

SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

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

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2. Executive Editor, S and A
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF STATISTICS, COMPUTER AND APPLICATIONS

Date: February 15, 2025 at 07:00 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. A.C. Kulshreshtha
3. Rajpal Singh
4. Manisha Pal
5. Dipak Roy Choudhury
6. Ashish Das
7. A. Dhandapani
8. Alope Lahiri
9. Shibani Roy Choudhury
10. Abhyuday Mandal
11. Manish Kumar Sharma
12. Vishal Deo
13. Raosaheb Vikaram Latpate
14. Rajni Jain
15. Mukesh Kumar
16. Bishal Gurung—Organizing Secretary of the conference and Special Invitee

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 satisfaction with the society's progress over the years and took the opportunity to apprise the members of two significant recent accomplishments of its journal, *Statistics and Applications*. Firstly, the journal has now been indexed in Scopus, and has also received Impact Factor from the Web of Science through its indexing in the Emerging Sources Citation index. Secondly, this journal is the first of its kind globally to publish a special issue as a tribute to the legendary Statistician, the late Professor C. R. Rao. The special issue is a collection of 37 high quality papers contributed by eminent authors from across the world, and was hosted on the journal website in December 2024. The chairman expressed his gratitude towards the guest editors, authors, reviewers, and the production team for their unwavering dedication and efforts in bringing the special issue to fruition.

Before handing over the floor to the Secretary to proceed with the agendas, he apprised the members about the upcoming 27th annual conference of the society, *International Conference on Advances of Interdisciplinary Statistics and Applications in*

AI & ML (AISAAM-2025), to be held during February 21-23, 2025 to be organized by the Department of Statistics, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong.

Following the opening remarks from the Chair, the Secretary proceeded with the deliberations on the agenda of the meeting, which was circulated to all members, along with the meeting notice dated January 19, 2025, through email in advance.

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the EC meeting held virtually on zoom platform on 17.02.2024 prior to the 26th conference at Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali, Rajasthan

The said proceedings were circulated among the members of the SSCA through email. The same were also hosted at the website of the SSCA. Since no comments or objections were received prior to and during the meeting, the proceedings were declared to be unanimously confirmed.

2. Brief report by the organizing secretary of the upcoming 27th annual conference regarding the arrangements made for the conference

The organizing secretary, Prof. Bishal Gurung, presented a brief report about plans and the arrangements made for the upcoming 27th annual conference of the SSCA (AISAAM-2025) at NEHU, Shillong. He informed that the organizers have been in constant coordination with the SSCA through progress review meetings, which has helped in streamlining the plans. While discussing the progress made so far, Prof. Gurung shared that the full conference schedule has been finalized and will be emailed to all participants shortly after the meeting. Participants will have one day to reach out to the organizers for any corrections. It was clarified that request from participants for shifting sessions will not be entertained, and only corrections with regards to title, name, affiliation, or any other typographical errors will be considered. He also mentioned that guest house accommodations for all participants have been confirmed, and the relevant details will be communicated via email. Regarding transport facilities, he informed that vehicles have been arranged to receive delegates from both the Guwahati and Shillong airports. Vehicle number, phone number of the driver and a student volunteer will be shared in advance with the delegates being received from or being dropped to the airports. Prof. Gurung also apprised the members about the arrangements made for meals, conference kits, banner, book of abstracts, certificates, mementoes, etc. Members were pleased to know that all rooms to be used for conference sessions were equipped with smart boards and wi-fi. To ensure smooth conduct of the sessions, three student volunteers have been assigned to each session. The organizing secretary also presented a comprehensive map of the campus highlighting the key sites of the conference. On being asked about the arrangements for medical emergencies, support for specially abled participants, and access to washrooms, Prof. Gurung assured that the existing facilities at the campus were adequate to cater to all these needs. All members conveyed their satisfaction with the progress, praised the efforts being made by the organizers, and congratulated the organizing secretary for the same.

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

The Secretary, Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury, presented the report on the activities of society during the year 2024-2025. The presented report was quite elaborate and highlighted various activities of the SSCA and the new initiatives that were taken up during the past year. The report was divided into several sections. Each section of the report has been presented below:

3.1. Release of the SSCA Journal, Statistics and Applications (S&A)

Volume 22, Nos. 1 (June 2024) and 2 (December 2024), respectively, containing 21 and 22 papers, were hosted online at the website of the SSCA and were printed for limited circulation. The full-length papers can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the SSCA website at <https://ssca.org.in/journal.html>.

