

SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

(Registered under Societies' Registration Act-XXI of 1860. Registration No. 32833)

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

Date: February 23, 2022 at 11.45 A.M.

Venue: The Meeting was conducted in Virtual Mode.

The Executive Council meeting was attended by the following members.

1. V.K. Gupta - in Chair
2. Rajender Parsad
3. A.K. Nigam
4. Bikas Kumar Sinha
5. Rahul Mukerjee
6. S.D. Sharma
7. Manisha Pal
8. Ramana Davuluri
9. Alope Lahiri
10. Vishnu Vardhan R
11. Shibani Roy Choudhury
12. Ashish Das
13. Alka Arora
14. Anshu Bharadwaj
15. Dipak Roy Choudhury
16. A. Dhandapani-Organising Secretary
17. S. Ravichandran- Co-organising Secretary and Special Invitee

Note: Because of the online meeting, few omissions of the attendances of the members may be there.

1. Condolences of the demised members

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members present and then before starting the deliberations, tributes were paid to the four demised members of the Society, who had left for their heavenly abode between the 23rd and 24th conferences, namely, R. C. Jain, Hukum Chandra, Lal Mohan Bhar and S.M.G. Saran. Chairman expressed his deepest condolences on their sad demise. One minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

2. Confirmation of the proceedings of the virtual EC meeting of SSCA held on February 24, 2021

The said proceedings were circulated among the members of the Society. It was also hosted at the website of the Society. Since no comments were received on it, the same were confirmed.

3. Presentation of Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury presented the report of the activities during the year 2021-2022. The presented report was quite elaborate and highlighted various activities of the SSCA and the new initiatives taken up. The report was divided in several sections. Each section of the report has been presented below:

3.1. About the conference organised in 2021

Chairman recalled that the last 23rd annual conference of the SSCA was organised online by ICAR-NAARM by the same team, which is organising the ongoing conference also, with Dr A. Dhandapani and Dr S. Ramachandran, Organising Secretary and Co-organising Secretary respectively. The dedicated organizing team under their diligent and determined leadership successfully organised the unprecedented online conference without any hiccup. The conference was organised with perfection and the contents were brilliant and enriching.

3.2. Arrangements of the 24th annual conference

Chairman further added that a one day online Pre-Conference workshop on Reader-Focused Writing in Quantitative Sciences has been organised by the Society on 22nd February 2022. The Resource Person of the workshop was Prof. Jyotirmoy Sarkar. Professor and Statistics Consultant, Indiana University - Purdue University, USA. 81 persons attended the workshop. It was excellently organised.

Regarding the arrangements for the ongoing 24th online annual conference, the Chairman was all praise for the arrangements made by the organising committee. The programme of the ongoing conference was prepared and shared a number of times by Dr Dhandapani because of last minute additions and alterations taking due care that nothing is left out inadvertently. SSCA is obliged to ICAR-NAARM for the invaluable support extended by their team with lot of motivation in organising the 24th annual conference of the SSCA during 23-27 February 2022. It was really praise worthy. Chairman requested Dr Dhandapani to convey his thanks to Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM on behalf of the Society. Chairman further added that 140 speakers had offered to participate in the ongoing conference, out of this, 17 are from abroad representing different countries and different time zones. He then requested Dr Dhandapani to give a brief sketch of the arrangements made for the conference..

Dr Dhandapani thanked the SSCA for giving another opportunity to the ICAR-NAARM to organise the 24th conference for the second time in succession. He presented a brief sketch of the preparation for the conference. He informed that the number of speakers consented to participate in the conference as Invited Speakers and Young Researchers Invited Speakers were 50 and 68 respectively. In addition, there would be speakers for keynote address, M.N. Das Memorial Lecture, 3 Endowment Lectures, 1 Endowment Award lecture, 2 M.N.D. MYSA presentations, 1 Special Invited Talk, 2 Memorial sessions with a total of 11 lectures, 1 Financial Statistics lecture session with 4 lectures. He informed to have made elaborate arrangements for the 5-day programme with a provision of 500 persons to join at any point of time. There were 161 registered delegates. During the pre-conference workshop on 22nd, 81 participants had joined. Provision for recording of the whole 5-day programme and one day pre-conference workshop has

been made. Arrangements for backup had also been made. He had all praise for Prof V.K. Gupta, President of the SSCA for arranging the speakers and the talks and also for meticulous planning and constant monitoring in the preparation of the conference programme.

