

SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

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

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Late Prof. M.N. Das

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V. K. Gupta

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8. *Ranjit Kumar Paul*
9. *Rao Saheb Latpate*
10. *Renu Kaul*
11. *S.A. Mir*
12. *Sapam Sobita Devi*
13. *V. Srinivasa Rao*
14. *V.M. Chacko*
15. *Vishnu Vardhan R*

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1. *Chair Editor, S and A*
2. *Executive Editor, S and A*
3. *Director, IASRJ*
4. *DG (Statistics), MOSPI*

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

Date: February 17, 2024 at 06:00 P.M.

Venue: The Meeting was conducted in Virtual Mode through Zoom platform

The Executive Council meeting was attended by the following members.

1. V.K. Gupta - in Chair
2. Rajender Parsad
3. Rahul Mukerjee
4. Rajpal Singh
5. Manisha Pal
6. Dipak Roy Choudhury
7. A. Dhandapani
8. Alope Lahiri
9. Shibani Roy Choudhury
10. Abhyuday Mandal
11. Manish Kumar Sharma
12. Vishal Deo
13. Mukesh Kumar
14. Renu Kaul
15. V.M. Chacko
16. Durba Bhattacharya– Special Invitee
17. Sarla Pareek- Convener of the conference and Special Invitee
18. Shalini Chandra–Organizing Secretary of the conference and Special Invitee

1. Welcome address by the Chairman

At the outset, the chairman welcomed the EC members and the invited members present in the meeting. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr Rajpal Singh, one of the founding members of the society and currently the senior most member of the EC, for being present in the meeting. The chairman congratulated all the members and the organizing team of the silver jubilee annual conference held at the Jammu University for its grand success. He apprised the members about the upcoming 26th annual conference of the society, *Emerging Trends of Statistical Sciences in AI and its Applications (ETSSAA-2024)*, to be held during 26-28 February 2024 and being organized by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Banasthali Vidyapith. With utmost delight, he informed the members that renowned statistician and Former Director of the Indian Statistical Institute, Prof. Bimal Kumar Roy will be delivering the Keynote address at the conference. The chairman also informed that the 26th annual conference will have two new components, the Aditya Shastri Memorial Lecture and Early Career Researchers Invited Talk Sessions, apart from the Keynote address, Prof. M. N. Das memorial lecture, Endowment lectures, Special Invited talks, Invited talks, Prof. M. N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award Presentations, contributed paper sessions, and poster presentations. Further, he informed the members that a pre-conference workshop

(online) is scheduled on 23 February 2024 on “*Bayesian Statistics: From Applications to Theory, and From Theory to Applications*” and extended his invitation to all to attend the event. He expressed his gratitude to Dr Nabendu Pal, who is a full Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics, University of Louisiana (UL) at Lafayette, USA, for accepting the invitation to be the resource person for the workshop.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the EC meeting (online) held on 11.02.2023

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

3. Brief report by the organizing secretary of the 26th annual conference regarding the arrangements made for the conference

The organizing secretary, Prof. Shalini Chandra, presented a brief report about plans and the arrangements made for the conference. She informed the members that the organizers were receiving overwhelming response from participants and they had already received around 200 registrations, including invited and contributory speakers, and poster presentations. Regarding accommodation, the organizing secretary informed that arrangements will be made in the guest house inside the Banasthali Vidyapith campus and in a nearby hotel which is just around 200 meters away from the campus. She highlighted that, with top priority, all women participants will be accommodated in the guest house inside the campus. Only male participants will be staying at the hotel accommodation, if necessary. Further, the organizing secretary informed that travel arrangements will be made for participants to reach the campus from the Jaipur Airport. With some suggestions from the members, it was decided that participants will be asked to submit their travel itinerary in advance so that the organizers can plan accordingly for arranging vehicles. The organizing secretary informed that details on accommodation and travel arrangements will be shared with all participants in advance. The draft conference schedule was also presented, and a thorough discussion led to a few suggestions which were duly noted and agreed upon by the organizing secretary. It was opined that given the extremely tight schedule owing to huge participation, no requests shall be entertained from the speakers for making any last-minute changes.

