

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST VIRTUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

Date: February 26, 2021 at 19.00 hrs.

Venue: The Meeting was conducted in Virtual Mode.

The twenty third General Body meeting of the Society of Statistics, Computer and Applications (SSCA) was held online under the chairmanship of Prof. V.K. Gupta, President. The following members attended the meeting:

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| 1. V.K. Gupta- In Chair | 22. Mukesh Kumar |
| 2. Bikas K. Sinha | 23. Poonam Singh |
| 3. Ramana V. Davuluri | 24. P Venkatesan |
| 4. S.D. Sharma | 25. Faizan Danish |
| 5. V.K. Bhatia | 26. Kashinath Chatterjee |
| 6. Rajender Parsad | 27. A.C. Kulshreshtha |
| 7. Ravindra. Srivastava | 28. Alka Arora |
| 8. Manish Kumar Sharma | 29. Parmeet Kumar |
| 9. Alope Lahiri | 30. Anuradha Rajkonwar Chetiya |
| 10. Hukum Chandra | 31. Ramasubramanian, V |
| 11. Ashish Das | 32. S A Mir |
| 12. Raosaheb Vikram Latpate | 33. N R Sahasranaman |
| 13. Anshu Bharadwaj | 34. Shashi Dahiya |
| 14. Shibani Roy Choudhury | 35. S E H Rizvi |
| 15. R. Vishnu Vardhan | 36. Salam Opendra Singh |
| 16. Piyush Kant Rai | 37. Anil Kumar Yadav |
| 17. Rituparna Sen | 38. A. Dhandapani- Organising
Secretary of the Conference |
| 18. V. Srinivasa Rao | 39. D Roy Choudhury-Secretary |
| 19. Khimya Tinani | |
| 20. Ashish Das | |
| 21. R. Vishnu Vardhan | |

Following delegates also attended the GB meeting as Special Invitees

40. S. Ravichandran- Co-organising Secretary
41. Arnab Chakrabarti
42. S.M. Patil

Note: Since the presences of the members were noted online, there may be few omissions.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members present in the meeting. He also appreciated the spirits of the delegates, who have been attending the sessions of the conference since mornings till evenings. It speaks volumes of the academic standards of the conference and the interest of the delegates. Thereafter, he requested the Executive President to start the proceedings. After brief introduction, he requested the Secretary to present a brief

review and activities of the Society between the 22nd and 23rd annual conference. Following issues were discussed.

1. Tribute to Prof. Alope Dey, Patron of the Society and Chair-Editor of the journal of SSCA

Tributes were paid to Prof. Alope Dey, who left for his heavenly abode on 9th February 2020. On behalf of the Society, Secretary expressed his deepest condolence on the sad demise of Prof. Dey. Two-minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. He informed that a condolence message was sent to his family.

2. Confirmation of the proceedings of the GB meeting held during the 22nd Annual Conference of SSCA at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune on 3rd January 2020

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

3. Presentation of the report and the activities of the Society

The report of the activities and accounts of the Society were presented by the Secretary, D. Roy Choudhury and Treasurer, Ashish Das respectively.

4. Publication of a Special Volume of the Journal

A special effort was made by the Society to dedicate a part of the Volume 18, July 2020 (No. 1) issue to research papers on Covid-19 with the time-sensitive and challenging problem. Out of the total of 21 papers in this issue, 13 papers were devoted to Covid-19, of which 6 were from USA and 7 from India. Moreover, a Special Volume of the journal of the Society was released in November 2020 in honour of twin statistician brothers, Profs Bikas Kumar Sinha and Bimal Kumar Sinha on the occasion of their 75th birthday. The soft copy of the same has been circulated to the members of the Society. The said Special Volume in addition to having research papers from the renowned statisticians across the globe, also has a foreword from a renowned biostatistician and honorary member of the Society, Prof. P. K. Sen. Another special volume in memory of the legendary statistician Prof Alope Dey, with the invited papers from authors across the globe, is scheduled to be released in June 2021. To pay homage to the noble and pious soul, three sessions of invited talks have been organised during this conference as Alope Dey Memorial Sessions.

President thanked the authors, reviewers, editorial board of the journal and also the guest editors for their timely help and support in releasing the Special Volume.

5. Release of Special Proceedings of 22nd Conference at Pune

Special Proceedings comprising of few selected papers of the 22nd annual conference of the Society held at Pune in 2020 have been released and are available at the website of the

Society. The special proceedings were printed for distribution to its authors and EC members. The soft copy of the Special Proceedings were sent to all the life members of the society.

