ZAHEER SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The Foundation

Background

Zaheer Science Foundation was established in 1970 as an NGO to help the Government Departments in the promotion of scientific research and educational reform activities. The Foundation was registered as a Society under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860. Inspiration for starting the Foundation came from the perception that there was a great need of interaction between science and the society, and the Foundation could greatly help in creating a clear understanding to connect Scientific and Technological developments for societal needs and promoting scientific attitude & temper at large. The foundation is named after (Late) Dr. S. Husain Zaheer, who had played a great role in the Indian Freedom struggle and was a close associate of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru – the first Prime Minister of Independent India. Appointed as Director General of CSIR (1961-66), Dr. Zaheer had a long association with the science system in the country in various capacities and contributed substantially and significantly to the growth of scientific and industrial research in India. He is remembered by the scientific community for five-year performance assessment scheme (flexible complementing scheme) to provide incentive to scientists for creative activities, and abolition of hierarchy among scientists.

The initiative of naming the Foundation as Zaheer Science Foundation and the honour of being its first Chairman belonged to the Dr**. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar** who was also the Founder President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Thereafter, the following eminent scholars served as Chairmen of Zaheer Science Foundation:

Dr. S. Husain Zaheer	**Dr. A. R. Kidwai**
Prof. Nurul Hasan	**Dr. G. Thyagarajan**
Shri P.N. Haksar	**Dr. M. U. Khan**
Prof. R.C. Mehrotra	**Prof. Harsh Gupta**

Mission

With the above perception, the aims and objectives of the Foundation have been defined as follows:-

(i) To organize lectures, symposia, seminars and publish periodicals, books, journals and magazines relating to the objectives of the Foundation.

(ii) To conduct research on science, technology and development studies supported by National and International Funding Agencies.

(iii) To promote scientific and technological exchange of information, experience and advanced training between India and other countries, especially the developing countries.

(iv) To promote any other activity incidental to the above objectives (but not involving the carrying on of any activity for profit) as the Governing Council may from time to time determine.

(v) To give awards, scholarships, fellowships and grants to individuals/teams of scientists, technologists and organizations in regard to specific projects with a view to promote scientific, industrial, economic and social research.

Organization of the Foundation

The Governing Council of the Foundation which is the supreme body for the management of all the affairs and funds of the Foundation consists of not less than five and not more than ten Members inclusive of Chairman, the maximum number of Members being as follows:

(i) Five Members to be elected by the Members of the Foundation;
(ii) Five eminent persons having special knowledge or practical experience in science, technology, industry or social and economic affairs to be co-opted by the elected members of the Governing Council.

ZSF Present Governing Council

Dr. G. Thyagarajan- Patron
Former Director NIEST, IICT, CLRI (CSIR)
Former Director (Science) Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Dr. T. Ramasami - Patron
Former Director CLRI, CSIR,
Former Secretary, DST

Prof. Zahid H. Khan - Advisor
Former Professor, Dept. of Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
UNESCO-IDL , National Node for India

Dr. Ram Boojh - Advisor
CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi
Former Science Programme Chief, UNESCO New Delhi Office

- Dr. Tabassum Jamal - Chairperson
  Former Chief Scientist & Head Business Development Group,
  CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi
- Dr. D. Shailaja Donempudi - Vice-Chairperson
  Chief Scientist & Chair, Business Development & Research Management,
  CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad
- Dr. Mohd. Rais - Secretary
  Former Chief Scientist & Professor, Head BDG & Industry,
  CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi
- Mohd. Asad Ullah Khan - Treasurer
  Retired Deputy Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi
- Dr. Manish Mohan Gore - Joint Secretary
  Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi
- Dr. Seema Wahab - Member
  Former Senior Advisor DBT, New Delhi
- Dr. Mohammad Irfan Qureshi - Member
  Associate Professor Proteomics & Bioinformatics Lab, Dept. of Biotechnology,
  Faculty of Natural Sciences, JMI University, New Delhi

- Prof. Pramesh N. Kapoor - Member
  Former Professor in Chemistry, Delhi University, New Delhi
- Dr. Enna Dogra Gupta - Member
  Scientist-C, Policy & Communication, ICMR, New Delhi
- Dr. Abhishek Kumar - Member
  Senior Scientist and In-charge, Administration Cell (CPD) CSIR, New Delhi

Achievements of the Foundation

Over the years, the Foundation has functioned as per its mandate contributed to the advancement of Science and Technology. The activities of the Foundation have mostly consisted of the organization of lectures on subjects pertaining to science and society and making research awards to younger scientists. The Foundation has also interacted with other scientific and socio-scientific organizations in the area of science and society. Over the last few years the Foundation has been concentrating on the following aspects:

- Development of a scientific and rational approach to social, economic problems.
- Efforts and policies for self-reliance in scientific, industrial and economic spheres.

