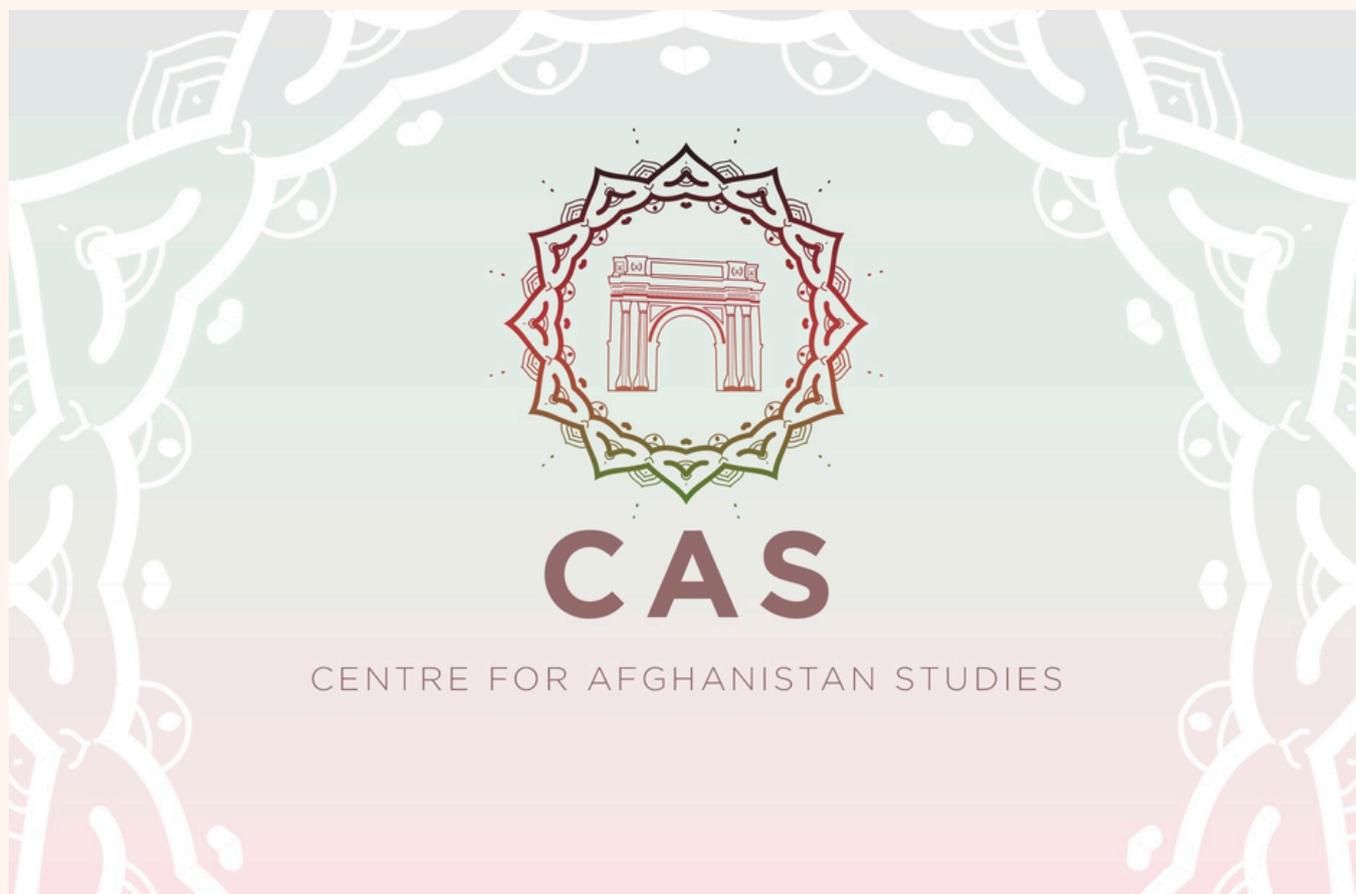


NEWSLETTER



CENTRE FOR AFGHANISTAN STUDIES

The Centre for Afghanistan Studies (CAS) through its research intends to provide a window into complex yet fascinating dynamics shaping socio-cultural, geo-political and economic landscape of Afghanistan. CAS would contribute to cutting edge, policy oriented research on Afghanistan and its implications for the region at large. It would also provide a platform for collaborative exchange programs and transmission of knowledge to students and scholars.