4. Presentation of report on activities of the Society by the Secretary

The Secretary, Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury presented the report of the activities during the year 2022-2023. 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:

4.1 Release of the Journal Statistics and Applications (S&A)

Volume 21 with Issues No. 1 (June 2023) and No. 2 (December 2023) containing 19 papers each were hosted online at the website of the SSCA and were printed. The full length papers can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website of the SSCA. It is informed that the Editorial Board of the journal has been further strengthened with the inclusion of Dr. (Ms.) Durba Bhattacharya, Head, Department of Statistics, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata as Executive Editor and Ms. Jyoti Gangwani, Former Chief Technical Officer at IASRI, New Delhi as Production Executive. It was informed that the Volume 22, No. 2 (to be published in December 2024) on “Life and Work of CR Rao (1920-2023): The Revolutionary of Statistical Sciences” will be devoted to the fond memories of Late CR Rao.

There is a team of global celebrated scientists working as Guest Editors and we expect 40+ papers to be included in this issue.

4.2 Release of Special Proceedings of 25th annual conference held at the University of Jammu

Special Proceedings comprising of 15 selected papers of the 25th annual conference of the SSCA were hosted and printed, after the usual review process, in October 2023 with the International Standard Book Number (ISBN - ISBN No.978-81-950383-2-9) and are available at the website of the SSCA.

4.3 M.N. Das Memorial Lecture

In order to perpetuate the memory of the Founder President Late Prof. M.N. Das, a M.N. Das Memorial Lecture is organised every year during the annual conference. The twelfth memorial lecture in this series was delivered in the last annual conference by eminent statistician Dr. Padam Singh.

4.4 M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2023

During the year 2023, two candidates could qualify for the presentation of their research before a selected panel of five judges. Presentations were held during the last 25th annual conference. Selection of the winner was based on the review of their papers, merit of presentation and ability to answer the questions. Dr Saurav Guha, Research Scholar at the ICAR-IASRI was selected for the award. The SSCA is indeed grateful to the family of Late Prof M.N. Das for providing the financial support for this award.

4.5 A session on Financial Statistics

Like earlier four years, there was a session on Financial Statistics during the year with four presentations made by Ajit Ratnakar Joshi, RBI; T.V. Ramanathan, SP Phule Pune University; Ankita Singh, MOSPI; and Ashish Das, IIT Bombay.

4.6 Organization of Web-seminar

During the year, SSCA organized a web-seminar on December 11, 2023 inviting Distinguished Research Professor Danny Pfefferman, University of Southampton, U.K and Professor (Emeritus), Department and Data Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel to deliver the talk. The session was chaired by Distinguished Research Professor J.N.K. Rao, Carleton, Ottawa, Canada.

4.7 Endowment Lectures

It was decided in the GBM, 2022 that there would be following three endowment lectures and one endowment award presentation in every annual conference of the SSCA starting from 2022. The V K Gupta Endowment Award will carry a cash prize of ₹31,000.00.

1. B.K. Kale Memorial Endowment Lecture
2. J.K. Ghosh Memorial Endowment Lecture
3. Bikas Kumar Sinha Endowment Lecture
4. V.K. Gupta Endowment Award for Achievements in Statistical Thinking and Practice Lecture.

i. Endowment Lecture in memory of Late. B.K. Kale, Retired Professor, SP Pune University, Pune

The second lecture was delivered by Prof. K. Muralidharan, M.S. University, Vadodara.

ii. Endowment Lecture in honour of Prof. Bikas Kumar Sinha, Retired Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

The second lecture was delivered online by Prof. T.J. Rao, Retired Professor at Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

iii. Endowment Lecture in memory of Late J.K. Ghosh, Former Director, ISI, Kolkata

The second lecture was delivered online by Dr. Durba Bhattacharya, Head, Department of Statistics, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

iv. Dr. V.K. Gupta Endowment Award for Achievements in Statistics Thinking and Practice Lecture

The second award lecture for the year 2023 was delivered by Prof. Bikas Kumar Sinha, Retired Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.

For initiation of the above Endowment Lectures and Award, Endowment money was paid by the relatives and students/well-wishers of the person, in whose name the Endowment Lecture/Award has been initiated. The SSCA expresses its gratefulness to each one of the donors.