The Annual Zaheer Science Foundation Lecture

The Foundation has organized annual lectures by eminent scientists in the areas of 'Science Policy'. Amongst others the following have contributed to this program.

Prof. Abdus Salam, Nobel Laureate, F.R.S., Director, International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy.

Dr. Maurice Goldsmith, Director, International Science Policy Foundation, London.

Prof. Alan Mackay, F.R.S., Head, Crystallography, Birkbeck College, University of London, London.

Dr. Staffard Beers, Associated with planning in Chile under President Salvador Allende.

Since 1988 the Zaheer Science Foundation has taken advantage of the annual sessions of the Indian Science Congress for this activity to reach a wider spectrum of scientists. Following renowned scientists have delivered lectures during the Science Congress sessions.

Dr. C.N.R. Rao, F.R.S., on "Super-Conductivity" in 1988 at Bangalore.

Dr. A.P. Mitra, F.R.S. on Scientific Research and National Development" in 1989 at Madurai.

Prof. Obaid Siddiqi, F.R.S., on "Science, Society, Government and Politics – Some Remarks on the ideas of Jawaharlal Nehru" in 1990 at Cochin.

Prof. Yash Pal on "Science and Societal Disasters" in 1991 at Indore

Other lectures

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, F.R.S., on "Science and Aesthetics"

Dr. K.T. Achaya on "The origins of Indian Foods"

Dr. Abid Hussain on "A New Paradigm on Science and Technology"

Dr. D. S. Bhakuni on "Some Aspects of Bio-Synthesis of Alkaloids"

Interaction with "Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister"

At the invitation of the Chairman, Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, Prof. C.N.R. Rao, F.R.S., the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Foundation jointly organized a discussion on the paper entitled "An Approach to a Perspective Plan for 2001 A.D.: Role of Science and Technology" prepared by the Council. The seminar was well attended by scientists, social scientists and economists from all walks of life. The discussion was initiated by Prof. C.N.R. Rao. Later, a report was prepared in the form of a document and submitted to the Council. The recommendations made in the final report were suitably incorporated in the final version of the Council's paper.

Forum discussions

Symposium on "Emerging Trends in India's Agricultural and Industrial Policies and their implications for Self-reliance and indigenous Technology"

The Government of India under the then Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh had proposed reorienting the country's agricultural and industrial policies. The draft of the agricultural policy by the Ministry of Industry was prepared by the respective Ministries. The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library and the Zaheer Science Foundation jointly invited members of the Planning Commission, Scientists, Economists and social scientists to an open forum discussion on August 9, 1990 on agricultural and industrial policies. Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao initiated the discussion on agricultural policy and Dr. Arun Ghosh, Member, Planning Commission discussed the industrial policy. The meeting was presided over by Shri P.N. Haksar, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. A report on the meeting was widely circulated.

International activities

The Zaheer Science Foundation was invited by the Scientific Secretary to the Commonwealth Science Council, London, to prepare a report on "The Role and Responsibilities of the State for Development and Application of Science and Technology" for presentation at the meeting of the Ministers of Science and Technology of Commonwealth Countries held at Malta in November, 1990.

In cooperation with Delhi University and other organizations, Zaheer Science Foundation co-sponsored a seminar on 'Current Trends in Chemical Research', which was attended by chemical researchers of repute from India and abroad.

The Foundation also organized an International Conference on SCIENCE AND THE SMALL NATIONS Bridging the Gaps: A Science Diplomacy Initiative at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi, 2017.

Future Roadmap of Zaheer Science Foundation

Today's more digital form of globalization is changing the world economic order with rapid competition moves. This has opened new opportunities for the people world over to participate in the developmental activities and attain prosperity in all walks of life. Though advanced economies in general continue to be the leaders in most flows, developing countries making their mark with new business opportunities largely based on small and medium enterprises and startups, eventually improving their socio-economic development.