The members expressed satisfaction of the arrangements and thanked the organisers for accomplishing the herculean task. President expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and he thanked the Director, ICAR-NAARM and organisers for all the perfect arrangements and requested Dr Dhandapani to convey his thanks to the Director on behalf of the Society.

3.3. Publication of the Special volume of the journal of the Society

It has been informed that a special volume of the Journal has been released in May 2021 in memory of Late Prof. Alope Dey with 32 research papers from the renowned statisticians across the globe. and it has been hosted on the website of the Society. The Special Issue has been titled as 'Contributions to Combinatorics, Design of Experiments, Linear Algebra and Related Areas'. The said Special Issue, in addition to having research papers from the renowned statisticians across the globe, also has a tribute to Late Prof Alope Dey from four renowned statisticians, Profs. Vinod Kumar Gupta, Rahul Mukerjee, Mausumi Bose and Arun Kumar Nigam and like all other volumes, it has been hosted on the website of the society and has open access to all the readers.

In addition, a regular issue of the journal having twenty research papers, has been published during the year 2021.

Secretary thanked all the authors, reviewers, Executive Editor, Associate Editors and all others for their timely help and support.

Secretary informed that the NAAS rating of the journal has moved upwards to 5.76. Earlier it was 4.57.

3.4. Release of Special Proceedings of 23rd (Web) conference held at ICAR-NAARM

Special Proceedings comprising of few selected papers of the 23rd annual conference of the SSCA held in virtual mode in 2021 have been released and are available at the website of the Society. The soft copy of the special proceedings were sent to all the life members of the society and also printed for distribution to its authors and others.

4. Memorial Sessions for the demised members

It was decided by the EC to organise two Memorial Sessions in this conference in memory of two of its demised members. These are Hukum Chandra Memorial Session and Lal Mohan Bhar Memorial Session with a total of 11 lectures during these sessions.

5. Announcement of Dr. M. N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2021

The Secretary informed that a total of 8 research papers were received for this prestigious award. These papers were reviewed by 6 reviewers from India and abroad. As per the rules, first three candidates with an average score of 7 or more

on a 10 point scale, were selected for presentation of their research papers at the present annual conference before a panel of judges for evaluation. Based upon the performances at the first phase and the second phase, the name of the winner would be declared at the GB meeting during the on-going conference. Secretary informed that in the current year, two candidates could qualify the above criteria of securing an average score of 7 or more on a 10 point scale so they were advised to make presentations.

6. New activities initiated

(i) Annual Endowment/Memorial Endowment Lectures and Award

Secretary informed that as a follow up of the proceedings of the AGM held during the 21st Annual Conference of the society at Tirupati in the year 2019, three annual endowment lectures including one memorial endowment lecture to honour celebrated statisticians of Indian origin have been planned to be initiated this year. It has been approved at the virtual meeting of the select group of the Executive Council on 11th January 2022 and circulated among the EC members through Email. These three lectures are: (i) B.K. Kale Endowment Lecture in honour of Prof. B.K. Kale, Retired Professor of Savitri Bai Phule Pune University; (ii) Bikas Kumar Sinha Endowment Lecture in honour of Prof. Bikas Kumar Sinha, Retired Professor of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; and (iii) JK Ghosh Memorial Endowment Lecture in Memory of Late Prof. J.K. Ghosh, Retired Director, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata. Besides, there is a VK Gupta Endowment Award for Achievements in Statistical Thinking and Practice to be initiated from this conference. For initiation of the above Endowment Lectures and Award, the Endowment money have been paid by the relatives and students/well-wishers of the person, in whose name, the Endowment Lecture has been initiated. The SSCA is indeed grateful to all the donors.

Secretary further informed that individual committees have been formed for selection of speakers for the three endowment and memorial endowment lectures including already functional annual M N Das Memorial Lecture. For the Dr V K Gupta Endowment Award, a Search-cum-Selection Committee has been formed for selection of awardee. The details regarding these Endowment Lectures and Award are available in the proceedings of the virtual meeting of the select group of the SSCA held on 11th January 2022. It is hosted at the website of the Society.

