



UNESCO International Day of Light 2022

Online Workshop on “Disruption of Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

30th August 2022

Organized by
Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi



About the UNESCO-IDL 2022 Workshop

Zaheer Science Foundation, ZSF (an NGO and Think Tank, established in 1970), initiated the idea of organizing this workshop under the UNESCO-IDL Platform Event Calendar 2022, with an objective to propagate the significance of Light and Light-based technologies and to promote the public understanding on how these light based technologies touch the daily lives of everybody, and are central to the future development of the global society.

This is important to mention here that ZSF has been actively involved in the promotion of scientific research and educational reforms activities through organizing seminars and conferences at national and international level in last many years, helping in disseminating the scientific knowledge and promoting scientific temperament for nation building.

With the given theme i.e., Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the workshop focused on the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to mitigate the sudden crisis in education sector during Covid-19 across the globe. The workshop also deliberated on digital capabilities and the required infrastructure to cope the challenges in the education sector especially in developing countries and emerging economies.

As we all know about the worldwide lockdown during Covid-19 which compelled the educational institutions to shut down and the only option left had been online learning. The teachers assigned work to students via internet, delivered lectures through live video conferencing using different apps like Zoom, Google Meet, Facebook, YouTube and Skype etc., which have been the major source of digital learning all through this time. On the one hand, the online learning got a tremendous boost during the Covid-19 pandemic, it badly affected the educational institutions around the world, with schools being the greatest sufferers. Throughout the world, more than 1.5 billion learners (primary, secondary and tertiary levels) were out of the school system due to lockdowns (fully or partially).

The digital divide widened between the urban and rural schools, as also between affluent and poor schools in the same city. Some estimates predict that 10 million children will never return to school since during the lockdowns they were deprived of all IT facilities- computers, laptops, smart mobile phones, internet connectivity, and regular electricity.

The workshop deliberated on how to minimize the learning losses due to closure of the educational institutions due to lockdowns and suggest ways to bring back the 10 million children back in the mainstream of education. This workshop also highlighted the major points focusing on minimizing the digital divide in the schools so that no one is deprived of receiving the quality education.

The workshop highlighted some significant issues associated with online learning strategies, i.e. availability and access to digital devices with internet connectivity, need for safe learning spaces, creating capabilities for teachers, families and students to operate and navigate digital devices and other related aspects. Institutional arrangements and various other measures taken by Government of India to establish seamless online education system across the country have also been the focus points of the workshop.

About International Day of Light

The International Day of Light (IDL) is a global initiative that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture and art, education, and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications, energy, equity and peace. As we all know that Light technology has revolutionized the society through its applications in above mentioned fields and Industries based on light have been the major economic drivers in last few decades. Needless to state that without light-based technologies, there would neither be solar panels, LED lighting, computer monitors, telephone screens, cameras or projectors, MRI, x-ray machines, nor the Internet. New products and processes are coming on the market all the time, giving us better access to information, more reliable healthcare, and better ways of saving energy, innovative modes of learning and new forms of entertainment. There is a tremendous opportunity to raise global awareness of the ways in which light-based technologies promote sustainable development and offer solutions to global challenges in the fields of energy, education, agriculture and healthcare.

With this backdrop, the United Nations proclaimed 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015) in which 13,168 events were organized in 147 countries and attended by millions of people from throughout the world. With such great success, the UNESCO's General Assembly decided to regularly celebrate the International Day of Light (IDL) on May 16, every year, *starting from 2018*. It is the anniversary of the first laser developed by the American physicist and engineer, Theodore H. Maiman on May 16, 1960. It is to mention that during the last sixty years the laser has completely transformed our lives due to its great contributions to healthcare, education and connecting the world through Internet.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, during the last two years many face-to-face events had to be replaced with online activities or these were held in the hybrid mode. Since the inauguration of IDL 2018, the total audience in the International Day of Light events in these four years is estimated to exceed 2 million, including face-to-face activities, social media posts, video messages and other campaigns carried out nationally and worldwide. The social media like Facebook and Twitter were also widely used to share the information about the events organized. It shows how the people around the world have shown their enthusiasm in celebrating light.

This year is the 5th year of the International Day of Light and a large number of events are being organized worldwide by educational and research organizations through Lectures, Seminars, Webinars, Workshops, Conferences, Science Fairs, Light Shows, Quiz Contests, Demonstration of Optical Instruments etc. in the online/ offline/ hybrid mode.

The International Day of Light is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO by a Steering Committee that includes representatives from a broad range of International partners. Currently Prof. John Dudley and Prof. Joseph Niemela are the IDL 2022 Steering Committee Chairs and Ms Geethu Paulose is the IDL Communications Coordinator. Also, the UNESCO has 100 IDL National Nodes that are organizing local campaigns, activities and events.