In this context, countries like India with vast natural resources, excellent agro-climatic conditions and manpower can take full advantage of globalization of economy for all round development of the country. India can thus acquire leadership position in many areas of production, research and development especially in the fields of medicine, agriculture and information and communication technologies. Viewed against the above background, Zaheer Science Foundation can play an important role in nation building by disseminating and generating new knowledge through holding conferences, seminars and discussions with experts, organizing outreach programmes with concerned stakeholders and conducting science, technology and development studies.

Focus Research Areas of the Foundation

- Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Education
- Science Popularisation
- Environmental Challenges
- Emerging Trends in Biotechnology
- Inspiring & Engaging of Women In Science
- Technological Interventions &Micro Enterprises (Focus on the North-East India)
- State S&T Councils & Regional Development
- Science Diplomacy (Focus on Science for Small Nations)

Major Events Organized by Zaheer Science Foundation (ZSF)

- Online International Workshop on "Disruption of Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic", organised by ZSF as part of the UNESCO's International Day of Light 2022 (IDL 2022); 30th August 2022.

- "Science of Yoga", A half-day workshop organised at ZSF, 4 Udyan Marg, New- Delhi, 28th June 2022.

- "Innovation driven economic growth in Asia focusing on India" International Conference organized by ZSF in partnership with UNESCO at Goa University, Goa, 27-29 November, 2019.

- "Leadership in Science & Technology" Dr. Husain Zaheer Memorial Lecture delivered by Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, DG-CSIR at NPL auditorium, New Delhi, 22nd July, 2019.

- "New Trends in Biotechnology" One day workshop cum Training Program for the North Eastern Region organised by ZSF at USTM, Meghalaya, 28thApril, 2018.

- "Science and the Small Nations Bridging the Gaps: A Science diplomacy Initiative" International conference organised by ZSF at India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi, November 14-16, 2017.

- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy for SAARC Countries, Training Program jointly organized by ZSF with UNESCO at INSA, New Delhi, 13-17 February, 2017.

- Dr. S. Husain Zaheer Remembrance Day event organised by ZSF at CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, (IICT) Hyderabad, 01 December 2015.

- "Science, Technology and Innovation Policy: Foresight, Growth, Roadmaps, Sectoral Impact Assessment and Alliances" A conclave of scientists organised by ZSF at INSA, New Delhi, November 27-29, 2014.

- Science, Technology and Innovation Policy-implementation Brainstorming Conference organised by ZSF at Bareilly College, Bareilly, 8th January, 2014.

- "New Drug Discovery in the context of New STI Policy 2013, National Conference jointly organized by Administrative Staff College of India and ZSF at Bella Vista, Raj Bhavan Road, Hyderabad, 05-6th April, 2013.

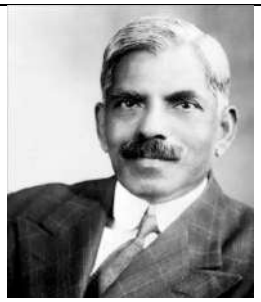
- Dr. S. Husain Zaheer Centenary Celebration Day, Organised by ZSF at IICT, Hyderabad, 18th November, 2011.

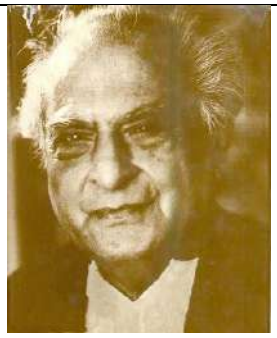
- Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology: Opportunities and Challenges in the context of Globalization, World Conclave of Scientists organised by ZSF at INSA, New Delhi, November 26-29, 2010. (**Sponsored by UNESCO).**

- "Capacity Building in Science and Technology; Policy perspective, opportunities and challenges in the context of globalization", International Conference organised by ZSF, 27-29, November, 2007. (**Sponsored by UNESCO).**

- "Science & Technology Policy: Future challenges in the context of globalization", International Conference organized by ZSF, 7-10, March 2005. (**Sponsored by UNESCO).**