6. New Members of the Society

Secretary apprised that 25 persons became life members of the Society between the last and this conference, Indian: 20, Foreign: 03 and Honorary: 02. The total number of members of the Society as on date is 390, comprising of 373 from India, 12 from abroad and 5 honorary members. The new two honorary members are, Profs C.R. Rao and John Stufken.

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

The President informed that a total of 11 nominations were received for this prestigious award. Their research papers were reviewed by 6 reviewers, both from India and abroad. As per the rules, the best three of them, with average score 7.0 or above on a 10 point scale, were selected for online presentations of their respective research papers at the on-going annual conference before a panel of four judges for evaluation. Based on the scores of the reviewers and judges, the result was finalised. The President announced the result. Shri Arnab Chakrabarti, Research Associate at the IIM Ahmedabad, was declared the winner of the M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2021. Ms. Subhadra Dasgupta, Research Scholar at IIT Bombay and Shri Sachin Mahadev Patil, Research Student at Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra, were the runners up.

8. Other activities

- (i) It was informed that the Society has been successful in getting the International Standard book Number (ISBN) for the 'Special Proceedings', which would help the Society in uplifting its value.
- (ii) Regarding the laurels earned by the members, it is as under:
 - (a) Dr. A.C. Kulshreshtha, Patron of the Society, received the Prof. P.V. Sukhatme National Award -2020 in Statistics;
 - (b) Dr. Rajender Parsad assumed the charge of Director of ICAR-Institute of Agricultural Statistics Research Institute;
 - (c) Dr. Piyush Kant Rai has been promoted as Professor of Statistics at Banaras Hindu University;
 - (d) A book entitled 'Female Empowerment: A Life Cycle Analysis', authored by A. K. Nigam, R. Srivastava, A.C. Kulshreshtha and Kuldeep Kumar and published by *Cambridge Scholars Publishing* in 2020;
 - (e) Dr. A.R. Rao assumed the charge of Assistant Director General (ADG), Plan Implementation and Monitoring, ICAR HQs, in 2020.

President congratulated the members for their outstanding achievement. He requested all the members of SSCA to inform him or the Secretary about any of their achievements made

during the last one year, at least twenty days before the conference so that the same may be reported in the report of the Secretary.

9. A vote of thanks to the organisers of the conference

The General Body placed on record the appreciation and gratitude to the organisers of the 23rd conference for their all-round performance in conducting a smooth and fruitful online conference. The arrangements were made by a very dedicated team of Dr. S.K. Soam, Convener, Dr. A. Dhandapani, Organising Secretary and Dr. S. Ravichandran, Co-Organising Secretary. Sincerest thanks were also given to Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM for his support and guidance in hosting the major event. The conference has been academically very enriching with a record number of delegates participating as Invited Speakers from all across the country, and from abroad as well, with minimum number of absentees. A resolution, duly approved by the GB, would be presented to the organisers during the valedictory function.

The Report of the Secretary was approved by the General Body.

10. Filing of the IT Return for the FY 2019-2020 and presentation of the Audited Report

The treasurer presented the audited report of the Society for the year 2019-20. The same was accepted by the GB. It has been informed that the Society had filed the IT Return for the financial year 2019-20 through its CA.

11. Proposals presented at the EC for approval

(i) Election of Executive Committee (EC) Members

It was informed that as per the norms, every year, five members of the 15-member EC, who have completed 3 years of term in office, may be re-nominated / replaced by new members suggested by the EC. This year, 5 such outgoing members are (i) P. Rath, (ii) Manish Trivedi, (iii) Ranjit Kumar Paul, (iv) R. Vishnu Vardhan and (v) S.A. Mir. It is proposed that P. Rath and Manish Trivedi may be replaced. R. Vishnu Vardhan has been nominated as the Managing Editor of the journal of the Society in addition to the other existing Managing Editor, Baidya Nath Mandal. S.A. Mir and Ranjit Kumar Paul may be retained. Thus, the three vacancies may be filled up by nomination of three life members, namely, (i) B. Re. Victor Babu, (ii) V.M. Chacko and (iii) Vishal Deo. The proposal has been approved by the GB and is placed in the Appendix.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the services rendered by Dr. P. Rath and Dr. Manish Trivedi, 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 member for the services rendered by them in uplifting the stature of the Society.

A post-facto approval of the Executive Council was also taken for inclusion of the name of Prof. Rahul Mukerjee as Patron and Dr. Ramana V. Davuluri as Vice President. The same were approved by the EC and the names have been included as given in the Appendix.

(ii) Appointment of auditor for 2021-22

It was proposed that M/S Panjrath Kapoor and Company, Chartered Accountant, who is presently auditor of the Society, may be continued to look after the accounts of the Society for the next financial year 2021-22 due to their satisfactory and timely services provided so far. The Firm has audited and prepared accounts of the society for 2017-18, 2018-19, 2018-19 and 2019-20. They have also filed the income tax returns of the Society for the financial year 2019-20. The proposal was approved.