Programme of the Workshop

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p>Inaugural Session Chair: Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, <i>Chairman, ZSF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Address: Dr. Harsh K. Gupta, <i>Chairman, ZSF</i> • About the Workshop: Prof. Zahid H. Khan, <i>UNESCO-IDL Node for India and Vice Chairman, ZSF</i> • Address by Dr. Nakul Parashar (Guest of Honour), <i>Director, Vigyan Prasar, Govt. of India, New Delhi.</i> • Address by Prof. M. Aslam (Guest of Honour), <i>Former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi</i> • Address by the Chief Guest: Prof. M. Moni, <i>Professor Emeritus & Chairman (CIDS&CITSA), Shobhit University and Former Director General, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi</i> • Vote of Thanks: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF</i>
11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Break
12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m.	<p>Technical Session – I Chair: Prof. Zafar Ahsan, <i>Former Head, Department of Mathematics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh</i></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi, <i>Officiating Director, FTK Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi</i> • Prof. K. Srinivas, <i>Head, ICT & Project Management, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi</i> • Dr. Noor Mohammad, <i>IAS (Retd); Trustee, Buniyaad Foundation, New Delhi</i> • Prof. Zahid H. Khan, <i>Vice Chairman, ZSF</i> and Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i> • Mr. Venkatesh Sharma, <i>Director, Techno-Marketing, Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida</i>
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.	<p>Technical Session – II Chair: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i></p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ram Boojh, <i>CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi</i> • Dr. Reyaz Ahmad, <i>Emirates Aviation University, Dubai, U.A.E.</i> • Mrs. Anupama Ramachandra, <i>Principal, DPS Electronic City, Bangalore</i> • Dr. Pragya Verma, <i>Teacher, Nahar International School, Mumbai</i> and Mrs. Ayesha Khan, <i>Teacher, DPS International, New Delhi</i>
4:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Break
4:45 - 5:30 p.m.	<p>Concluding Session Chair: Dr. Ram Boojh, <i>CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Discussion and Feedback from the Participants • Summing Up and Vote of Thanks: Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i>



Zaheer Science Foundation

cordially invites you to celebrate the

UNESCO-International Day of Light 2022 (IDL2022)

Online Workshop on “Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic”

30 August, 2022

Inaugural Session

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. (IST)



Dr. Harsh K. Gupta,
Chairman, ZSF
Former Secretary,
Department of Ocean Development, MoES, Gol



Prof. M. Moni
Chief Guest
Professor Emeritus, Shobhit University
Former Director General, NIC, Gol



Prof. Zahid Husain Khan
Vice-Chairman, ZSF
UNESCO-IDL
National Node for India



Dr. Tabassum Jamal
Secretary, ZSF
Former Chief Scientist,
CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi



Dr. Nakul Parashar
Guest of Honour
Director, Vigyan Prasar,
MoS&T, New Delhi



Prof. M. Aslam
Guest of Honour
Former Vice-Chancellor,
IGNOU, New Delhi

REGISTRATION LINK:

https://vsworld.com/VirtualEvents/idl2022_workshop_30aug2022/

(Note: Online Registration is free but compulsory)

Media Partner: Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida



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UNESCO-International Day of Light 2022 (IDL2022)

Online Workshop on “Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic”

30 August, 2022

Technical Session - I

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (IST)



Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi
Officiating Director,
FTK CIT, JMI, New Delhi



Prof. Zafar Ahsan
Chair, Tech. Session - I
Former Chairman, Department of Mathematics,
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh



Prof. K. Srinivas
Head, ICT & Project Management,
NIEPA, New Delhi

Invited Speakers



Dr. Noor Mohammad
IAS (Retd); Trustee, Buniyaad Foundation



Prof. Zahid Husain Khan
Vice-Chairman, ZSF; IDL National Node for India



Venkatesh Sharma
Director, Techno-Marketing,
Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida

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UNESCO-International Day of Light 2022 (IDL2022)

Online Workshop on "Disruption of Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic"

30 August, 2022

Technical Session - II & Concluding Session

2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (IST)



Dr. Tabassum Jamal
Chair, Tech. Session-II
Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi



Dr. Ram Boojh
Chair, Concluding Session
CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi

Invited Speakers (Technical Session II)



Dr. Ram Boojh
Chair, Concluding Session
CEO, Mobius Foundation,
New Delhi



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad
Emirates Aviation University,
Dubai, U.A.E.



**Mrs. Anupama
Ramachandra**
Principal,
DPS Electronic City, Bangalore



Dr. Pragya Verma
Teacher,
Nahar International School,
Mumbai



Mrs Ayesha Khan
Teacher,
DPS International,
New Delhi

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Speakers and Titles of Their Presentations

