

CENTRE FOR AFGHANISTAN STUDIES

Cordially invites you to an

ONLINE PUBLIC LECTURE

on

PART OF THE PROBLEM OR SOLUTION? Regional Perspectives on Afghanistan's Road to Peace



Mr Afrasiab
Khattak



Ambassador
Vivek Katju



Hon'ble Consul General
Zakia Wardak

Event Description

The Doha Agreement inked between the United States of America and the Taliban in February 2020 was touted by the Trump administration as a potential harbinger of an end to the prolonged armed conflict in Afghanistan. However, the agreement was besieged by challenges from the outset and negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government have stuttered and appear to have reached a deadlock. The two sides appear to differ significantly on the nature of the country's socio-political architecture. Afghan civilians meanwhile continue to bear the brunt of the rising tide of violence orchestrated by the Taliban. Developments in Afghanistan are arguably going to have reverberations beyond the country's borders which will be most profoundly felt in its immediate neighborhood. In this context as the US pairs down its presence in the country what are some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities before Kabul? How do Afghanistan's neighbors view the on-going developments? Are the neighbors a piece of the peace puzzle in Afghanistan? or do their interests cast a shadow over attempts to negotiate an end to the four decade long protracted conflict in Afghanistan?

Join us to engage on some of these questions and more with our eminent panelists.

Programme

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| 12:30 - 12:40 | Opening Remarks
<i>Prof. Raghav Sharma, Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Afghanistan Studies</i> |
| 12:40 - 12:55 | The View from Islamabad
<i>Mr. Afrasiab Khattak, Former Senator, Pakistan</i> |
| 12:55 - 13:10 | Perspectives from New Delhi
<i>Ambassador Vivek Katju, Former Secretary Ministry of External Affairs & Former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan</i> |
| 13:10 - 13:25 | Kabul's Dilemma and Strategic Choices
<i>Hon'ble Consul General Zakia Wardak, Consul General of Afghanistan, Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Mumbai</i> |
| 13:25 - 14:25 | Discussion |
| 14:25 - 14:30 | Closing Remarks
<i>Prof. Bilquees Daud, Lecturer and Assistant Director, Centre for Afghanistan Studies</i> |

SAT 24 APR 2021
12:30PM - 14:30PM

Join us on
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Teams 
<https://bit.ly/3dEJUaU>

Speaker Bios



Mr Afrasiab Khattak

Mr. Afrasiab Khattak is a Pakistani politician, intellectual, and activist, who is currently the President of the Roshan Democratic Institute. In 2002, Mr. Khattak was appointed as the president of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP). In 2006, he joined the Awami National Party. He was also the President of ANP's central secretariat based in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, as well as Chairman of the special standing committee senate. Additionally, Mr. Khattak was a former Chair of the Pakistan chapter of Pak-India People's Forum for Peace & Democracy. He is an expert on Afghanistan and regional affairs, and a newspaper columnist.



**Hon'ble Consul General
Zakia Wardak**

Ms. Zakia Wardak is the Consul General of Afghanistan in Mumbai, India. Her primary and higher education was completed in Afghanistan where she attended the Polytechnic Institute of Kabul and received her Bachelors and Masters in Architecture in 1989. Mrs. Wardak also served as the President of the Society of Afghan Women in Engineering and Construction from 2012 till 2019. She is very well-connected with professional Afghan women engaged in parliamentary affairs, provincial development councils, the government, the civil society and the private sector. She also contributes regularly to reputable outlets and appears on national news channels for commentary.



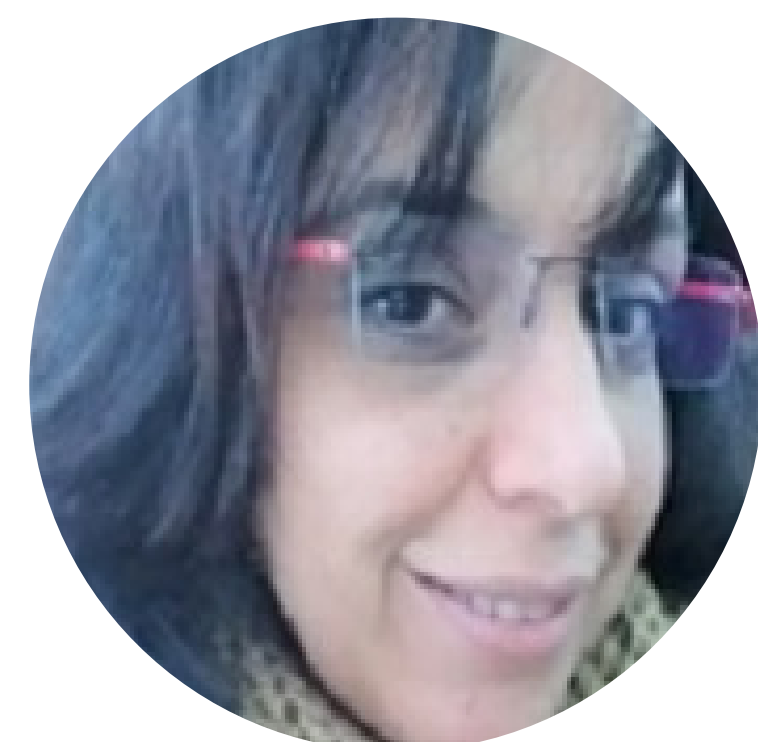
**Ambassador
Vivek Katju**

Ambassador Vivek Katju is a distinguished career diplomat of the Indian Foreign Services. His final posting was as Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs from 2009-2011. Prior to this, Ambassador Katju also served as India's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Myanmar and Thailand.

Faculty Coordinators



**Prof. Raghav
Sharma**



**Prof. Bilquees
Daud**

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