with special reference to the theories of Butler), gender performances, etc. Part Two of the Chapter reveals the history of Tajikistan with Islam as its dominant religion, before and after the Bolshevik revolution followed by the post-Soviet period. It also sketches the theoretical conceptualization and sociocultural environment of the author's work. What is interesting is that the author uses the narratives and the stories of the 'research participants' allowing her to elaborate and conceptualize her observation i.e. the hierarchical power relation in family in which the head occupies the higher position. The author, besides using his own concepts of variant gender performances, has used Foucault's notions of power and resistance, and Butler's concepts of performativity, which according to her 'form the theoretical basis of this book.'

Chapter II discusses at length the Tajik-Russian relations since the 19th century when the region was conquered by the Czars who almost refrained from interfering into the religious matters of the natives especially with regard to the affairs of women in contrast to what the Bolsheviks did throughout their rule (1917- 1991). The author says that "It is no coincidence that the name the Bolsheviks gave to the most active thrust of their women's liberation policy was a military term -- *hujum* (attack)" (p. 43). Despite the Tajik struggle (1920s) to retain cultural freedom, the *hujum* period determined the road that Tajik society followed during the rest of the Soviet era.

Chapter III deals with 'community control' and highlights two of the most important and most effective tools of repression — "auto-surveillance i.e. surveillance of members, by members and its twin, auto-repression" (p. 67). This powerful method of control run mostly



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by women who are “the most repressed and the most repressing community members.” (Ibid). The author, with the help of several stories, systematically deals with other components (of the Chapter) like honour and shame (*ayb*), male honour, *ayb* and religion, men and *ayb*, etc. It successfully explains how Tajiks use gossip and related tactics to force conformity to social norms, especially gender norms, and how control is most effective when applied to women through their menfolk.

Chapter IV is a discussion on “intergenerational family control” wherein the author, with the help of some relevant stories, highlights the parental power, control over children, gender ideals for adolescents, marriage for love, criteria for choice, grandchildren, etc. One important problem the author has deliberated upon is of “Russian Wives”: the worst economic situation in Tajikistan compels the native males to go to Russia where they develop more intimate relationships with the (Russian) women than their wives at home, making family relationships more complicated.

Chapter V gives a detailed account of issues with regard to the Tajik youth like the dreams of youth, the will of youth, the performance of masculinity, and alternate expressions of masculinity. On the basis of her surveys the author concludes that the Tajik youth do not conform to the outward performance of gender expected by Tajik society, the dreams and desires of young men and women usually remain as unexpected fantasies, at the most secretly voiced to their best friends (p.132).

Chapter VI has a number of stories about the couple relationship, love, sex, and marriage. After narrating the stories of a number of Tajik girls, the author, however, wrongly concludes that young men see marriage as a way to the legitimate satisfaction of their sexual needs, while unmarried girls see it as an unavoidable ill, largely to provide the mails with children. The author seems to have exaggerated when she says: “I met hardly any woman who claimed to have experienced happiness in their marital relationship” (p. 167).

To conclude, the book is important in the sense that it gives a detailed account of today’s Tajik society, but the author must be knowing that many things happening there do happen in other parts of the globe also, even in non-Muslim societies. For more than seventy years, the Tajiks, despite the resistance they offered, were forced to accept the overlordship of the Soviets, who, in their ‘enthusiasm’ to create a “New Soviet Man”, left nothing untried to destroy religion, and in the first instance, frontally attacked Islam because it claims to be a way of life. The author has rightly concluded that Tajikistan is caught in a clash between very different lifestyles — new and old, and the chief question is how to resolve the conflicts between the new ideas and the current gender identities.

Excluding its “generalizations and exaggerations”, the book is interesting and helpful for the concerned students and young researchers.



"Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life"

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55.	<i>Folk Traditions of Kashmir: A Case Study of District Budgam</i>	Irfan Jan	Dr. A. Aziz Yatoo	Ph.D.
56.	<i>Folk Traditions of Kashmir: A Case Study of District Anantnag and Kulgam</i>	Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar	Dr. A. Aziz Yatoo	Ph.D.
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