S.No.	Speakers	Titles
1.	Prof. M. Moni, <i>Professor Emeritus & Chairman (CIDSA&CITSA), Shobhit University and Former Director General, National Informatics Centre, New Delhi</i>	Digital Transformation and the Future of education
2.	Address by Prof. M. Aslam (Guest of Honour), <i>Former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi</i>	Search for appropriate strategy for applicability of ICT
3.	Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi, <i>Officiating Director, FTK Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi</i>	Covid-19-A Tragedy that opened opportunities for education
4.	Prof. K. Srinivas, <i>Head, ICT & Project Management, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi</i>	Technology in education
5.	Dr. Noor Mohammad, <i>IAS (Retd); Trustee, Buniyaad Foundation, New Delhi</i>	International & National Scenario- During /Post covid
6.	Prof. Zahid H. Khan, <i>UNESCO-IDL Node for India and Vice Chairman, ZSF, New Delhi</i> and Dr. Tabassum Jamal, <i>Secretary, ZSF, New Delhi</i>	Quality Education – An important sustainable development goal and crisis in education during the Covid-19 pandemic
7.	Mr. Venkatesh Sharma, <i>Director, Techno-Marketing, Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida</i>	Live Streaming, online events, webinars and eLearning Services & Solutions
8.	Dr. Reyaz Ahmad, <i>Emirates Aviation University, Dubai, U.A.E.</i>	Comparing the negative effects of Interruption and the positive effects of intervention on learning during Covid-19
9.	Ms. Anupama Ramachandra, <i>Principal, DPS Electronic City, Bangalore</i>	Disruption in education: Role of educators in bridging the gaps and getting back to normalcy
10.	Dr. Pragya Verma, <i>Teacher, Nahar International School, Mumbai</i> and Mrs. Ayesha Khan, <i>Teacher, DPS International, New Delhi</i>	Teaching & learning in the time of Covid-19

Brief Profile of the Chairpersons and Speakers

Inaugural Session

Prof. Harsh Gupta

Chairman, Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi

Prof. Harsh Gupta served as the Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) Hyderabad for nearly a decade from 1992. Under his stewardship, NGRI rose to be the top geosciences research institute in India. His visionary leadership led NGRI to use the pool of basic research capabilities to address the country's needs in hydrocarbons, minerals, and groundwater resources, a crucial question for agriculture in India. He served as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Ocean Development during 2001- 2005 and as Advisor to Department of Science and Technology, Government of India during 1990- 1992. He has also been a member of the National Disaster Management Authority of India with a status of Minister of State, Government of India, during 2011-2014. Prof Gupta has been visiting Professor in a number of Universities and Institutes in Europe and the USA. Also served as Advisor/Consultant to UNESCO, Commonwealth Science Council, and International Atomic Energy Authority. He has also been Vice-Chancellor, Cochin University of Science and Technology during 1987-1990. He has authored five books published by Elsevier and Springer; and edited Encyclopedia of Solid Earth Geophysics published by Springer in two volumes.

Prof. Harsh Gupta is credited for setting up India's first permanent station in Antarctica in a record time of one Antarctic Summer (1983/84) and has recently been awarded the prestigious Lifetime Excellence Award from the Ministry Of Earth Sciences, Government of India on 27th July, 2022.

His Major Scientific Contributions include the following:

- 1) Providing the first evidence of the extremely thick crust (65~70 km) below Himalaya and Tibet Plateau region in 1967, later confirmed by seismic surveys in 1980.
- 2) Developing criteria to discriminate artificial water reservoir triggered earthquakes from normal earthquakes, which are globally applied and finding safe sites for the construction of reservoirs.
- 3) Making a medium-term forecast of an M~8 earthquake in the north-east India region in 1986 which came true on August 6, 1988.
- 4) Chairing the Steering Committee of the Global Seismic Hazard Assessment Program (G-SHAP) where some 500 scientists worked from 1992 to 1999 and produced the Global Seismic Hazard Map.
- 5) Pioneering the Gas Hydrate program and delimiting the zones for the stability of gas hydrates within the exclusive economic zone of India.
- 6) Taking up detailed studies of genesis of triggered earthquakes in the Koyna region and making successful short term earthquake forecasts.

Prof. Zahid Husain Khan

Vice-Chairman, Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi

Dr. Zahid Husain Khan has been a Professor of Physics in Jamia Millia Islamia - Central University, New Delhi, India, where he served for 39 years in teaching, research as well as in administration. His research work has been spectroscopy and laser physics. He has published more than 65 research papers in peer-reviewed international and national journals and guided 15 research scholars leading to their Ph.D. degrees.

He also served as the Director of FTK-Centre for Technology of the University from 1998 to 2014, and subsequently as its Honorary Advisor up to November 2014. Under his guidance a state-of-the-art ICT infrastructure was created in the University, together with implementation of ERP system and e-governance. Recognizing his rich experience in education and ICT, the Ministry of Education, Government of India coopted him as a member of the Standing Committee for the National Mission of Education through ICT (NMEICT).

Dr. Khan has been a DAAD Fellow at the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany (1980-1981) and Free University Berlin (1981-1982). He was also a Visiting Scientist at the Kaiserslautern University, Germany in 1987. Recognizing his outstanding commitment and leadership in promoting Indo-German Relations in the field of education, he was awarded the title of Honorary DAAD Advisor (2006-2009) by the President of DAAD, Bonn, Germany.

