



International Indian Statistical Association Newsletter



Contents

About Us	3
Message from the President	5
IISA 2026	6
Contributed Member News	7
ECASDS Winners	12
Advancing Statistical Science at CUSAT	13
IISA Series on Statistics and Data Science	14

Cover Photo: Benaras Hindu University Campus.

ABOUT US

Board of Trustees

N Chaganty Rao
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Old Dominion University

Nairanjana (Jan) Dasgupta
Washington State University
dasgupta@wsu.edu

Asha Gopalakrishnan
Cochin University of Science and Technology
asha@cusat.ac.in

Executive Board

Past President	Hiya Banerjee Eli Lilly and Co.
President	Ananda Sen University of Michigan president@intindstat.org
President-Elect	Kshitij Khare University of Florida
Executive Director	Sanjay Chaudhuri University of Nebraska-Lincoln executive.director@intindstat.org
Executive Administrator	Arkaprava Roy University of Florida secretary@intindstat.org
Newsletter Editor	Rajarshi Dey Emporia State University newsletter@intindstat.org
Treasurer	Abhyuday Mandal University of Georgia treasurer@intindstat.org
India Chapter President	Sanjeev Sabnis Savitribai Phule Pune University

India Chapter

President	Sanjeev Sabnis Savitribai Phule Pune University
Treasurer	Shibasish Dasgupta TCG, CREST Siuli Mukhopadhyay IIT Bombay treasurer.india@intindstat.org

Membership Committee

Chair	Nilanjan Chakraborty Missouri University of Science and Technology
Members	Abhirup Datta Majumdar PharmaQuant Sayan Chakraborty University of Michigan Asmita Roy Johns Hopkins University

ABOUT US

Fundraising Committee

Subrata Kundu
George Washington University

Srijan Sengupta
North Carolina State University

Debashis Mondal
Washington University, St. Louis

Soudeep Deb
Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

Hiya Banerjee
Eli Lilly and Co.

Website Committee

Srijan Sengupta
North Carolina State University

Jyotishka Datta
Virginia Tech

Webinar Committee

Hiya Banerjee
Eli Lilly and Co.

Himel Mallick
Cornell University

Kaushik Jana
ISI Delhi

Siddhesh Kulkarni
BMS

Nilanjan Chakraborty
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Piyali Basak
Merck

Jyotishka Datta
Virginia Tech

Message from President, IISA

Friends and Colleagues,



As the incoming President of IISA, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I would like to start by thanking the outgoing President Dr. Hiya Banerjee for her outstanding leadership in the past year. She led from the front, and had moved forward the IISA mission with her zeal and passion. In particular, the webinar series thrived under her leadership and created an effective platform for education and mentoring. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Newsletter committee chair Dr. Sayantan Banerjee for his commitment to creating and maintaining a forum for communicating with the membership for several years.

In the coming year, IISA wishes to focus on the areas of Partnership, Mentoring, and Outreach.

Partnership: IISA wishes to seek opportunities to collaborate with organizations and communities that have a similar goal as ours, such as International Statistical Institute, Indian Association for Statistics in Clinical Trials, Indian Society for Probability and Statistics, International Chinese Statistical Association, Korean International Statistical Society etc. Further, it will promote efforts to form a connection between the Indian statisticians across the globe, all of whom operate with the same objective of using data for greater good, albeit under varying constraints.

Mentorship: IISA, as an organization will benefit from a systematic, formal mentorship strategy that is geared towards junior statisticians of Indian origin both in India and elsewhere around the globe. It envisions creating specific pathways for mentorship, in academic as well as in an industrial setting, that will help the future generation of statisticians.

Outreach: IISA, with the breadth and depth of research, scholarship and pedagogic prowess it offers, is a force to be reckoned with. Yet its visibility is largely limited to a selective community, something it wishes to address through enhanced outreach activities that include but is not limited to enhancing the organization's presence on the web and on social media.

To paraphrase the famous opening line of *The Tale of Two Cities*, we live in the best of times and the worst of times. On one hand, it is an exciting time to be a statistician. Data Science as a discipline has most assuredly stamped its authority as a viable career option, computation power is reaching new horizons, volume of data and its acquisition have opened new avenues in analytics. Yet, we are at a time when the geo-political situation in the entire world is passing through one of the darkest phases in recent history. Discrimination by race and gender; lack of empathy towards a fellow human being; complete absorption in one's own gratification have been constantly challenging the basic tenets of humanity. Now, more than ever, IISA has a critical role to play as a professional organization. In the New Year, we hope to work in our own small way towards becoming better professionals, analyze data with an eye towards equity, use data for the greater social good, train those who have little resources to be trained otherwise, and ultimately become statisticians making a difference.

I strongly believe that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and an organization thrives on contribution of its members from different professional spheres. With your help, we can look forward to creating an IISA that each member can enjoy with the feeling of a proud ownership.

— Ananda Sen, PhD
President, International Indian Statistical Association (IISA)
Lee A Green Collegiate Research Professor
Department of Family Medicine
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

IISA 2026

IISA is pleased to announce that planning is underway for the next edition of the India chapter of the IISA flagship conference, that will be held at the beautiful campus of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) between December 26 and 30, 2026. We urge you to look out for several calls and announcements in the upcoming months as we gear up for a grand event in a year's time. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend and participate at the conference. We welcome ideas for proposals for sessions, panels, short course etc. from members. This is our biggest conference, so let us try to make it a wholesome experience with our collective effort. We are looking forward to seeing you in BHU.



(a) BHU



(b) DST CIMS, BHU

Contributed Member News

by IISA MEMBERS

Prajamitra Bhuyan

Prajamitra Bhuyan, Assistant Professor, IIM Calcutta, received the Prof. C. R. Rao National Award in Statistics 2025 from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, on the occasion of the 19th Statistics Day.