The EC granted its approval to this proposal and was appreciative of the efforts made for initiating these Lectures and Award.

(ii) Invited Talk Session for Young Researchers

Secretary informed that the select group of the SSCA during its meeting on 11th January 2022 approved a proposal that the title 'Contributory Paper Session (CPS)' might be replaced by the title 'Invited Talk Session for the Young Researchers below the age of 30 years (ITSYR)' in the present conference and be continued in future as well. In this connection, there were detailed discussions on this proposal, which are as follows:

This issue was discussed at length. The major concern expressed was that there are always many contributed papers presentations by some senior researchers as well. The reason is that there are always limited invitations (about 50 only) for the invited talk sessions. So the others, who are interested in making the presentations of their research, come through contributed papers sessions. So in

view of this, the following decisions were taken:

- (a) There would be invited talk sessions for young researchers below the age of 32 years.
- (b) Contributed papers presentations would keep continuing as such along with the invited talk presentations by young researchers.
- (c) Senior researchers, who are Professor or holding an equivalent position or above would not be considered for contributed papers presentation. Such persons may be nominated as Chairpersons for organising the sessions during the conference. If possible, they may also be accommodated in the invited talk presentation sessions.

(iii) Proposal for Popular Lecture during Annual Conferences

A suggestion was made by an EC member to introduce a Popular Lecture of interest in every conference, addressing some burning issue of the country. The speaker must be an established person on the subject. Chairman informed that he had a discussion with some known personalities regarding possibility of delivery of a lecture by any one of them of say 35-40 minutes but it did not materialise. EC appreciated the proposal and consented to it with the advice that starting from the next year 25th annual conference of the SSCA, the said lecture may be arranged in every conference. President suggested that some appropriate remuneration may also be paid to the speaker as a respect for appreciation for the speaker. The proposal was approved by the EC.

7. Filing of the IT Return for the FY 2020-2021 and presentation of the Audited Report

The treasurer presented the Balance Sheet of the Society together with the Audit Report for the financial year 2020-21. It has been informed that the Society had filed the IT Return for the financial year 2020-21 through its CA. He informed that this is the third year of filing the said return. Refund due to excess deduction due to Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) has been received by the Society. The facility of Net Banking System is being used for all financial transactions. The same was appreciated and accepted by the EC. Chairman appreciated the effort of the Treasurer for taking keen interest of looking into the painstaking work of the accounts and for his efficient handling of the job of accounts of the society. He was of the view that there was no better person than him for this work. Members supported his view. President advised the Treasurer to identify a 'Second Line of Defence' for this job and train him/her so that in case of his non-availability due to certain personal or professional reason, the identified person may immediately take over the work with confidence and smooth flow of work is maintained. One member suggested that the person may be made a member of the Society, if he/she is not and may be offered a post like Joint/Assistant Treasurer or like.

8. Proposed venue of the 25th Annual Conference of the SSCA

The possible venue of the next conference was discussed at length. President informed that at the request of the HOD of the Department of Statistics, Manipur University, the VC of that university has given his approval to hold the 25th annual conference of the Society there. The President informed that since the proposal is with us, the Society has to look into the pros and cons of holding the conference

there. He was of the view that the conference should be in a hybrid mode because of the participation of foreign delegates with different time zones. Since 25th conference will be silver jubilee one, it is to be ensured that it goes well without any problem and Manipur University should ensure that before taking the heavy responsibility, preparation of which should start now. There was proposal from members for holding the conference at Delhi, preferably at the IASRI. Director of IASRI, who is also the Executive President of the Society promised to look into the matter.

It was also discussed that since the Manipur University is very eager to organise the 25th conference there and at the same time Society are apprehensive of organising the same there because of a number of possible difficulties, one feasible solution to come out of the problem may be to have a one-day satellite conference at Manipur University and three-day hybrid conference at other convenient place or vice versa. President invited more proposals from members and desired to hold meetings with a smaller group for exploring all possibilities at the earliest so that Manipur University may be informed accordingly.