Following declaration of 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015), the UNESCO nominated Prof. Khan as a National Focal Point for India. Since 2018, he has been associated with UNESCO's International Day of Light (IDL) as the National Node for India.

His current interest is the popularization of science and is associated with the Vigyan Prasar, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. In recent years, he has published several popular articles in science in various magazines. He has also been the member of committees in various Indian universities and has been providing them advisory services on diverse issues ranging from academic excellence to effective governance models.

Dr. Nakul Parashar

Director, Vigyan Prasar, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India

Dr. Nakul Parashar is currently serving as Director of Vigyan Prasar, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. He has worked in Academia, Information Science, KPO and Legal Information sectors. With a Master's in Computer Science & Physics and Doctorate in Applied Physics, he has set up three start-ups in IT and services successfully which includes JV Info Solutions. He also worked in various publishing jobs. He was Associate Editor of DST book projects, Living Media India Limited and Chief Scientific Editor of Thompson Press India Limited. Besides serving as Scientist with CSIR, he has also led global companies like Exela Technologies as Senior Vice President and Macmillan Publishing Solutions as Vice President and Head.

Prof. M. Aslam

Former Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi

Prof. Aslam served as Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University, IGNOU during 2013-2017. He was also an acting Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU for two years from October, and 2011 to July, 2012. He served as Professor at the School of Continuing Education (SOCE), IGNOU for 25 years since May, 1992. Prior to this he served as Founder Director at the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia & the Pacific (CIRDAP), based in Dhaka for 8 years between 1981-88. Currently he is serving as Distinguished Fellow of the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), Tirupati. He is also a member of the Collegium of Eminent Social Scientists constituted by the ICSSR and Fellow of the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, Washington DC.

Prof Aslam has received the 'Best Teaching Practices' award conferred on IGNOU at the India Today Aspire Education Summit 2012. He also received "Social Responsibility Award" for his selfless Service into the Society and Mankind by Bharat Nirman on 8th June, 2013 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Prof. Aslam was conferred Amity Academic Excellence Award by Prof. Nick Petford, Vice Chancellor, The University of Northampton, UK during INBUSH ERA-16, International Business & Research Conference organized by Amity University during February 3-5, 2016. Bangladesh Open University also presented an award to Prof. Aslam in June 2004 in recognition for successful completion of Panchayati Raj Project in India and its proposed replication in Bangladesh. He was also conferred Professional Excellence Award of Mewat Development Society by the Union Minister for Panchayats in August, 2007.

Dr. Aslam served as consultant/Expert to FAO and UNDP of the United Nations; EDI of the World Bank; Commonwealth Advisory Services and UNESCO; ADB/Price Waterhouse; AARRO; UPSC; ESCWA of the United Nations and Commonwealth of Learning. He has authored the book 'The Challenge of Education and Training'- Strengthening Existing Systems and Road Ahead' which got released at IIC on 5th June 2013 by Union Human Resource Development Minister, Govt. of India. He also has in his credit the book titled 'Panchayat Raj in India' published by National Book Trust of India, New Delhi, 2007. This book was translated by NBT in to 3 languages, i.e. Hindi, Urdu & Tamil.

Prof. Madaswamy Moni

Professor Emeritus & Chairman (CIDS & CITSA), Shobhit University, Meerut & NOIDA

Prof. M. Moni is former Director General of National Informatics Centre, a premier Institution of Government of India in the areas of e-Governance and Informatics development. He is a Distinguished Technocrat and Eminent Informatics Scientist in the area of "e-Governance, Informatics and Agricultural Informatics" in India and has been a pioneer who played a significant role in taking e-Governance for long-term solutions. He has more than 40 years of experience in the field of e-Governance and Informatics holding prestigious assignments.

Prof. Moni has been instrumental in conceiving and operationalizing many national ICT projects in the agricultural Sector in India. He was the driving force in conceptualizing National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS) Project for implementation in about 7032 locations for strengthening the animal disease surveillance and monitoring system in the country. Prof. Moni has also been the Chairman of the Task Force on IT in Agriculture of the Government of Jharkhand 2007-08; and the Chairman of Sub-Group on IT and ICT usage in Agricultural data at Agro-Climatic level, and also in small area farm

business of National Statistical Commission, Government of India during 2011. His Publications have generated academic and research interests in the areas of regional development, agricultural development and informatics development. He also initiated the idea of establishing a National Centre for Farm Health Management Research Studies to understand an integrated view of Plant health, Animal Health, Soil Health and water Quality for agricultural productivity increase.

Prof.Moni currently serving as a Professor Emeritus and Chairman, Centre for Agricultural Informatics and e-Governance Research Studies (CAIRS). He has been pioneer for establishing Centre for Agri Business and Disaster Management Studies (CADMS) 2017, and Centre for Industry Technology Studies and Applications (CITSA) 2018 and Centre for Informatics development Studies and Applications (CIDSa) in 2019 in Shobhit Deemed University, Meerut (UttarPradesh).The University provides Agricultural Informatics Programme at M.Tech/B.Tech level, MBA in Agri Business Management, and also Diploma on e-Governance in farming Sector.

