

# Centre of Central Asian Studies



**University of Kashmir  
Srinagar**

Profile 2019-2024



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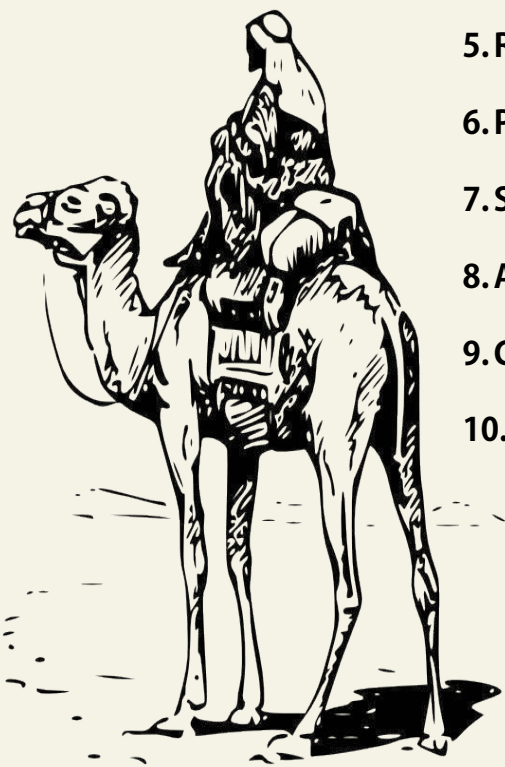
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## **Director's Message**

**Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) is dedicated to advancing research and understanding of Central Asia's historical, cultural, and geopolitical significance. As a hub of academic excellence, we do collaborations with national and international institutions, bridging the rich past of the region with contemporary global discussions. Through rigorous research, publications, and academic exchanges, CCAS explores historical ties, trade networks, archaeology, and international relations. Our faculty and scholars actively contribute to preserving and analysing Central Asia's cultural heritage (Archaeology) while integrating modern methodologies such as GIS, 3D modelling, and remote sensing. With an expanding research portfolio, student engagement, and growing international collaborations, CCAS remains committed to fostering knowledge and dialogue on Central Asia's legacy and its deep-rooted connections with Kashmir and the Indian subcontinent.**

**Prof. Tabasum Firdous  
Director,  
Centre of Central Asian  
Studies University of  
Kashmir**





# Introduction

Centre of Central Asian Studies is a leading research institution specializing in Central Asian and Kashmir studies. For decades, it has worked to strengthen academic connections between India and Central Asia. CCAS focuses on several key areas, including:

- Historical ties between Central Asia and Kashmir
- Silk Route trade and networks
- Archaeology and heritage conservation
- Religious and language exchanges
- International relations and modern geopolitics

Since 2017, CCAS has offered a Postgraduate (MA) program in Archaeology, combining historical research with practical fieldwork and modern techniques like GIS, 3D modeling, and remote sensing. Centre collaborates with institutions not only in Central Asian countries but other countries as well, organizing academic events, joint research projects, and faculty exchange programs. Through museum studies, archaeological research, and manuscript preservation, CCAS contributes to preserving and understanding Central Asia's rich history and culture

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## Former Directors

# 01

Estd. 1978

# Centre of Central Asian Studies

## University of Kashmir Srinagar

### Directors of The Centre

S.NO.	NAME	FROM	TO
01.	Prof. S. Maqbool Ahmad	1978	1983
02.	Dr. K. N. Pandita	1983	1986
03.	Dr. B. K. Deambi	1986	1989
04.	Dr. J. L. Bhan	1989	1990
05.	Prof. Abdul Majeed Mattoo	1990	2001
06.	Prof. Gulshan Majeed	2001	2004
07.	Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad Kaw	2004	2007
08.	Prof. G. M. Mir	2007	2010
09.	Prof. G. R. Jan	2010	2013
10.	Prof. Aijaz A. Bandey	2013	2014
11.	Prof. G. N. Khaki	2014	2019
12.	Prof. Tareak A. Rather	2019	2022
13.	Prof. Tabasum Firdous	2022	
14.			
15.			