(iii) Life membership fee in two instalments

Existing rule is that there is an option to either pay the full life membership fee once or in two instalments.

Revised proposal: Instalment system may be done away with. It will be paid in full in lumpsum. Also the concept of ordinary member for one year, just for attending the conference, was also done away with.

(iv) Revision of Membership Application Form and Life Membership Fee

The treasurer presented a Modified Membership Application Form of SSCA by including the provision of donation to the corpus fund of SSCA by any individual, if applicable. After detailed discussion, he has been advised by the EC to consult the CA of the Society regarding correctness of the revised form before finalisation. GB concurred the advice of EC.

Proposed Membership Fee

1. Life Member: ₹ 3,000.00
2. Life Member (Foreign) : INR 11,000.00
5. Institutional Member: ₹ 15,000.00
6. Institutional Member (Foreign): INR 55,000.00

The above proposals have been approved by the GB.

12. Proposed venue of the 24th annual conference of SSCA

President informed that the HOD of the Department of Statistics, Manipur University, Imphal has informed by mail about the willingness of that Department to hold the 24th annual conference of the Society in February/March 2022 there. Exact dates for organising the conference would be decided by the organisers. The Vice Chancellor of the university has concurred this proposal. GB gave its approval to the proposal.

13. Observations of the members regarding organisation of 23rd annual online conference

Prof. Ramana D. Davuluri, Stony Brook University, NY, USA and a Foreign Member of SSCA was extremely happy of the organisation of the online conference in such a big and efficient way. He had all praise for his teacher and mentor, Prof. V.K. Gupta for meticulously planning the event and guiding his team to make it successful. He assured to help the Society in all possible ways. On an appeal by the President to increase the corpus fund for work of the Society, Prof. Davuluri assured that he could arrange to have his students at USA to be members of the Society. In addition to organising regular annual conferences, he advised to organize workshops on topics of current interest to make the Society popular globally in terms of academics. He agreed with the President that donation is a popular way to increase the corpus fund.

Suggestions of other members:

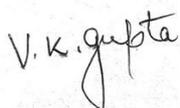
(i) It was suggested that Nominal fees may be charged from non-members of the SSCA for attending the annual conferences. This proposal was not accepted because it would add financial burden and would be discouraging for the participation.

(ii) Workshops may be organised under the banner of SSCA of about 3 hours on emerging issues; This issue was discussed at length and it was decided that this would be taken up during the coming year, especially with the online facility becoming popular.

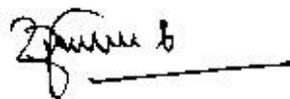
(iii) In the spirit of online workshops, it was further suggested that some projects may be taken up by the society jointly with the industry. This would enhance the finances of the SSCA and would popularise and expand its activities. The proposal was noted as it has some merit and would be explored in due course of time.

President informed that he was confident that the target of generating ₹ 5.0 lakh during the financial year 2019-20, which could not be achieved, is expected to be achieved during the coming financial year 2021-22. He aired the idea of generating funds for the Society by way of donations etc. from such persons / organisations, having keen interest in the development of science. For increasing the activities of the Society, he plans to introduce newer initiatives by organising workshops/seminars/talks at frequent intervals.

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



(V.K. Gupta)
President, SSCA



(Dipak Roy Choudhury)
Secretary, SSCA

New Delhi; 14th March 2021

APPENDIX

Proposed list of EC members of SSCA for the year 2020-2021
(from 01 April 2021)

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. K.J.S. Satyasai
6. Pankaj Mittal
7. Prithvi Yadav
8. R.B. Barman
9. R.C. Agrawal
10. Rahul Mukerjee
11. Rajpal Singh

Vice-Presidents

1. A. Dhandapani
2. L.M. Bhar
3. P. Venkatesan
4. Ramana V. Davuluri
5. S.D. Sharma
6. V.K. Bhatia

Secretary

D. Roy Choudhury

Foreign Secretary

Sudhir Gupta

Treasurer

Ashish Das

Joint Secretaries

1. Alope Lahiri
2. Hukum Chandra
3. Shibani Roy Choudhury

Members

1. Alka Arora
2. Anil Kumar Yadav
3. Anshu Bharadwaj
4. B. Re. Victor Babu
5. Manish Kumar Sharma
6. Manisha Pal
7. Piyush Kant Rai
8. Praggya Das
9. Ranjit Kumar Paul
10. Rao Saheb Latpate
11. S.A. Mir
12. Sanjeev Panwar
13. V. Srinivasa Rao
14. V.M. Chacko
15. Vishal Deo

Ex-officio Members

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