Prof.M.Moni is a Technocrat, Academician, Researcher, Author, Project Developer, Project Implementer, Organization builder, Optimist and above all a Man of Missionary Zeal. He can be reached at moni@shobhituniversity.ac.in and moni@nic.in.

Dr. Tabassum Jamal
Secretary, Zaheer Science Foundation, New Delhi

Dr. Tabassum Jamal, former Chief Scientist at the National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), an establishment under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India, New Delhi, has contributed significantly in the area of Technology and Social Change. She has mainly worked in the areas of the National Innovation System, State Science & Technology Councils, and Human Resource Development, particularly Technical and Vocational Education and training to promote employable skills. With her active involvement in the area of policy research, she has provided valuable input in the design and development of state S&T Plans, public provisioning of skill development and entrepreneurship, and capacity building in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) sector to enable policy design and support through policy advocacy and evidence-based policy research.

As Head, Business Development Group CSIR-NISTADS, Dr. Jamal contributed significantly to the development of business verticals and knowledge alliance with industrial partners in the area of capacity building in small and medium enterprises and human resource development and establishing MOUs with various agencies such as All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFI) to create an institutional framework for collaborative projects. Also coordinated Lecture Series on Techno-Foresight (A CSIR- NISTADS Outreach Programme for Future Readiness) at India International Centre (IIC), Lodi Road, New Delhi (2016-2017), besides organizing a number of national and international events in the area of policy perspective on innovation and sustainable development with a focus on regional innovation system.

Holding a Ph.D. in Economics, she has published widely in reputed journals and authored two books focusing on Economic and Technical Cooperation in Developing Countries. She has also edited a volume in India S&T Series brought out by CSIR-NISTADS, focusing on Policy Perspective on Innovation and Sustainable Development. Dr. Jamal has also been a faculty of AcSIR and developed a course on Science and Technology Systems: India and the World at CSIR-NISTADS.

Technical Session -1

Prof. Zafar Ahsan

Former Head, Department of Mathematics, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh

Prof. Zafar Ahsan is a Mathematician and has been working on gravitational waves, exact solutions to Einstein's equations, symmetries of space-time, and geometric structures in general relativity. He has so far published 105 research papers in national and international journals of repute and has published 07 books entitled “Differential Equations and Their Applications” (1999, Second Edition 2004, Third Edition 2016), “Vector Analysis” (2003), “Mathematical Methods” (2005/2018), “Tensor Analysis with Applications” (2008), “Tensors: Mathematics of Differential Geometry and Relativity” (2015), “The Potential of Fields in Einstein’s Theory of Gravitation” (2019) and “Tauzeehi Farhang (Riyazi) (2019) (Glossary of Mathematics in Urdu)”. Some of his books are prescribed as textbooks in most Indian universities and some foreign universities. His book on Differential Equations (3rd Edition, Nineteenth printing, 2021) is a best seller since 1999.

He is a member of Research Board of Advisers, American Biography Institute (USA) and the *President* of Tensor Society of India since 2017. He had been the Editor-in-Chief of Aligarh Bulletin of Mathematics (2012-2015), Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Tensor Society of India (2010-2012) and Managing Editor of Aligarh Bulletin of Mathematics (1998-2012). Prof. Ahsan is the Editor of Palestine Journal of Mathematics and Journal of Interpolation and Approximation in Scientific Computing; and is the Member of Editorial Boards of Global Journal of Advanced Research on Classical and Modern Geometries, International e-Journal of Numerical Analysis and related topics, Taif Journal of Mathematics and Statistics, Islamic University of Gaza Journal of Natural and Engineering Studies, Bulletin and Journal of Calcutta Mathematical Society and also referee of various journals of mathematics and physics. Prof. Ahsan is the President of Anjuman Farooq-e-Science (Association for Promotion of Science), Aligarh branch and a member of Urdu core committee of Vigyan Prasar, Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

Prof. Ahsan is the recipient of “EXCELLENCE SERVICE AWARD” (2022); “DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD” (2020); “ASIAN EDUCATION AWARD” (2020) for contribution to education community; “LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD” (2019); “NISHAN-E-AZAD” (2017) for promotion of Science in Urdu; “The International EINSTEIN AWARD for Scientific Achievement” (2011); “RASHTRIYA GAURAV AWARD” (2007); “SHIKSHA RATTAN PURASKAR” (2007); and “THE BEST CITIZENS OF INDIA AWARD” (2006, 2007, 2008).

Dr. Zafar Ahsan was a Visiting Associate of Inter-University Centre of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune during 1996- 2005, and Visiting Professor of Mathematics at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad during 2020 - 2021. He received his Ph.D in Mathematics from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and served AMU as a Professor from 2000 to 2016 and was the Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, AMU, during 2012-2015.

Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi

Officiating Director, FTK Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi is presently working as Additional Director with FTK-Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Earlier he has served on various technical/academic, teaching and administrative positions including Lecturer Computer Science, Sr. System Analyst, Registrar, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women, Delhi and also as Professor & Director, Directorate of Distance Education & Centre for IT, MANUU, Hyderabad.

He has more than 22-years of technical, teaching & research experience. He has been instrumental in successfully carrying out several critical ICT projects in the universities he served including development of University ERP System at JMI and IMS at MANUU, Campus wide network of more than 8000 nodes at JMI etc. The work on File Tracking System carried out at FTK-CIT got JMI the Jury Award for Best ICT Enabled Institution during the World Education Summit in the year 2011.

Dr. Naqvi has also supervised 5 Ph.D students and published a good number of research papers in International Journals of repute. He has served as Principal Investigator on EDRP Mission Project sponsored by NMEICT, MHRD and Australia-India Credit Transfer database sponsored by UGC, MHRD.

Prof. K. Srinivas

Head, ICT & Project Management, National Institute of Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi

Prof. K. Srinivas holds a Ph.D degree in Computer Science and has been utilizing Open Source ICT Tools and Technologies in Teaching, Learning and Student Evaluation since 1990, both at the Graduate and Post Graduate levels. His areas of interest are e-Learning, blended learning, MOOCs, ICT enabled Pedagogy, Computer Applications in Project Management, e-governance. He is having more than 30 years of Teaching, Research, Industry and Consultancy experience.

Prof. K. Srinivas also conducts teacher training workshops both at School Education and Higher Education across the country for teachers. He has written a number of articles on different aspects on university automation, e-governance, Training needs, etc., which have been published in research journals. He has also participated in a few International Forums and presented papers on various aspects of e-governance, Blended Online Mode Teaching, MOOCs etc.

Prof. K. Srinivas is a valuable resource person and delivers skill based technical sessions/lectures on e-Learning, blended learning, MOOCs, ICT enabled Pedagogy, Computer Applications in Project Management and e-governance across all the national and state level universities.

Prof. Srinivas is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Centre for Online Learning constituted by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University [BRAOU], Hyderabad, and a member of the Working Group on Technical Architecture & Standards for National Digital Education Architecture for Higher Education. He is also a member of the Online & Distance Learning

Committee [ODLIC] constituted by National Law University , New Delhi and a Senate member of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Sonapat. He is a member of the Core Committee of the Special Centre for E-Learning of Jawaharlal Nehru University. Besides this he is a member of the Research Innovation and Quality Improvement Project “A Customizable LMS for proper utilization and adoption of Global Knowledge Pool: An adaption of contingency theory of E-Learning” under RUSA awarded by Ministry of Education, GOI to Mohanlal Sukhadia University Udaipur, Rajasthan.

Dr. Noor Mohammad

IAS (Retd); Trustee, Buniyaad Trust, New Delhi

Dr. Noor Mohammad, a member of the Indian Administrative Service, has served the province of Uttar Pradesh and Government of India in important positions of governance. His experience relevant to education was District Officer, Special Secretary Medical Education and Secretary Basic Education in government of Uttar Pradesh. He worked with UNICEF and World Bank to obtain resources for the sector and to ensure adoption of global best practices for primary education. Modernization of religious educational institutions like Madras as and Pathshalas was initiated. He played supervisory role in implementation of programmes such as Operation Blackboard, empowerment of teachers through training and personal development. Construction of new primary schools and hostels for girls and supervision of mid-day meal program that led to 37% increase in primary school attendance in the province. As Director of State Institute of Education Technology, he ensured production of a series of quality educational television programs for telecast on Doordarshan.

After retirement from the Administrative Service, he worked as Electoral Resource Person in Indian International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) for nearly 9 years and designed and conducted training and capacity development programmes for election officials in which international participants from over 105 countries of the world participated.

Dr. Mohammad is the Founder Trustee of the Buniyaad Trust which works in rural areas of the eastern Uttar Pradesh known for lagging in social indicators. The Trust began with Talent Search but now Madarsa modernization has been added. It also helps in career guidance for the weaker sections and provides a successful model that deserves to up scaled across similarly backward areas.

Mr. Venkatesh Sharma

Director –Techno Marketing, Virtual Studio Pvt. Ltd., Noida

Venkatesh heads technology & marketing at Virtual Studio and has more than 25 years of experience in both broadcast and internet technologies with a very broad background that spans advertising & marketing, broadcast & films, live streaming, web conferencing, eLearning, interactive VR, rich media solutions, media workflows, audio and video encoding.

He has lead teams that have successfully delivered some of the most prestigious global events like the Pope’s visit in ‘99, Former US President Bill Clinton’s Presidential visit to India, ICC World Cup 2003 & 2007, Twenty20 World Cup 2007, IPL (Indian Premier League), Vladimir Putin’s India visit, various Presidents & Prime Ministers of India, Bollywood Premieres, launch events for leading global automotive, mobile & fashion brands, conferences, events and more. He has hosted numerous shows, conferences including match analysis & audio commentary for the ICC World Cup & international cricket tournaments.