4.8 Pre-conference Seminar and Discussions

A Pre-Conference Online Seminar and Discussions was held on 11th February 2023. The title of the seminar was "Sequential Multiple-Assignment Randomized Trials (SMARTs) for Dynamic Treatment Regimes (DTRs)". It was organised by Prof. Bikas K. Sinha. The Chairperson of the seminar was Prof. Atanu Biswas, ISI, Kolkata and the speaker was Prof. Bibhas Chakraborty, National University of Singapore. Dr. Aditya Chakraborty was the discussant.

4.9 Invited Talk Session for Young Researchers

With the aim of attracting young faculty and senior Ph.D. students to make presentations at the Contributory Paper Sessions of the annual conferences of the SSCA, the select group of EC during its meeting on 11th January 2022 approved a proposal that besides Contributory Paper Presentation Sessions' we may also have Early-Career Researcher Invited Talk Session for the Young Researchers below the age of 32 years. During the Silver Jubilee conference at Jammu, the sessions for the contributory paper presentation, early-career researcher invited talk session and invited talk sessions were clubbed together as Invited Paper Sessions.

4.10 Membership strength of the Society

The present strength of the Society in terms of its life members is 427 including 15 Foreign Members and 04 Honorary Members. Between the last conference and till date, 14 Indian members have been enrolled as its members. The website of the Society is updated with the name and Email ID of the new member as soon he/she is enrolled as a member.

4.11 Functioning of the website of the Society

Regular communication with the members is maintained by way of updating the Society website from time to time www.scca.org.in regarding announcement, notifications, various news items like conferences, awards, proceedings of meetings of EC/GB/LOB, list of members, which are relevant to the members. The website gives the latest Executive Council (EC) members and the Editorial Board of the Society Journal 'Statistics and Applications'.

4.12 Professional/Academic achievements of Members

You will be glad to know the awards/recognitions conferred on the life members of the Society. During the year, as per the information received by the SSCA, two members of the society have received laurels. They are as follows:

Institute of Applied Statistics, a statistical training and research institute, Kanpur, launched a scheme in honour of renowned statistician Dr. Padam Singh. The scheme, known as Dr. Padam Singh R & D Scheme, aims at enhancing the knowledge of statistics and research activities among medical, nursing, paramedical professionals, and academicians.

Dr. L. Naga Rajeev has been awarded Doctor of Philosophy from Manipal University, Jaipur.

The Society expressed its congratulations to the above members.

4.13 Conference Organized in 2023

The last twenty fifth silver jubilee annual conference of the society was organized by the University of Jammu, Jammu during 15-17 February 2023. It was a grand success because of the untiring efforts of the members of the organizing committee. It was the second time that the conference was organized in that university, the previous was in the year 2016. The highly structured arrangements made by a very dedicated team of Prof. Rahul Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Mathematical Sciences and Chairman, Dr. Parmil Kumar, Head, Department of Statistics and Convener, Dr. Pawan Kumar, Co-Convener, Dr. V.K. Shivgotra, Organizing Secretary, Dr Sunil Kumar, Co-Organizing Secretary and their colleagues were praise-worthy. Overall, the conference was academically very enriching for the delegates. The time efficiency was a mark of the conference. The sessions were organized with utmost devotion, care and timeliness. SSCA expressed its thanks for the valiant effort.

5. Election of Executive Council members and Office bearers

Members decided to add one more position of Vice Presidents, making it to a total of eight Vice President positions in the society. Citing the significant continued contributions of Prof. Manisha Pal to the Society, members unanimously agreed to recommend her for the position of Vice President. This decision was welcomed by all members as a step to ensure fair representations of female members in the society.