Special issue in fond memory of Late Prof. C.R. Rao

A special issue, “Life and Work of Prof. C.R. Rao (1920-2023): The Revolutionary of Statistical Sciences,” was published online in December 2024 as Volume 22 No. 3. It was devoted to the fond memories of the late legendary statistician C.R. Rao. A team of globally celebrated scientists worked as Guest Editors for the special issue, and 37 papers contributed by national and international scientists of eminence have been included in this issue. The efforts and contributions of the guest editors, authors, reviewers, and the production team, particularly Siva G., Baidya Nath Mandal, and Jyoti Gangwani, were commendable. Moreover, the vision, support, and efforts made by the twin statisticians (brothers) Bimal Kumar Sinha and Bikas Kumar Sinha in conceptualizing and preparing this special issue were instrumental in its successful execution.

3.2. Release of Special Proceedings of the 26th annual conference held at the Bansthali Vidyapith, Banasthali

Special Proceedings comprising 12 selected papers of the 26th annual conference of the SSCA held at the Bansthali Vidyapith, Banasthali, during February 2024 were hosted (at <https://ssca.org.in/specialproceedings.html>) and printed, after the usual review process, in October 2024 with the International Standard Book Number (ISBN - No.978-81-950383-5-0).

3.3. M.N. Das Memorial Lecture

To perpetuate the memory of the Founder President Late Prof. M.N. Das, ‘M.N. Das Memorial Lecture’ is organized every year during the annual conference. The Twelfth lecture was delivered in 2024 during the 26th annual conference by the eminent statistician Dr. Manisha Pal, Senior Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata.

3.4. Aditya Shastri Memorial Lecture

In order to honour the memory of Prof. Aditya Shastri, Architect of modern Banasthali Vidyapith and former Vice Chancellor, Aditya Shastri Memorial Lecture was introduced in the year 2024 at the 26th Annual conference of the SSCA at Banasthali Vidyapith. The first lecture was delivered by the eminent mathematician Prof. Navin M. Singhi. It was further decided to organize the said lecture in every subsequent annual conference of the society.

3.5. M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist Award 2024

During the year 2024, four candidates could qualify for the presentation of their research before a selected panel of five judges. Presentations were held during the 26th annual conference. Selection of the winner was based on the review of their papers, merit of presentation, and ability to answer the questions. Ms. Savita Pareek, Research Scholar at IIT Bombay, was selected for the M.N. Das Memorial Young Scientist award - 2024.

3.6. A Session on Financial Statistics

Like the previous 5 conferences, a session on Financial Statistics was organized during the 26th conference held in the year 2024. The session featured three presentations from distinguished delegates, namely, Kamkhenthang Guite, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India; Dr. (Smt.) Praggya Das, RBI; and Smt. Kanchana V. Ghosh, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, Government of India.

3.7. Endowment Lectures

It was decided in the annual GBM held in 2022 that there would be following three endowment lectures and one endowment award lecture in every annual conference of the SSCA starting from 2022. The V. K. Gupta Endowment Award will comprise of 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.

In order to honour the memory of Prof. Aditya Shastri, Architect of modern Banasthali Vidyapith and former Vice Chancellor, Aditya Shastri Memorial Endowment Lecture was initiated in the year 2024 during the 26th Annual conference of the SSCA held at Banasthali Vidyapith.

These lectures were delivered during the 26th Annual Conference by the following speakers:

- The third BK Kale Memorial Endowment lecture was delivered by Prof. Ashis Sengupta, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.
- The third Bikas K. Sinha Endowment lecture was delivered online by Prof. Thomas Mathew, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, USA.
- The third JK Ghosh Memorial Endowment lecture was delivered by Dr. Dootika Vats, IIT Kanpur.
- The third V.K. Gupta Endowment Award for Statistical Thinking and Practice lecture was delivered online by Prof. J. Sunil Rao, University of Miami, USA.
- The first Aditya Shastri Memorial Endowment lecture was delivered by the eminent mathematician Prof. Navin M. Singhi.

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

3.8. Pre-Conference Workshop

As you are aware, a Pre-Conference Online Workshop with Discussions was held on February 23, 2024. The title of the workshop was “Bayesian Statistics: From Applications to Theory and from Theory to Applications.” It was organized by Prof. Nabendu Pal, University of Louisiana, USA. The co-organizer of the workshop was

Prof. Manisha Pal, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata. The workshop was intended to give all the participants, especially Master's and Doctoral students, an opportunity to enhance their understanding of Bayesian Analysis with plenty of applications.

