



**Southern Asia Studies Programme  
School of Social Sciences & International Studies  
Pondicherry University**

**Panel Discussion**

**on**

**AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE US WITHDRAWAL:  
IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA**

**October 1, 2013, Time: 10:30 am onwards**

With less than 20 months left for the proposed US endgame in Afghanistan and neither scenario of a peaceful settlement nor an eliminated Taliban in sight, the prospects for the future of the nation looks, at best, challenging. Now, as the US is talking of 'zero option', and Karzai regime resolutely opposed to any power sharing agreement with the Taliban, the possibility of peace building becomes even more perplexing as the institutions of grassroots democracy is still in embryonic stage there. In this situation, it is very relevant to debate about the implications of post-2014 Afghanistan for the South Asian region. Will 2014 be a repeat of Soviet withdrawal of 1989, which left a power vacuum to be occupied by Taliban or will it result in the emergence of a stable nation-state?

In every possibility, the stakes for India is the highest, next only to the battered countries. While India prefers a peaceful, stable and developing Afghanistan, Pakistan seeks to create a 'strategic depth' for itself there. Who will be successful? Eminent speakers will explore answer to these questions during the workshop.

**Lead Speakers**

Prof V. T. Patil	Jawaharlal Nehru Professor of Political Science & former Vice Chancellor, Pondicherry University
Prof (Mrs) Chandrakala Padia	Professor & Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banares Hindu University, Varanashi
Prof (Mrs) Savita Panday	Professor & Chairperson, Center South Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Prof. Narottam Gaan	Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, Utkal University, Bhubneshwar
Dr. S. Prabhakar	Joint Director (Reporting), Lok Sabha, Indian Parliament, New Delhi
Mohd. Shafiq Ahmed Zai	From Kabul, Afghanistan

**Venue: Seminar Hall (First Floor)  
School of Social Sciences and International Studies  
Silver Jubilee Campus, Pondicherry University**

***All are cordially invited***

**Prof N K Jha**  
Director  
Southern Asia Studies Programme  
Dean, School of Social Sciences & International Studies  
Pondicherry University