It was informed that as per the norms of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Applications (SSCA), every year, out of a total of fifteen members of the Executive Council (EC) of the SSCA, those who have completed 3 years of term (one term is of 3 years) in office, would be re-nominated/replaced by new members as suggested by the EC and approved by the General Body (GB). By 31st March 2024, four EC members who would be completing three 3 year-term in office are, B Re. Victor Babu (1 term), Ranjit Kumar Paul (2 terms), S. A. Mir (3 terms), and V. M. Chacko (1 term). With due deliberations, members unanimously decided to re-nominate B Re. Victor Babu, and V. M. Chacko (who have completed one term each) for another term, and recommended that Ranjit Kumar Paul and S.A. Mir be replaced by Banti Kumar and Imran Khan as the new members of the EC. As per the norm of the Society, the organizing secretary of the 26th annual conference, Prof. Shalini Chandra will be a new member of the EC. (List of the recommended EC is provided in the Appendix)

Members gratefully acknowledged the services rendered by the outgoing EC members Ranjit Kumar Paul and S. A. Mir for their effective roles in managing the day-to-day work of the Society. It was also decided to send an appreciation letter to each out-going member for the services rendered by them in uplifting the stature of the Society.

6. Audit and accounts of the Society

It was informed by the Secretary that the audit process for the financial year 2022-

2023 was completed and the ITR has also been duly filed through the auditor (CA) of the Society.

7. Venue for the 27th Annual Conference to be held in February 2025

The Chairman informed the members that a proposal has been received from the Department of Statistics of the North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, with due approval from their honourable Vice Chancellor, to hold the 27th annual conference of the SSCA in February 2025. The proposal was unanimously approved by the EC. It would now be placed before the GB for its final approval.

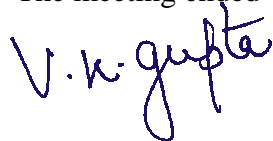
8. Any other matter

Prof Rahul Mukerjee, Patron of the society, expressed his satisfaction at the progress of the society and its journal Statistics and Applications. He reiterated his delight that the journal is indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, and citing the example of Sankhya which is also currently indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index, he suggested that some efforts may soon lead to the journal getting its Impact Factor. He made insightful suggestions on further expanding the outreach of the journal by exploring the options for partnering with any global publisher such as Springer, World Scientific, etc., to publish the journal. The Chairman welcomed his suggestions, thanked him for his continuous support and guidance. The Chairman further informed the members that efforts are already in pipeline in this direction, and the journal team is also working on getting the journal indexed in Scopus.

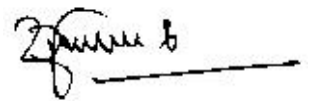
Prof. Abhyuday Mandal, Foreign Secretary, complemented the efforts of the society in organizing the upcoming conference. He suggested that the Society may reach out to the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) for funding of the conferences of the society. The Chairman thanked him for the considerate suggestion.

The Chairman requested the members and the organizing team of the conference to participate in the web-workshop on 23.02.2024.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.



(V.K. Gupta)
President



(D. Roy Choudhury)
Secretary

New Delhi: 17th March 2024

APPENDIX

List of EC members of SSCA, recommended by the EC, for the year 2024-2025

Founder President

Late Prof. M.N. Das

President

V. K. Gupta

Executive President

Rajender Parsad

Patrons

1. A. C. Kulshreshtha
2. A. K. Nigam
3. Bikas K. Sinha
4. D. K. Ghosh
5. G.P. Samanta
6. K. J. S. Satyasai
7. O.P. Mall
8. Pankaj Mittal
9. Prithvi Yadav
10. R. B. Barman
11. R. C. Agrawal
12. Rahul Mukerjee
13. Rajpal Singh

Vice-Presidents

1. A. Dhandapani
2. Manish Kumar Sharma
3. Manisha Pal
4. P. Venkatesan
5. Praggya Das
6. Ramana V. Davuluri
7. S. D. Sharma
8. V. K. Bhatia

Secretary

D. Roy Choudhury

Foreign Secretary

Abhyuday Mandal

Treasurer

Ashish Das

Joint Secretaries

1. Alope Lahiri
2. Shibani Roy Choudhury
3. Vishal Deo

Members

1. B. Re. Victor Babu
2. Banti Kumar
3. Imran Khan
4. Mukesh Kumar
5. Parmil Kumar
6. Piyush Kant Rai
7. Rajni Jain
8. Rakhi Singh
9. Rao Saheb Latpate
10. Renu Kaul
11. Sapam Sobita Devi
12. Shalini Chandra
13. V. Srinivasa Rao
14. V. M. Chacko
15. Vishnu Vardhan R.

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3. Director, IASRI
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