ABOUT US

The Centre for Afghanistan Studies (CAS) is a dedicated interdisciplinary platform committed to deepening understanding of Afghanistan's complex and evolving realities. Through rigorous research and dynamic engagement, the Centre aims to unravel the intricately woven socio-cultural, political, and economic fabric that shapes the country's identity and global positioning. From analyzing local governance and tribal dynamics to studying transnational issues such as conflict, migration, and trade, CAS provides a nuanced lens into Afghanistan's historical legacies and contemporary challenges. CAS positions itself as a space for critical inquiry, dialogue, and dissemination of knowledge on Afghanistan, while emphasizing its interlinkages with regional and global developments.



- Dr Raghav Sharma, Director CAS, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean (Academic Affairs), JSIA, O.P. Jindal Global University.
- Bilquees Daud, Assistant Director CAS and lecturer, JSIA, O.P. Jindal Global University.
- STUDENT INTERNS
 - >Priyasha Sai Ukil, JSIA 2017
 - >Vasudha Arabandi, JSIA 2017
 - >Mahita Valluri, JSIA 2018
 - >Anushka Saraswat, JSIA 2019
 - >Rukhsaar Tariq, JSIA 2019
 - >Divyanshu Jindal, JSIA 2019

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‘AFGHANISTAN: POST 9/11’

A PUBLIC LECTURE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, TAHIR QADIR, CHARGÉ DE AFFAIRES, AFGHANISTAN.

Organised by JSIA, Centre for Middle East Studies and Centre for Afghanistan Studies.



On 26th September 2019, O.P. Jindal University was honoured by His Excellency Mohammad Naim Taher Qaderi, Charge de Affaires, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, New Delhi, India.

The welcome address by Professor Bilquees Daud, was followed by opening remarks by Dr Sreeram Chaulia (Dean, JSIA) and inauhrual address by Ambassador Dr Abdul Fattah Ammourah (Vice Dean, JSIA).



In the keynote address, His Excellency spoke of the changes in post 9/11 Afghanistan through the lenses of politics, economics and culture. He shared insightful anecdotes from his youth and engaged the audience with his charm.

It was followed by a question-answer session with the students before the closing remarks and vote of thanks was delivered by Professor Raghav Sharma, Director, Centre for Afghanistan Studies.





UNITED RELIGIONS
INITIATIVE
NORTH INDIA & AFGHANISTAN



URI WORKSHOP ON INCLUSIVE PEACE BUILDING



“We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Several events in our recent past have highlighted the urgent need for understanding and actively engaging in the process of peace building. Peace, is a simple yet fragile concept. While advocacy does its fair share in spreading its message to large masses, it has been demonstrated time and again that solely preaching such a concept does not bode well as people struggle (or refuse, in some cases) to understand it deeply. United Religions Initiative (URI), is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. They implement this mission through local and global initiatives that build the capacity of more than 685 member groups and organizations, called Cooperation Circles, in 85 countries to engage in community action and create lasting change. The students of Jindal School of International Affairs in JGU had an opportunity to experience this unique workshop that was conducted by Ms Subhi Dhupar, the head of the URI Northern India and Afghanistan Zone.

For more, check out our Blog- <https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/05/05/uri->

PARWANA: A STORY OF LIGHT AND DARK

A Stage Production in collaboration with the Performing Arts Society



The 2nd of November, 2019, was a historic day for all of us at the Centre for Afghanistan Studies. In collaboration with our incredible partners- The Performing Arts Society, O.P. Jindal University, the India-Afghanistan Foundation and The India International Centre, we composed a show- a large scale theatre production, which was highly acclaimed by all those present.

It was an unforgettable experience for the entire cast and crew of 'Parwana'. Nearly two months of taxing rehearsals and production work felt totally worth it as we heard roaring applause pouring in the cosy theatre at IIC.