# 02

## Vision, Mission, and Core Values







# Vision

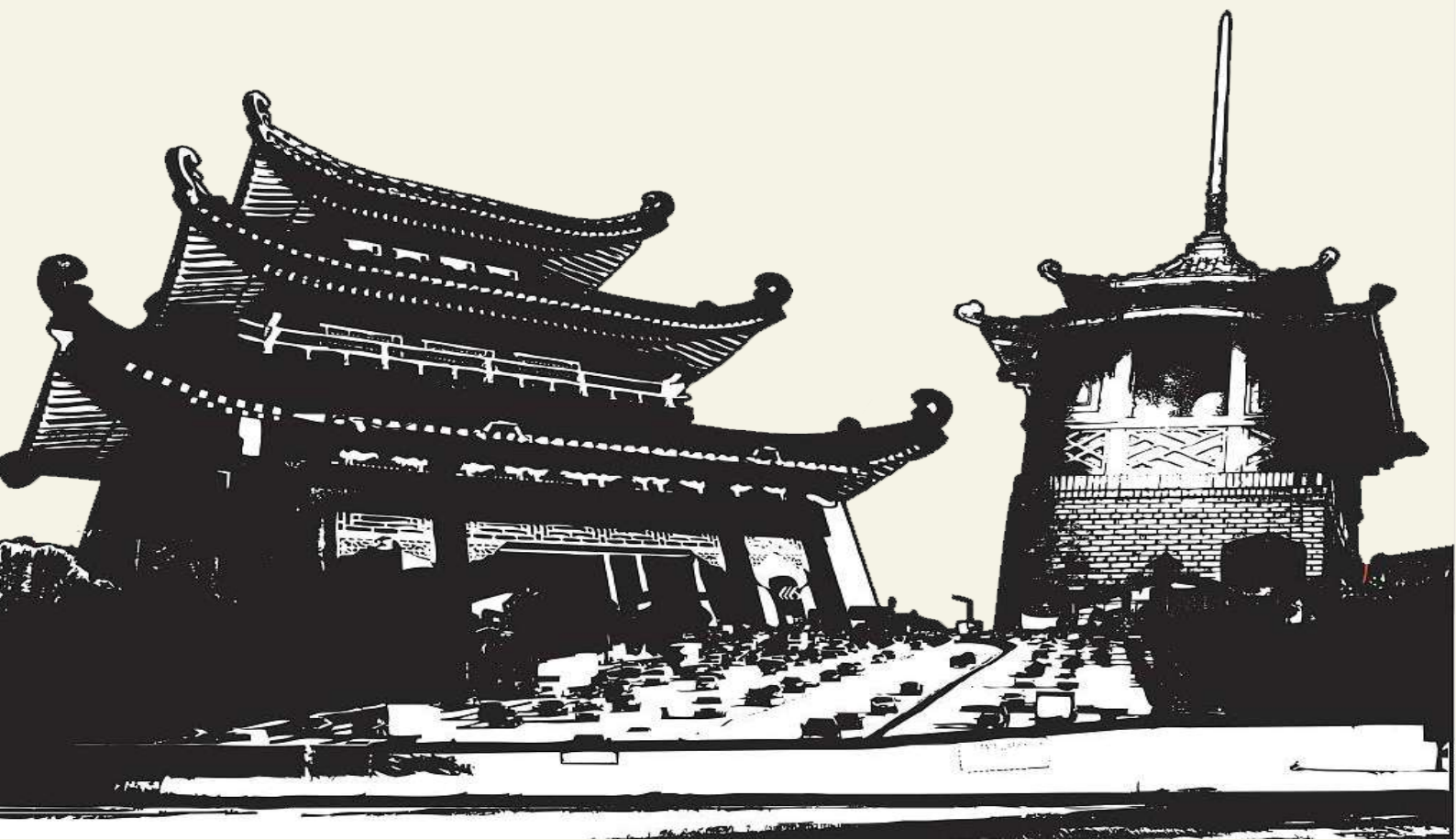
**The CCAS envisions becoming a premier institution for multidisciplinary research on Central Asia's historical, cultural and geopolitical significance. It aims to advance knowledge by exploring the regions diverse heritage, trade networks, linguistic traditions and contemporary transformations fostering global academic knowledge.**





# Mission

- Conducting high quality research and promoting academic exchanges and collaborations with national and international institutions.
- Engaging scholars, students, and policymakers in meaningful dialogue on the region's past and present.
- Disseminating research through conferences, publications and outreach programs to enhance understanding of Central Asia, its resource potential and cultural heritage.