Past Chairmen of Zaheer Science Foundation

1.		**Dr. A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar** **(1970-1974)** **Awards:** **-Padma Bhushan (1954)** **-Padma Vibhushan (1970)**
2.		**Dr. S. Husain Zaheer** **(1974-1975)** **-Director General, CSIR (1961-66)** **Award:** **-Padma Bhushan (1972)**
3.		**Prof. Nurul Hasan** **(1975-1988)** **-Vice President CSIR (1977-80)** **-Governor of West Bengal (1986-89)** **-Governor of Odisha (1989)**
4.		**Prof. R.C. Mehrotra** **(1989-1991)** **Awards:** **-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1965)** **-PC Ray Award (1977)** **-Vice President, INSA (1977-78)**
5.		**Dr. A.R. Kidwai** **(1991-1992)** **-Chairman & Member of UPSC (1967-79)** **Award:** **-Padma Vibhushan (2011)**

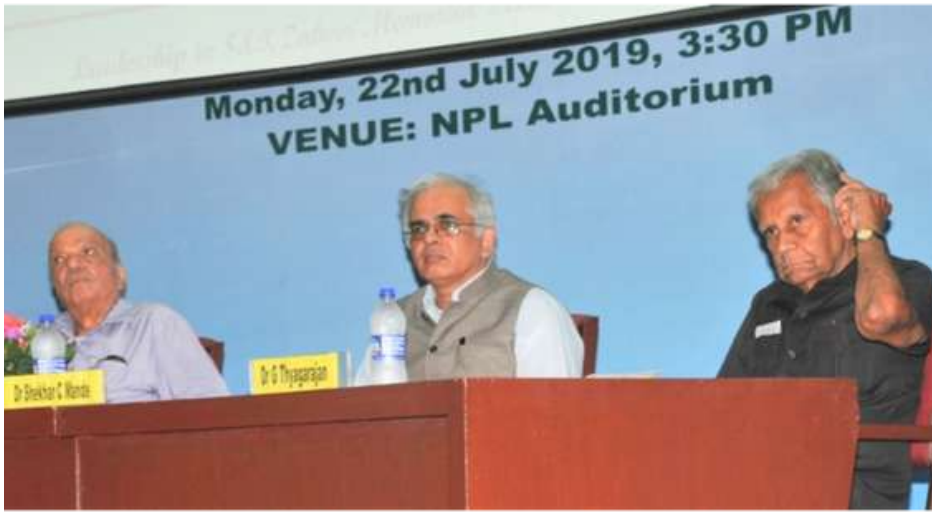
6.		**Shri P. N. Haksar** **(1992-1997)** **-Policy Advisor to Prime Minister (1971-73)** **-First Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University** **-Indian Ambassador to Austria & Nigeria**
7.		**Dr. A.R. Kidwai** **(1998-2016)** **-Governor of Bihar (1979-85)** **-Governor of Haryana (2004-2009)** **Award:** **-Padma Vibhushan (2011)**
8.		**Dr. G. Thyagarajan** **(2016-2020)** **-Science Advisor to Commonwealth Secretary General, London** **-Practitioner of Science-Society Linkages** **-Scientific Secretary of committee on S&T in developing Countries (1996-2002)**
9.		**Dr. Mohsin U. Khan** **(2020-2021)** **-Professor, Innovation Policy, Plekhanov Russian University of Economics** **-Consultant to UNESCO & ISESCO** **-Awarded from Commonwealth Scholarship Commission**
10.		**Prof. Harsh K. Gupta** **(2021-2023)** **-Established "Dakshin Gangotri", India's First Permanent Research Station in Antarctica (1983/84)** **Awards:** **-SS Bhatnagar Prize (1983)** **-Padma Shri (2006)** **-Life Time Excellence Award by MoES, GOI (2022)**

Glorious Journey of ZSF - Few Glimpses

Online International Workshop on Disruption of Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic, New Delhi, 2022

A Half- Day Workshop on Science of Yoga, New Delhi, 2022

International Conference on Innovation driven economic growth in Asia focusing on India at Goa University, Goa, 2019.