Technical Session – II

Dr. Ram Boojh

CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi

Dr. Ram Boojh is an environment and sustainability professional with rich experience of over 40 years in diverse fields with the Government, university system, civil society and the United Nations. He is currently the CEO of the Mobius Foundation, a Delhi based sustainability think tank. He had worked with UNEP on a transboundary landscape initiative involving Bhutan, India and Nepal. He led the Natural Sciences (ecology) division of the UNESCO South Asia office in New Delhi for over a decade and also convened the South & Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM). He has served as Regional Director of the Centre for Environment Education and Assistant Director of the Environment Ministry, Government of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Dr. Boojh is involved with several prestigious universities/institutions as guest faculty/visiting/adjunct professor which include Universities of Manchester and Bradford, UK, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Michigan, Environmental Law Institute Washington DC, BHU, NEHU, JNU and many Central, State and private Universities in India. He is the co-founder of the World Ocean Network, France and Executive Board member of the Conservation for the Oceans Foundation, USA. He has published over 100 research/technical papers / popular articles and 15 books. He has to his credit many honours, awards and recognitions including the prestigious Science Academy Medal for Young Scientist presented by Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

Since 2019 he is organizing the International Conference on Sustainability Education (ICSE www.icse2019.org) in partnership with some 30 prominent sustainability organizations including UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, Climate Reality Project, Earth Day Network, Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Centre for Environment Education (CEE), TERI, WWF, Terre Policy Centre, Earth Overshoot, Fair trade etc The 4th ICSE is planned to be held in New Delhi on 9-10 September 2022.

Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

Emirates Aviation University, Dubai, U.A.E.

Dr. Reyaz Ahmad is a Ph.d in Pure Mathematics and his research interests include Functional Analysis (Operator Inequality) BCK Algebra, Economics, Business, and Education. He is associated with Emirates Aviation University, Dubai. Prior to this he served in University of Science & technology, Al-Ain, UAE, Hamdan Bin Muhammad smart University, Dubai, Emirates College of Technology, Abu Dhabi, Al-Ghurair University, Dubai and Manipal University, Dubai Campus. He has more than 20 research paper published in Peer reviewed International Journals in different subjects such as mathematics, Economics, Education and Business etc. He has wide participation and discussion on *Technological disruption and Managerial decision in Business* and he has given talks on *Technical disruption and its impact on teaching Mathematics*.

Dr. Reyaz has you tube channel (Link given below) where he conducts interviews of high credential and experience in different fields including expertise from industry <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpJHCLf5Ko5o2YqzBvYjGiw/videos>
Also having another you tube channel (Links given below) dedicated for Mathematics material which is his prime work currently,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ6pFaHdYG2vKuoW7-jPXzw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYLT58Uq1e8&t=90s>
<https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UCJ6pFaHdYG2vKuoW7-jPXzw/videos/upload?filter=%5B%5D&sort=%7B%22columnType%22%3A%22date%22%2C%22sortOrder%22%3A%22DESCENDING%22%7D>

Ms Anupama Ramachandra
Principal, DPS Electronic City, Bangalore

With over two decades of experience in teaching at various levels ranging from Kindergarten to Senior Secondary level, Anupama Ramachandra believes that education must result in empowerment with responsibility. With Postgraduate degrees both in English Literature and Education, she has always been a passionate teacher of English and an educational administrator who insists on total quality management. Her pursuit to inculcate appropriate language skills in her students encouraged her to become a University of Cambridge certified Oral Examiner for International English assessments. After receiving the rare honour of getting a scholarship for the Fulbright Classroom Teacher Exchange program through the Nehru-Fulbright Awards instituted by the Department of State, the United States, her perspective of mobilising available resources and involving the community for a participatory school environment were empowered. Post, the U.S assignment, she has been actively involving the school in outreach programmes thus, bridging the gap between schools and challenges of the future. Under her leadership, the school has taken up projects like funding cataract operations for the elderly, feeding govt. school students under the Akshayapatra scheme, improving sanitary conditions in neighbouring schools, etc. which have impacted the society towards better living conditions. As the President elect of Rotary E Club of Bangalore, she has participated in several service-oriented programmes. Teacher training, Community engagement, Inclusive education, Development of sustainable curriculum design, and Supporting teachers for professional growth are her areas of interest. Both as a certified Resource Person, CBSE CoE, Chennai and, as a freelancer for teacher training programmes she has conducted several professional development sessions on diverse topics of Education. She has been the City Coordinator for national competitive exams conducted by the National Testing Agency and has been on review panels of subject-related publications.

Mrs.Ramachandra has been a Speaker, Moderator, Anchor at various seminars, panel discussions, and events on different dimensions of education. She has received the Chanakya Award 2019 for Excellence in Teaching of English from the Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), The 'Karnataka Shikshana Ratna State Award', The 'Principal Par Excellence' from IIHM for three consecutive years, Stree Shakti Samman 2020 from IUEF, Guru Namana 2020 recognition from Rotary Dist. to name a few of her personal achievements. Anupama has been nominated as a Member of, Bangalore Council of Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI).

