

Professor Mazhar Asif

Bio-note

Professor Mazhar Asif specializes in Indian Knowledge System, Sufism & Mysticism, He is an academician at heart, a fine blend of eclecticism, broader academic vision and proven administrative prowess. Born into a humble family in Bihar, he pursued his academic excellence at the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University, where he honed his perceptive mind and completed his graduate, postgraduate and doctoral studies in Persian Language and Literature with distinction, He earned his Ph.D. degree on “Persian Language & Literature in India During the 1st half of 20th century” in 2002 from JNU itself and subsequently he was conferred a post-doctoral degree on “Socio- cultural History of Assam from Persian sources” in 2009. He began his professional career in 1996 with the Department of Persian Language, Guwahati University, Assam, where he remained as a renowned and popular professor of Persian Language and Literature until 2017. In 2017, he rejoined his alma mater as a professor at the Centre for Persian and Central Asian Studies, JNU. His mastery over different languages- Assamese, Bhojpuri, English, Hindi, Persian, Urdu and Vajjika, makes him a true connoisseur of art, literature and culture with critical insights of the pragmaticism, crucial to transform the current academic landscape into students’ centric endeavour.

Prof. Asif has demonstrated his leadership in academic administration by successfully holding multiple administrative positions in various universities and institutions and also played pivotal role in policy advocacy as a member of drafting committee of NEP 2020. and Chairman of the NEP implementation committee. Some key positions which Prof. Asif held are- **Dean, School of Language Literature & Culture Studies**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Dean, School of Arts & Ethics**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Chief Vigilance Officer**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Chairman**, Regional Centre Advisory Committee, Guwahati , National Institute of Open Schooling, **Associate Dean, School of Language Literature & Culture Studies**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Chairperson, Centre for Persian & Central Asian Studies SLL&CS**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Chief Coordinator** Linguistics Empowerment Cell , Jawaharlal Nehru University, N. Delhi, **Head, Department of Persian**, Guwahati University, **Member, NAAC Peer Team**, Bangalore, **Member, Drafting Committee National Education Policy**, Government of India, **Member, Monitoring Committee National Education Policy**, Government of India, **Member of the Executive Council (Visitor Nominee)** Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad **Member of the Executive Council (Visitor Nominee)** Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, **Member of the Executive Council** , Jawaharlal Nehru University, **Warden, Mahi- Mandvi Hostel**, Jawaharlal Nehru University and contributed

to the academia as a member of various academic bodies in a number of institutes of eminence, central and state universities.

Prof. Asif illustrious academic career and administrative vision has been widely acknowledged and he has been the recipient of **President Medal, Afghanistan** , 2019, **felicited** by the Prime Minister of India 1993, **Mithila Ratna Samman 2011** and **Certificate of recognition** by Jawaharlal Memorial Fund 1992.

He has been widely published in national and international journals and publishing houses of repute. There are a number of scholarly research articles, monographs and books to his credit. He undertook a painstakingly challenging task of lexicography in creating “Persian-Assamese-English dictionary” (2014) consisting of more than 1200 pages and translating “*Tarikh-e- Aasham*” (2009) (A Persian chronicle translated into English). He has been supervising a number of Doctoral and Post-Doctoral research scholars. More than ten research scholars have successfully defended their thesis.

His philosophy on education is terse and unambiguous that is “Knowledge empowers one but skills transform the society” and he is committed to the national aspiration of re-claiming India’s role as the ‘*Vishwa Guru*’ for a sustainable world through transformative changes in educational institutions.