Dr. Husain Zaheer Memorial Lecture on Leadership in Science & Technology, New Delhi, 2019

International Conference on Science And the Small Nations - Bridging the Gaps
A Science diplomacy Initiative, New Delhi, 2017

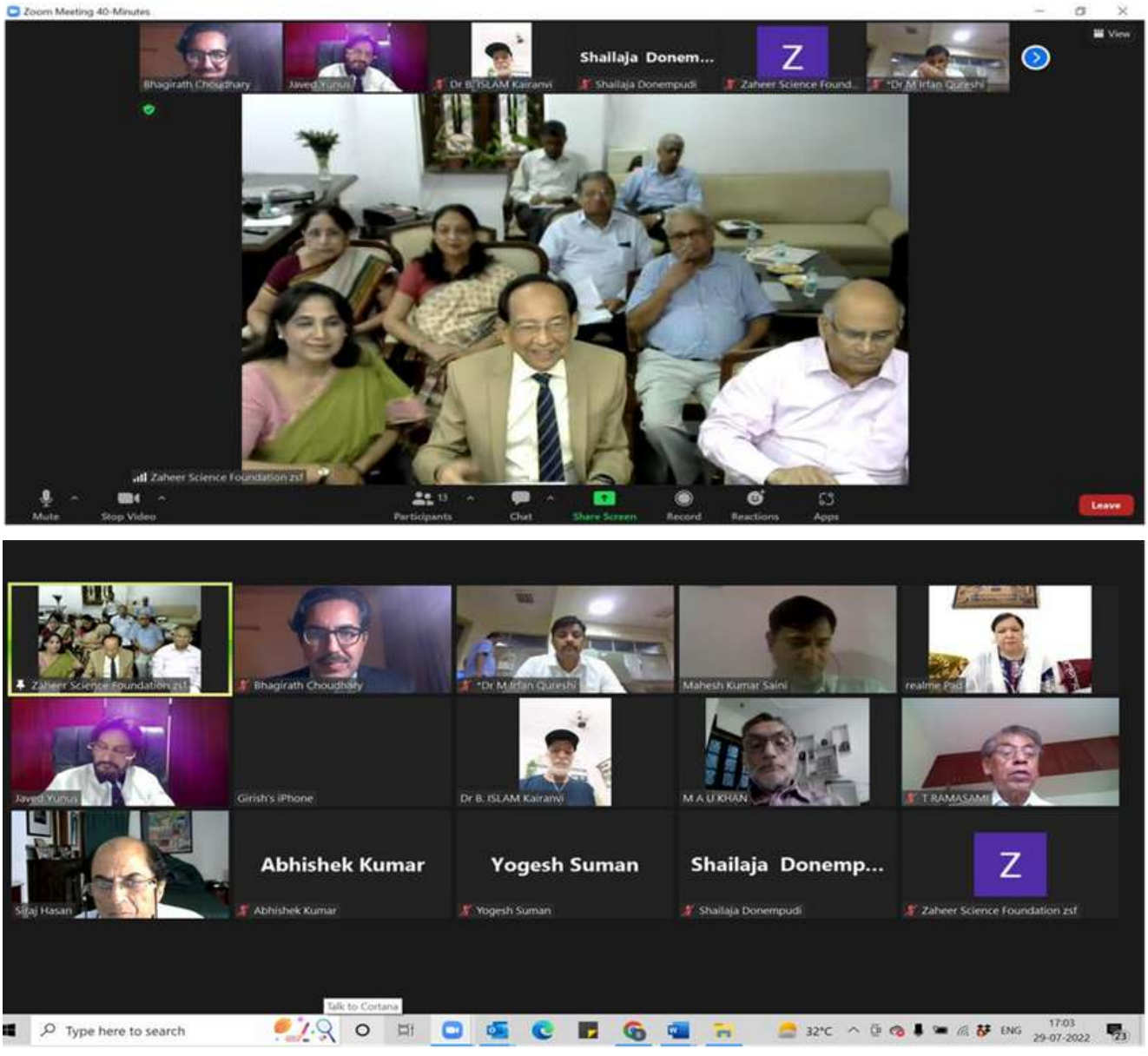
Training Program on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy for SAARC Countries, New Delhi, 2017

One day event on Dr. S. Husain Zaheer Remembrance Day, Hyderabad, 2015

A Conclave of Scientists on Science, Technology and Innovation Policy: Foresight, Growth, Roadmaps, Sectoral Impact Assessment & Alliances New Delhi, 2014