Parwana, an adaptation of the movie 'The Breadwinner', written by Mahita Valluri and directed by Aman Khandelwal and Mahita Valluri, takes a bold step away from the mainstream depictions of Afghan society and makes you believe in happy endings, yes, even in an area of conflict.

The play focuses on several themes and ties together a quirky tale of bravery and kindness.

To read more about the play and its themes in focus, head on to our blog!



KHANABADOSH

BY MAHITA VALLURI

The aim of our Refugee Blog Series- KHANABADOSH, is to introduce a rhetoric on the experiences and implications of the Afghan Refugees who are currently living in India. The blog seeks to represent the authentic voices of Afghans from all walks of life in our trial to put forward an insider's perspective to understand the refugee crisis, one that has been seen through a macro lens by the UN as well as the state so far.

For more, check out-

Part 1- The Experiences and Implications of Afghan Refugees

<https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/03/28/khanabadosh-the-experiences-and-implications-of-afghan-refugees-1-6/>

Part 2- Implications and Experiences of Afghan Refugee Women

<https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/04/28/khanabadosh-implications-and-experiences-of-afghan-refugee-women-2-6/>

COVID - 19



“In the present form, if major wave of infection hits Afghanistan, it might not be possible for the nation to recover from the shock for a long time to come as it deals with plethora of other issues at the same time thus making it a nation for which this becomes not a simple battle against coronavirus, but a war of complex proportions against multiple enemies.”

A nation that witnesses thousands of deaths every year due to violence and remains one of the least developed nations, how much worse can things get?

Read more of it on-

<https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/04/07/coronavirus-in-afghanistan-a-tale-of-devastating-complexities-and-gloomy-realities/>

THE IRAN AFGHANISTAN PROBLEM WHILE DEALING WITH COVID-19.

***BY VASUDHA
ARABANDI***

CORONAVIRUS IN AFGHANISTAN-A TALE OF DEVASTATING COMPLEXITIES AND GLOOMY REALITIES.

***BY DIVYANSHU
JINDAL.***

COVID19, has presented new and unique challenges across the world. It has crept into existing cleavages in society and has highlighted the inadequacy of the system we live in. It has also brought up certain questions pertaining to the nature of globalization and what happens to it when the movement of people, which is the essence of globalization, comes to a complete standstill. Another essential feature of globalization is that of movement of people across borders and what happens if a virus has the potential to contaminate an already war-torn country with scarce resources, such is the case at the Iran-Afghanistan Border.

Read more of it on -

<https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/04/17/the-iran-afghanistan-problem-while-dealing-with-covid-19/>



THE LONG READ: WHAT NEXT FOR THE US-TALIBAN ‘PEACE DEAL’?

*“MY DARLING, YOU ARE JUST LIKE AMERICA!
YOU ARE GUILTY, I APOLOGISE*

*A DEAD CROW FELL FROM THE POWER LINE. FALLING, THE BLACKBIRD STRUCK
A WOMAN’S ARM IN THE STREET, WHISPERS BEGAN THAT THE CROW HAD BITTEN
HER BLOODY. THE RUMOURS SPREAD OF CROWS GONE MAD. HEADLINES READ
THAT CITIZENS FAR FROM THE CITY HAVE LOCKED THEMSELVES UP IN THEIR
ROOMS FEARING MAD CROWS. IT IS THE ARMY’S DUTY TO PERFORM A RESCUE.*

“Lovers and nations are both capable of betrayal. As liars, they are frequently interchanged in the traditional Afghan poetic form of the ‘landay’. The sardonic and apposite landay reproduced above, and all of Mustafa Saalik’s poetry, make for a stinging commentary which offers lucid insights into the changing contours of the current socio political landscape in Afghanistan as perceived by ordinary citizens. The pensive mood across Afghanistan has only been accentuated in light of the recently concluded peace deal between Washington and the Taliban in Doha. Throughout the negotiations, not only was the Afghan government totally excluded from the process, but the undermining of its legitimacy was buttressed by the peace agreement. Notably, in outlining details for the exchange of combat and political prisoners, the agreement conspicuously refers to the government as ‘the other side’.

