

Preface

The Society of Statistics, Computer and Applications (SSCA) was founded in 1998 with a goal to provide a platform for promotion and dissemination of research in Statistics, blended with information technology, among both theoretical and applied statisticians, who have keen interest in the applications of Statistics to varied fields like agriculture, biological sciences, medical sciences, financial statistics, and industrial statistics. Since then, the Society has been performing several activities and promoting development of theoretical and applied research work in Statistics and Informatics.

One of the major activities of SSCA is to organize national/international conferences annually across the length and breadth of the country. SSCA also brings out a journal called *Statistics and Applications*. This is an open access journal and is available at the website of the Society (www.scca.org.in). The full-length papers can be viewed and downloaded free of cost. Besides bringing out regular volumes of the journal, special volumes on emerging thematic areas of global/national importance are also brought out.

The twenty-third Annual Conference of the SSCA was organized during 24-28 February 2021 at the ICAR National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, Telangana. This was the first web conference organized online to observe appropriate COVID – 19 protocols. The theme of the conference was *Visionary Innovations in Statistical Theory and Applications (VISTA 2021)*. The conference was academically enriching with important and significant presentations made by scientists of international repute and eminence. Many technical sessions organized during the conference were participated by renowned international and national statisticians and a session on Financial Statistics, in which renowned statisticians and leading practitioners from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Pune, Savitri Phule Pune University and Reserve Bank of India made presentations. Two special memorial sessions were organized in the memory of Late Professor Alope Dey. The speakers in this session were close associates, collaborators, friends and students of Late Prof Alope Dey. We are pleased to share that the special proceedings have got ISBN #: 978-81-950383-0-5.

The Executive Council of the SSCA decided to bring out “Special Proceedings” of the conference covering some important selected talks including those presented in the Financial Statistics session. The selection of authors was made based upon the contents as presented during the conference. The Executive Council of the Society nominated V.K. Gupta, Baidya Nath Mandal, R. Vishnu Vardhan, Rajender Parsad, Ranjit Kumar Paul and Dipak Roy Choudhury as Guest Editors for bringing out these special proceedings. The Guest Editors finalized the names of authors to be invited to submit their full paper, based upon their presentation during the conference, for the Special Proceedings.

Distinguished speakers shortlisted for making contributions to the special proceedings were invited to submit their research papers for possible inclusion in the special proceedings. After the usual review process, 16 research papers were accepted for

publication and are included in the special proceedings. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the authors for responding to our request and submitting their research for publication in these special proceedings in time. The reviewers have also made a very big contribution by way of finishing the review process in a short span of time and it is a pleasure to thank each one of them individually. We would like to place on record our gratitude to all members and office bearers of the Executive Council of SSCA for their support. We would also like to express our sincerest thanks to Prof. Ch. V. Srinivas Rao, Director, ICAR NAARM and his dedicated team especially Dr. S.K. Soam, Dr. A. Dhandapani, and Dr. S. Ravichandran for organizing such an academically enriching first web conference of the SSCA.

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