9. Members of the Society

Secretary apprised that 21 persons became life members of the Society between the last and this conference – Indian -19 and Foreign - 02. The total number of members of the Society as on date is 405, comprising of 386 from India, 14 from abroad and 5 honorary members.

10. Election of Executive Committee (EC) Members

It was informed that as per the norms of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Applications (SSCA), every year, five out of a total of fifteen council members of the Executive Council (EC) of the SSCA, who have completed 3 years of term in office, would be re-nominated/replaced by new members as suggested by the EC and approved by the General Body (GB). In the following year, 2022-23, four EC members would be completing 3 years term in office (2019-2022). They are, Alka Arora, Anshu Bharadwaj, Sanjeev Panwar and V. Srinivasa Rao. Out of them, it was proposed that Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao may be re-nominated and for the other three posts, Rakhi Singh, Sapam Sobita Devi and Rajni Jain may be nominated. President explained the reason for new inclusion. Since Rakhi Singh is presently pursuing her postdoc at USA, she might be in a position to popularise the Society abroad in a better way. Ms. Sapam Sobita Devi will represent North East region of India in the EC and Rajni Jain is a computer professional. The proposal of EC for the year 2022-23, given in the Appendix, was approved by the EC, and the same would now be placed in the General Body meeting of the Society for its approval.

Chairman informed that Dr. Sudhir Gupta, Foreign Secretary of the SSCA wanted to be relieved from the responsibility from the next year due to personal reasons. Dr. Sudhir Gupta proposed the name of Dr. Abhyuday Mandal, Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Georgia, Athens, USA in his place. The proposal was approved by the EC.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the services rendered by Drs. Sudhir Gupta, Alka Arora, Anshu Bharadwaj and Sanjeev Panwar, EC members for their effective roles in managing the day to day work of the Society. It was also decided to send an appreciation letter to the out-going members for the services rendered by them in uplifting the stature of the Society.

11. Other activities

Regarding the laurels earned by the members, it is as under:

- (a) Dr R.B. Barman, Patron of the Society, received the Prof P.C. Mahalanobis National Award -2021 in Official Statistics;
- (b) Dr Sanjoy Roy Choudhury, member of the Society has been promoted as Professor at the Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University; and
- (c) Dr Vishnu Vardhan R. has been promoted as Associate Professor of Statistics in Pondicherry University, Puducherry.

President congratulated the members for their outstanding achievements. He requested the members to inform him and the Secretary about any of their achievements during last one year before the conference.

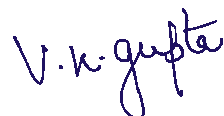
12. Fixing of the terms for the EC members

The President proposed that the terms of the EC members for all the positions in the EC may be fixed. He said that he was not in favour of election and that there would never be any room for election of office bearers of EC. However, the existing EC (in vogue at the time of electing the new EC) would decide and elect the new EC and the proposal would be vetted by the GB.

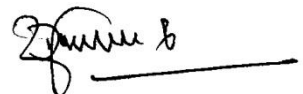
The issue was debated at length and it was consented that the duration of the term may be 3 years, which may be further extended for another term of 3 years subject to satisfactory performance and willingness of the member for such extension. Not more than 2 terms for a member. The decision for extension will be taken by the EC in position at that time. However, it was decided that the matter needed more elaborate discussion and may be discussed among the local members of Delhi (LOB) through an online meeting. It was also decided to include Prof Bikas Kumar Sinha and Ashish Das in the meeting.

Joint Secretary (S) raised the issue of the requirement of a separate accommodation for the Society office. She was of the view that with the expansion of the Society, there is an urgent need to have a meeting room, place for keeping its records like Special Volumes, proceedings, files related to the papers received for publication in the journal, etc. Also, Society needs a separate address for all practical purposes. Chairman informed that the matter is well taken and requested the member to arrange for a meeting shortly to sort out the two issues, namely, (i) terms of the members in office and (ii) accommodation. It was decided that the local members of Delhi (LOB) may meet online soon to sort out the issues and then circulate the proceedings of this meeting among the EC members for their comments and consent.

The meeting then ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



(V.K. Gupta)
President, SSCA



(Dipak Roy Choudhury)
Secretary, SSCA

New Delhi: 7th March 2022

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Late Prof. M.N. Das

President

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