3.9. Invited Talk Session for Early-Career Researchers

With the aim of inspiring newly joined faculty members and senior Ph.D. students to make presentations at the annual conferences of the SSCA, a select group of EC during its meeting on January 11, 2022, approved a proposal that, besides Contributory Paper Presentation Sessions' we may also have "Early-Career Researchers' Invited Talk Sessions" for the Young Researchers below the age of 32 years.

During the Silver Jubilee conference at the University of Jammu, the sessions for the contributory paper presentation, early-career researcher invited talk sessions and invited talk sessions were clubbed together in the schedule to highlight the equal importance of all the sessions. The same practice was continued in the 26th annual conference.

3.10. Regarding the SSCA journal- Statistics and Applications (S&A)

The quality of our elaborate editorial board, consisting of celebrated and well-recognized research professionals of high repute from different parts of the world, echoes our priority. S&A brings out two issues per volume (year).

Currently, it is indexed in (a) Web of Science- Emerging Sources Citation Index with Impact Factor, (b) Scopus, (c) National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) score of 6.03 effective January 01, 2024, and (d) Google Scholar.

3.11. Membership Strength of the Society

The Secretary informed that the present strength of the SSCA in terms of its life members is **454** including **16** Foreign Members and **05** Honorary Members. Between the last conference and till date, **24** Indian members and **01** Foreign member have been enrolled. The SSCA website is updated with the name and email ID of the new member as soon as she/he is enrolled as a member.

3.12. Functioning of the Website of the Society

Regular communication with the members is maintained by way of updating the Society website (www.scca.org.in) from time to time 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 also contains information on the latest Executive Council (EC) members and the Editorial Board of the SSCA Journal 'Statistics and Applications'.

3.13. Professional/Academic Achievements of Members

The society encourages its life members to share information on their awards and achievements. The society takes pride in acknowledging the awards/recognitions conferred upon the life members of the Society. During the previous year, Prof. Rahul Mukerjee, a renowned statistician of international repute, who is a retired Professor of

IIM, Kolkata and an honorary member of the SSCA, has been awarded the “Vigyan Shri” of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puruskar 2024 (National Science Award 2024). The society expresses its heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Mukerjee on this achievement.

3.14. Twenty Sixth Conference of the Society Organized in 2024

The twenty-sixth annual conference of the society was organized by the Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali, during 26-28 February 2024. 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 the university, with the previous conference held in the year 2013. The highly structured arrangements made by a very dedicated team of convenors, Prof. Anshuman Shastri, Director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence, and Prof. Sarla Pareek, Dean, Faculty of Mathematics and Computing, Organizing Secretary Prof. Shalini Chandra, Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, and seven co-organizing secretaries and their colleagues was praiseworthy. Overall, the conference was academically very enriching for the delegates. Time efficiency was a mark of the conference.

The sessions were organized with utmost devotion, care, and timeliness. Mention may be made regarding the very efficient arrangement of transport facility which involved receiving and dropping delegates from the Jaipur airport/railway station, which were nearly 80 kms away from Banasthali. It demonstrated unparalleled planning and execution from the dedicated organizing committee and the volunteers.

The Society has received strong support from the Executive Council Members, the Editorial Board, the life members, the foreign members, the honorary members and all other friends and well-wishers, which is gratefully acknowledged.

The SSCA looks forward to continued support from one and all. Together, we shall be able to strengthen the society and serve the scientific fraternity with renewed zeal, vigor, and enthusiasm.

4. Presentation of the audit and the accounts of the society by the Treasurer

Treasurer of the society, Prof. Ashish Das, presented the balance sheet of the SSCA together with the Audit Report for the financial year 2023-24. It was informed that the SSCA had filed the IT Return for the financial year 2023-24 through its CA. The treasurer mentioned the amount received by the SSCA as a Corpus Fund for the annual endowment lectures and awards. We expect that in the current year, we will have about 50 Lakh in the corpus. The treasurer also suggested that young faculty members should target ministries for grants and look for other avenues for funding. Currently, our major expense goes into printing journal and proceedings.

5. Election of the Executive council members and office bearers for the year 2025-26

It was informed that as per the norms of the SSCA, every year, out of a total of fifteen members of the Executive Council (EC) of the SSCA, those who have completed 3 years term (one term is of 3 years) in office, would be either re-nominated or replaced by new members as suggested by the EC and approved by the General Body (GB). It was further brought to the knowledge of the members that by March 31, 2025, four EC members - Rajni Jain, Rakhi Singh, V. Srinivasa Rao, and Sapam Sobita Devi - will be completing their 3-year terms in office.