World Conclave of Scientists on Regional Co-operation in Science and Technology: Opportunities and Challenges in the context of Globalization, New Delhi, 2010

Governing Council Meeting at ZSF Office, New Delhi, 17th May, 2022



Annual General Meeting at ZSF Office, (Hybrid Mode), New Delhi, 29th July 2022

Governing Council Meeting at ZSF Office, New Delhi, 2nd May, 2023

Patrons

Dr. G. Thyagarajan
Former Director NIEST, IICT, CLRI (CSIR)
Former Director (Science) Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Dr. T. Ramasami
Former Director CLRI, CSIR,
Former Secretary, DST

Advisory Members

Prof. Zahid H. Khan
Former Professor, Dept. of Physics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
UNESCO-IDL , National Node for India

Dr. Ram Boojh
CEO, Mobius Foundation, New Delhi
Former Science Programme Chief, UNESCO New Delhi Office

Governing Council Members

Dr. Tabassum Jamal
Chairperson

Dr. D. Shailaja Donempudi
Vice-Chairperson

Dr. Mohd. Rais
Secretary

Mohd. Asad Ullah Khan
Treasurer

Dr. Manish Mohan Gore
Joint Secretary

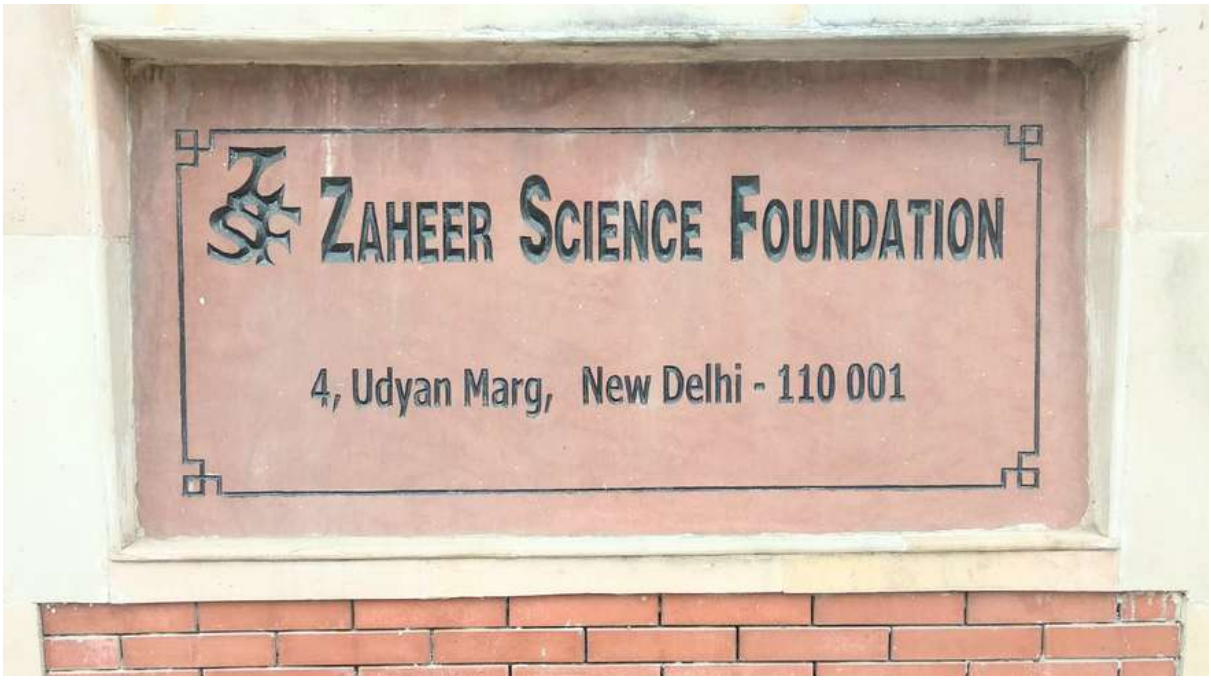
Dr. Seema Wahab
Member

Dr. Mohammad Irfan Qureshi
Member

Prof. Pramesh N. Kapoor
Member

Dr. Enna Dogra Gupta
Member

Dr. Abhishek Kumar
Member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