## Core Values

- **Academic Excellence** - Commitment to high-quality, rigorous and original research.
- **Interdisciplinary Approach** - Encouraging diverse academic perspectives for holistic research
- **Ethical Research** - Upholding integrity, transparency, and objectivity in all scholarly activities
- **Cultural Understanding** - Promoting dialogue and appreciation of Central Asian Societies.

03



# Research Focus Areas

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# Geographic Scope

**Centre focuses on Central Asia and its historical linkages with Kashmir, covering regions such as:**

- **Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan.**
- **Xinjiang and Tibet.**
- **Iran, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan.**
- **Mongolia and the broader Himalayan region.**
- **North & North-West of the Indian subcontinent, including Kashmir and Ladakh.**



# Key Research Themes

Centre's faculty and scholars are engaged in research on:

- **Silk Route Revival and Trade**
- **International Relations & Conflict Resolution**
- **Islamic Revivalism in Central Asia**
- **Ethnicity & Migration Patterns**
- **Cultural & Linguistic Exchange**
- **Environmental and Disaster Management Studies**
- **Resource Management and Economic Development**

# 04

## Faculty Profile

S. No.	Faculty Name	Qualification	Discipline
1	Prof. Tabasum Firdous (Director)	Ph.D.	Political Science
2	Prof. Tareak A. Rather	Ph.D.	Sociology
3	Prof. Wahid Nasaru	Ph.D.	Sanskrit
4	Dr. Abid Gulzar	Ph.D.	Persian
5	Dr. Mohammad Ajmal Shah	Ph.D.	Archaeology
6	Dr. Mumtaz A. Yattoo	Ph.D.	Archaeology
7	Dr. Mohmad Ilham Shiekh	Ph.D.	Islamic Studies
8	Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik	Ph.D.	Economics
10	Dr. Zohra Batul	Ph.D.	Political Science
9	Dr. Asif Mohi ud Din	Ph.D.	Archaeology



# 05

## Research Projects and Collaborations





## Major Research Projects

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Funding Agency	Duration	Year
Documentation of Wooden Khanqahas of Kashmir	Dr. Mohammad Ajmal Shah	Oxford Brookes University (Arcadia)	2 Years	2022
Study of Cultural Heritage of Boto Tribe of Zanskar	Dr. Mohammad Ajmal Shah	ICSSR	2 Years	2022
Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao: Empirical Investigation in J&K	Dr. Tabasum Firdous	ICSSR	6 Months	2023