It was further highlighted that, as a convention, the organizing secretary of the upcoming conference is invited to join the EC as a member. Members recommended that Prof. Bishal Gurung being the organizing secretary of the 27th annual conference, may

be invited as a member of the EC in place of V. Srinivasa Rao. The members decided to recommend continuation of the other three members, Rajni Jain, Rakhi Singh, and Sapam Sobita Devi. It was decided that the proposal will be placed before the GB for further suggestions and final approval.

Appointment of secretary and joint secretaries from 2026

Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury and Dr. Alope Lahiri expressed their desire to be relieved from their respective office-bearer positions in the SSCA effective year 2026. Members emphasized the importance of grooming a team of young and enthusiastic individuals who can carry the legacy forward in the coming years and take responsibility of these important positions. It was recommended that Vishal Deo will be the secretary and replace Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury in 2026. Further, Bishal Gurung and Rakhi Singh were recommended to become joint secretaries from the year 2026, along with Shibani Roy Choudhury. Dr. Gurung and Dr. Singh will replace Dr. Deo and Dr. Lahiri. The members expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Dipak Roy Choudhury and Dr. Alope Lahiri for their invaluable contributions over many years in building and strengthening the society since its initial days.

It was also agreed that, once approved by the GB, Vishal Deo, Bishal Gurung, and Rakhi Singh will begin their work under the guidance of Dipak Roy Choudhury and Alope Lahiri, who will mentor them over the next year to ensure they are well-prepared and equipped to take on their roles effectively and efficiently.

6. Appointment of auditor for 2025-26

The treasurer and members expressed satisfaction with the work of the current auditor and decided to continue with the same for the year 2025-26.

7. Discussion on the venue of the 28th Annual Conference to be held in February 2026

The President informed the members that he has received proposals from two universities for holding the 28th Annual Conference of the Society- Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra.

He further added that both the proposals have been received through the Vice Chancellors of the Universities and thanked them for extending support to the Society. Given that the society had a conference at the Pune University recently in 2020, members recommended that Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU), Udaipur, Rajasthan may be given the responsibility of organizing the 28th SSCA conference, and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra can be considered for the subsequent conference.

8. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

The President highlighted the challenges involved in selecting high-quality papers for the M.N. Das Young Scientist Award. It was also discussed that the cutoff marks for inviting participants for the M.N. Das Young Scientist Memorial Award presentation may be again increased to 7.0 (instead of the current 6.5) out of 10.0, and only three participants will be called to make the presentation.

Foreign Secretary, Prof. Abhyuday Mandal, suggested that to encourage the participation of foreign members in the SSCA conference, the conference could be scheduled in either December or May-June when the foreign researchers can find it easier to travel to India. After due deliberations, it was decided that the next year's conference

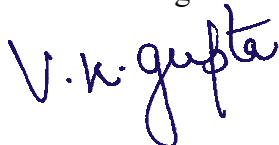
may be held within the first two weeks of January. He further suggested that the Society may reconsider life membership fees, citing the fact that it has remained the same over many years, irrespective of the increased expenses and inflation. The members opined that the current life membership needs to be increased to sustain the activities of SCCA.

Other suggestions from Prof. Abhyuday Mandal were as follows:

- To include statement on 'code of conduct' for the upcoming conference.
- To explore possibility of constituting a paper presentation award for younger researchers/ master's students, say below 20 or 25 years of age, and invite them to present in the annual conferences. The goal will be to introduce them to the society at an early stage, inspiring them to pursue academic research and fostering a lasting connection with the community.
- In future, the conference fee for non-members may include the component of member registration fee, so that they automatically become a member of the society on attending the conference.
- Conference venues may be finalized well in advance to allow organizers ample time for detailed planning and coordination.

The President and other members welcomed the suggestions and agreed to work on these suggestions for future. The EC felt that all the suggestions are worthwhile and may be implemented with immediately after due considerations.

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



V. K. Gupta
President, SSCA



Vishal Deo
Joint Secretary, SSCA

New Delhi, 22 March 2025

Appendix

List of EC members of SSCA proposed for the year 2025-2026 by the EC

Founder President

Late Prof. M.N. Das

President

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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. Bishal Gurung
4. Imran Khan
5. Mukesh Kumar

6. Parmil Kumar
7. Piyush Kant Rai
8. Rajni Jain
9. Rakhi Singh
10. Rao Saheb Latpate
11. Renu Kaul
12. Shalini Chandra
13. Sobita Sobita Devi
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