Intrigued? To read more of our Director’s words, you can visit [The Asia Dialogue-
https://theasiadialogue.com/2020/04/08/the-long-read-what-next-for-the-us-taliban-peace deal/?
fbclid=IwAR17wtbFWDFbf2omRMkP0GsGxMhtZpoJXJdmqACiFU8ff0-eAmJPeskS0pg](https://theasiadialogue.com/2020/04/08/the-long-read-what-next-for-the-us-taliban-peace-deal/?fbclid=IwAR17wtbFWDFbf2omRMkP0GsGxMhtZpoJXJdmqACiFU8ff0-eAmJPeskS0pg)

REVISITING THE AFGHAN PEACE DEAL- THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF POLITICAL RECONCILIATION.

BY NASERI HUMA



Read more at-

<https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/03/28/revisiting-the-afghan-peace-deal-through-the-framework-of-political-reconciliation/>

Afghanistan remains a conflict-ridden country and faces new challenges on the horizon. However, after almost 2 decades of military operations, the United States and allies now appear to believe that negotiating a peace deal with the Taliban is necessary to bring stability to the country. The idea has gained much currency in the recent years but there is also much speculation about what it really means for Afghanistan, the international community and for the region. In the first part of this article, I review the weakness of the last year's failed reconciliation. In the latter part, I look at ways to institute political reconciliation, which can do more than just reducing the period of violence and also contribute to making real changes to Afghanistan's politics.

THE ART OF DIPLOMACY- VISIBILITY AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE AFGHAN CONTEXT-

BY GAURAV BHATIA.

Read more at- <https://charchacas.wordpress.com/2020/04/14/the-art-of-diplomacy-visibility-and-partnership-in-the-afghan-context/>

Afghanistan's political crisis in the aftermath of the recently concluded elections and the ensuing war of words coupled with simultaneous claims of victory by the two opposing party leaders have once again highlighted the fragility of the country's administrative structures as also the trust of the leadership and the people, in them. However, what is more important from the international relations point of view is the recent development of recognition of Ashraf Ghani's claim for presidency by major powers of the world against Abdullah Abdullah's claims of victory followed by his efforts of forming a parallel government.



Perception of Afghanistan in the Western Media - By Bilquees Daudt, Assistant Director, CAS

News from Afghanistan has been framed and reframed to initially show a gravely repressed populace liberated by Western soldiers in 2001. Lately Afghans are portrayed as savage, conservative and medieval people with no appetite and understanding for modernism, democracy and freedom. Afghan society, seen for instance in the quote above, is categorised into neat ethno-political compartments that are portrayed as overlapping with the country's political geography. The reality is far more complex. It is argued here that the Western media, contradicting the realities has chiefly pinned violence and barbarianism among others as the main attributes to Afghanistan, consequently shaping a false world opinion of the country.

For the full article, visit- https://acku.edu.af/2020/04/18/perception-of-afghanistan-in-the-western-media/?fbclid=IwAR1h4P2pqlteibGdR_xahQv6rPyQq3mlbifnxbLS72HA7Qhn0LaTqpFSkOo —on the need for empathy, not paternalism.

MS. BILQUEES DAUD'S INTERVIEW WITH SPUTNIK NEWS

US-Taliban Deal Mute on many Issues, ghani Refusal to release Prisoners Shows Its Weakness.

According to Daud, the US-Taliban agreement is plagued with ambiguity and raises concerns and questions. In particular, the deal is 'mute on many important issues,' including women's rights, the role of "regional power specially Pakistan and Iran" as well as protection of religious and ethnic minorities. "Most importantly, the deal does not mention anything about the Constitution of the country. These issues raise major concerns on how deal will be perceived by different groups in Afghanistan and how the ceasefire will be implemented if important values of democracy are not put on the table of negotiations," she Sputnik. Daud also expressed some doubts about the Taliban group abiding by the agreement. "Taliban is not to be trusted since they are supported by Pakistan. Thus, I believe the Taliban will always put their masters benefit first more than Afghans which is very problematic considering the fact that the deal has no clause on the role of Pakistan in the country", she explained.