# International Collaborations/MoU

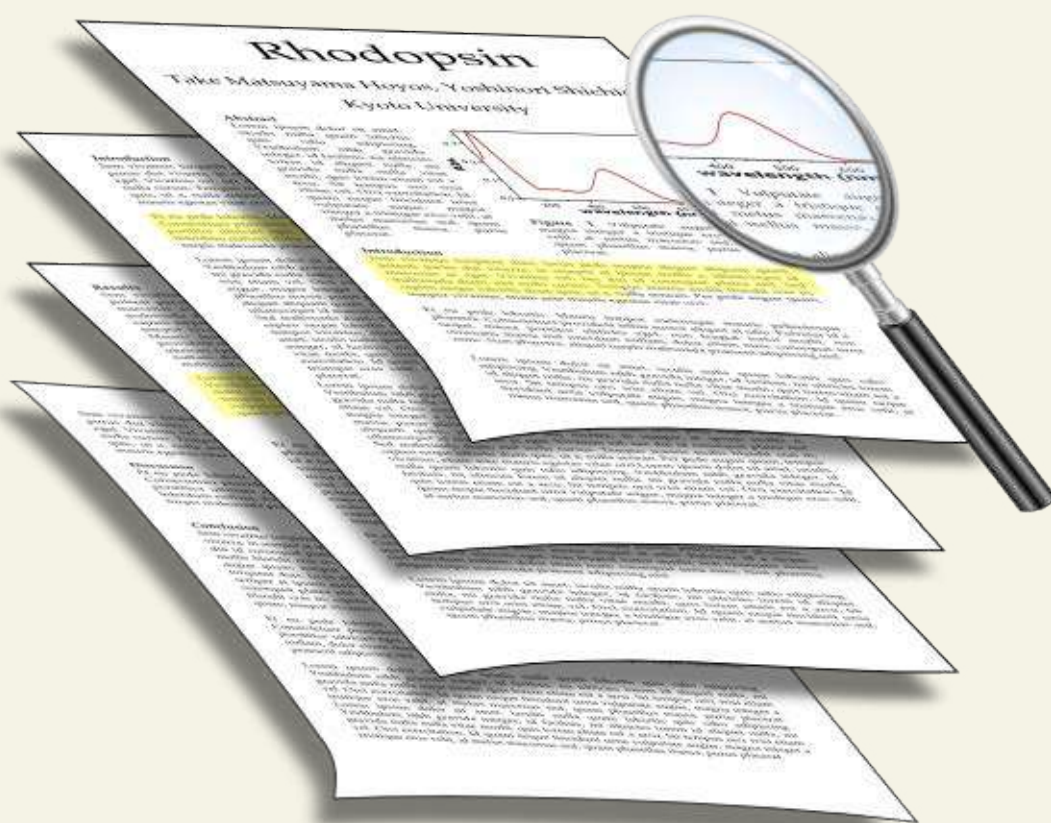
Institution	Country	Collaboration Focus	Year
EPHE, PSL University	France	Academic Exchange	2019
India Central Asia Foundation	India	Research Collaboration	2023



# 06

## Publications by faculty





S. No.	Year	Research Papers	Books and Book Chapters
1	2019	6	0
2	2020	5	3
3	2021	4	7
4	2022	7	2
5	2023	20	21
6	2024	4	0

# 07

## Seminars, Conferences, and Workshops





**7. Seminars, conferences, and workshops (2019–2025):**

S. No.	Title of the Seminar/Conference	Date
1	Contribution of Sufis and Saints to Composite Culture of Kashmir	23-24 March, 2019
2	Contribution of Kashmiri Intellectuals to Indian Philosophy	09th September, 2021
3	A Discourse on Acharya Abhinavagupta's Shaiva Philosophy	14th December, 2021
4	Kashmiri Philosophers and Indian Knowledge System	5th July, 2022
5	Connecting Central Asia: Opportunities and Challenges	1st - 2nd November, 2022
6	Contribution of Philosophical Thought from Kashmir	29-30 May, 2023
7	Three-Day International Conference on "Reconstructing the Human Population Histories in South Asia using Archaeology and Genetics" in collaboration with BSIP, Lucknow	7th – 9th June, 2023
8	Significance of Meditation in Major Religions	19th July, 2023
9	Kashmir and Central Asia - Links and Legacies	30th November, 2023
10	One- week workshop on Research Methodology in Social Sciences	18-22 December, 2023
11	One-Day Workshop: Beti Bachao, Beti Pado: An Empirical Investigation of its Impact & Reach in UT of J&K (Funded by ICSSR)	19th February, 2024
12	One-Day National Seminar on Philosophical Thought of Kashmir (In collaboration with ICPR, New Delhi)	26th June, 2024
13	One-Day National Seminar	26th June, 2024
14	One-Week Research Methodology Workshop in Social Sciences	30th December, 2024









# 08

## Academic and Research Achievements



### **List of PDFs (Post-Doctoral Fellowship) Awardees:**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the PDF Awardee</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Dr. Abdul Majeed Dar	Political Science
2	Dr. Aejaz Ahmad Wani	Political Science
3	Dr. Fozia Jan	Political Science
4	Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Khan	Political Science
5	Dr. Ghulam Qadir Bhat	Political Science