Her articles on empowering stakeholders of the educational process have been published. As a firm believer that learning never stops and one needs to keep updating her knowledge and skills, she has completed certificate courses in Teaching Grammar Communicatively, English for Journalism, TESOL Methodology, The Art and Craft of Remote Teaching, and English for Media Literacy.

Her journey of exploration and learning continues. She has also been recently elected as the Secretary of the Bangalore Sahodaya School Complex Association (2021-2024). Having taught at various institutions across the country (Mumbai, New Delhi, Trivandrum, Mysore), she is currently the Founder Principal of Delhi Public School, Electronic City, Bangalore since June 2014.

Ms PRAGYA VERMA

Teacher, Nahar International School, Mumbai

Dr. Pragya Verma is an enthusiastic teacher and her core strengths include independent research design and multitasking. She encourages students to think out of the box and seek unconventional solutions for challenges faced by the society. She believes in holistic development of students and hence, strive to include experiential learning in classes. She has a rich experience in teaching at DPS International, Saket, New Delhi. Currently she teaches biology under the CAIE curriculum for IGCSE, AS and A levels.

Dr. Pragya Verma received her PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology in 2014, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, University of Texas at Dallas, US. Her research work mainly focused on the role of Heat shock transcription factor (HSF1) in promoting neuro-protection through a novel HSP independent mechanism. Her research work resulted in three publications in the areas of Stubble burning, Antimicrobial Resistance and Bioplastics. She has mentored students to pursue research at global universities such as Cambridge, John Hopkins, UCLA, and Columbia and guided them through University selection and mock interviews.

She has won international projects organized by Goethe institute and TGELF India, targeting issues such as plastic pollution and sustainability. She has helped and channelized student participation in inter-school competitions and Olympiads. Also led the community service activities and taught underprivileged students of the CKS foundation, a Delhi-based non-profit organisation. She has organized donation drives, bake sales, charity walks and runs to support non-profits organisations such as Goonj. She has participated in the National Symposium on “Immunity to Infection”, organized by the Society of Young Scientists at AIIMS, New Delhi in 2007.

Ms Ayesha Khan

Teacher, DPS International, New Delhi

Ayesha Khan is currently teaching at DPS, International, New Delhi. Her Career objective is to provide a well-balanced, supportive and engaging learning environment for all the students. Seeking a challenging and responsible position to use her abilities and experience efficiently and in the best interests of the school has been her main focus. She has a rich teaching Experience from Delhi Public School, Bangalore for five years.

She has also conducted Dynamic Training Services, New Delhi during 2006- 2008. She has utilized various teaching strategies which encouraged student participation and maintained a focused, well behaved and interested group of students at all times. She has Computer Proficiency Microsoft Office Suite and Web Applications.

She has worked voluntarily with an NGO named Gunjan Foundation for three years and organized various fund raising events and blood donation camps. Also actively involved with the vocational centre which is established to provide vocational training to women and children.

She has received her Master’s Degree in English Literature from Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi in 2008 and B.Ed. from Maharishi Dayanand University in 2010. She has also been a member of National Service Scheme (NSS), Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi.

She is a Sub-Editor of the School Biology Magazine (Life Spectrum).

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UNESCO International Day of Light 2023

(Newsletter Published in November 2022)

Zaheer Science Foundation Online Workshop on the Disruption of Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Continuing the programme of events related to the International Day of Light 2022, the Zaheer Science Foundation of New Delhi, India organized an online workshop on 30 August 2022 to discuss the important theme of how education and related opportunities have been disrupted as a result of COVID-19. Distinguished scientists were invited as Chief Guest, Guests of Honor, Session Chairpersons, and 11 Invited Speakers, chosen from different sectors of higher education, school education and NGOs, all involved in improving the quality of education, which is one of the most important Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Since school children and teachers were the greatest sufferers during the Covid-19 Pandemic, a principal and two school teachers of science and humanities streams from different parts of the country were also invited to share their thoughts with the participants of the workshop. About 100 participants, mostly from India and also from Iran and U.A.E. attended the workshop online. The workshop was made possible thanks to the media partner for the event, Virtual Studio Private Ltd., Greater Noida, New Delhi.

Speakers highlighted the gains as well as the losses due to disruption of education during the pandemic. The negative aspects of Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in learning losses and also affected millions of children who will never be able to go to schools for a variety of reasons. The achievements were the fast adoption of online learning technologies by school teachers and university faculty as well as the learners. It was particularly emphasized that online learning should not be abandoned by the teaching institutions altogether as a blended mode of learning appears to be the most appropriate solution in the future. The pandemic has also highlighted the commitment of teachers in openly sharing resources and information, and their important role in mentoring children. The various sessions of the workshop are free to watch online (<https://vsworld.com/VirtualEvents/idl2022>).

Contact:

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