### **Number of registered Ph.D. scholars per year (2019–2024)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Registered Scholars</b>
1	2019	21
2	2020	25
3	2021	2
4	2022	1
5	2023	3
6	2024	0





### Number of Ph.D.'s awarded per year (2019–2024)

S. No.	Year	Number of Ph.D.'s Awarded
1	2019	8
2	2020	9
3	2021	6
4	2022	9
5	2023	9
6	2024	7







**Number of Scholars Benefited by Scholarships from UGC, University, and Other Institutions (2019–2024)**

S. No.	Year	Number of Scholars Benefited	Type of Fellowship/Scholarship
1	2019	21)	MANF, JRF, NFST, UGC JRF/SRF, University Scholarship
2	2020	9	JRF, MANF, ICSSR, UGC JRF/SRF
3	2021	3	UGC JRF, MANF
4	2022	20	ICSSR, UGC JRF, University Scholarship
5	2023	16	UGC JRF, University Scholarship
6	2024	15	University Scholarship







## **8. PG Programs in Archaeology**

<b>Semester</b>	<b>Course Titles</b>	<b>Focus Areas</b>
First	Introduction to Archaeology, Prehistory of South Asia	Fundamentals and Methods
Second	Field Archaeology, Protohistory of South Asia	Practical Training
Third	Epigraphy, Numismatics, Research Methodology	Advanced Studies
Fourth	Dissertation, Cultural Heritage Management	Independent Research

### **List of PG Dissertations Submitted (2017–2023)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Number of Dissertations Submitted</b>
1	2017-2020	14
2	2018-2021	4
3	2021-2023	8



# 09



## Central Asian Museum

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# Central Asian Museum

After the establishment of the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) in 1978-79, it was on the advice of the then Chief Minister of J & K State, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, that the Founder-Director of CCAS, Prof. S. Maqbool Ahmed (1978-83) moved a proposal with regard to the establishment of a Central Asian Museum (CAM) which in future was to be an important component of the CCAS with the aim to strengthen it by showcasing archaeological material depicting history, culture and heritage of Kashmir and Central Asia. Housed temporarily in the first floor of Allama Iqbal Library, the Central Asian Museum (CAM) was formally inaugurated by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on 24th of October, 1981 and preserves and showcases the rich cultural and historical connections between Kashmir and Central Asia. It began with 254 artefacts, later expanding to 1,170 items, including ancient coins, manuscripts, sculptures, textiles, and fossils from regions like Tibet, China, Uzbekistan, and Ladakh. CAM has participated in major exhibitions, such as the Art of Kashmir in New York (2007-08) and the Iran-Kashmir Cultural Heritage Exhibition (2016). Over the years, CAM has attracted scholars and dignitaries from 39 countries, solidifying its role in promoting Kashmir's historical and artistic heritage.

# 10

## Best Practices



# Best Practices

1. Research in Central Asian Studies.
2. Fieldwork in Central Asia and the Kashmir Valley.
3. Adoption of New Research Methodology and Advanced Archaeological Techniques,
4. Training and Capacity Building





### **1. Research & Collaboration**

CCAS integrates multiple disciplines to study Central Asia-Kashmir interactions. It collaborates with national and international institutions for joint research, exchange programs, and expertise sharing.

### **2. Fieldwork & Excavations**

CCAS conducts surveys and excavations in Central Asia and Kashmir, mapping ancient sites, analyzing material culture, and uncovering trade routes and religious centers. It follows best practices, including detailed planning, community involvement, and eco-friendly approaches.

### **3. Advanced Research Techniques**

Modern technologies such as GIS mapping, drone surveys, 3D reconstruction, LiDAR, and photogrammetry enhance archaeological accuracy, site documentation, and artifact analysis.

### **4. Training & Public Engagement**

CCAS organizes workshops, conferences, and training programs to develop research skills. It promotes preservation efforts through conservation strategies, exhibitions, and public awareness campaigns.





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