Abhyuday Mandal

Abhyuday Mandal has received a 2025 ASA Chapter Award for his service to the ASA Georgia Chapter. The citation recognizes his long-standing leadership as Treasurer since 2018, contributions to chapter growth, and initiatives including the Winter Lecture Series and Georgia Statistics Day.

Subhashis Ghoshal

Subhashis Ghoshal, Goodnight Distinguished Professor of Statistics at North Carolina State University, received the Rothschild Distinguished Visiting Fellowship to visit the Isaac Newton Institute, Cambridge, UK, in July-August, 2025. He delivered a public lecture entitled "Immersion posterior: Meeting frequentist goals under structural restrictions".

Suvra Pal

Suvra Pal, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Texas at Arlington, has been awarded a five-year R35 grant from the National Institutes of Health, funded by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. The project, titled Machine Learning-Based Predictive Models for Disease Cure and Computationally Efficient Methods in High-Dimensional Settings, will run from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2030. Dr. Pal serves as the Principal Investigator on the award (R35GM156859), with total funding of \$1,777,514.

This research focuses on developing machine learning-driven predictive models for disease cure and advancing computationally efficient methodology for high-dimensional statistical problems, with potential implications for biomedical research and precision medicine.

Parthanil Roy

Professor Parthanil Roy, Professor, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Technology, Powai, Mumbai, was (1) selected a member of Scientific Program Committee, Institute of Mathematical Statistics - Asia Pacific Rim Meeting 2026 (IMS-APRM 2026) <https://ims-aprm2026.sta.cuhk.edu.hk/>, and (2) became the Associate Editor (2024-2025), Statistical Science.



Parthanil Roy

Prayas Sharma

Dr. Prayas Sharma, a distinguished faculty member of Department of Statistics, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University has been honored with the Best Teacher Award -2025 during the University's Teachers' Day Celebration. The award was given for the outstanding contribution of Dr. Prayas Sharma in the field of research, innovation and teaching in Statistics. The award was presented by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raj Kumar Mittal and Chief Guest Prof. Kailash Chandra Sharma in recognition of Dr. Sharma's exceptional contributions to teaching, research, and mentorship.

Dr. Sharma has also delivered a lecture on "Demographic Impact of Climate Change and Demographic Transition Model" at the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (ORGI), Ministry of Home Affairs, Lucknow, India. The lecture was attended by senior officials of the Census Department, including Assistant Directors, Deputy Directors, Joint Directors, and other officers of ORGI. The interactive discussions during the session provided valuable insights, fostering an enhanced understanding of the demographic implications of climate change. Dr. Sharma conveyed his sincere gratitude to the organizers for this opportunity to contribute to an important academic-policy dialogue.



Prayas Sharma

Abhirup Datta

Abhirup Datta (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) has been elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association for 2025, in recognition of his contributions to statistics and biostatistics.

Samiran Ghosh

Samiran Ghosh has been appointed Department Chair of Biostatistics and Data Science at UTHealth Houston. He has also been named the UTHealth Houston Distinguished/Endowed Chair in Population Health. More details at: <https://sph.uth.edu/news/story/samiran-ghosh-phd-announced-as-new-department-chair-of-biostatistics-and-data-science>

Mousumi Banerjee

Dr. Mousumi Banerjee, Anant M. Kshirsagar Collegiate Research Professor of Biostatistics won the 2025 Willie Hobbs Moore Achievement Award from the University of Michigan Women in Science & Engineering (WISE). This is awarded to individuals whose achievements in STEM (e.g. academics, research, discovery, practice, etc.) are particularly inspirational in light of the challenges or roadblocks they have faced in their pursuit of a STEM career.

Dr. Banerjee is a distinguished biostatistical scientist with over 250 peer-reviewed publications. She is an internationally recognized expert in predictive modeling, clinical decision-making, and healthcare outcomes, contributing significantly to precision health. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

Jyotishka Datta

Jyotishka Datta (Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech) has received the NSF CAREER Award for his project “CAREER: Heavy-Tailed Priors for Robust Bayesian Inference in Ecology, Machine Learning, and Astronomy.” The five-year award will support the development of scalable Bayesian methods with heavy-tailed priors, along with integrated educational and outreach activities.

Kanti Mardia

The 2025 International Workshop on Advances in Directional Statistics (ADISTA), held September 10–12, 2025 in Luxembourg, celebrated the 90th birthday of Kanti Mardia in recognition of his pioneering contributions to directional statistics. The invitation-only triennial workshop also instituted the Mardia Poster Prize to honor outstanding poster presentations.

Bhramar Mukherjee

Bhramar Mukherjee, Senior Associate Dean and Endowed Professor at the Yale School of Public Health, has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Subir Ghosh

Subir Ghosh, Professor Emeritus of Statistics at the University of California, Riverside, has authored the book *Statistical Planning and Inference: Concepts and Applications*, published by Wiley in the Wiley Series in Probability and Statistics.

Shalabh

Shalabh (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur) received the Excellence in Teaching Award 2025 on Teachers' Day, in recognition of his contributions to teaching statistics at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels.



Shalabh

Vijay Nair

An interview of Dr. Vijayan N. Nair, a life member of IISA, was published in the May 2025 issue of *Statistical Science*. Dr. Nair has moved seamlessly between academia and industry throughout his career, spending fifteen years as a Research Scientist at Bell Labs in New Jersey before joining the Department of Statistics at the University of Michigan in 1993, where he was recognized as the Donald A. Darling Collegiate Professor of Statistics. After retiring from Michigan in 2016, he joined Wells Fargo, where he currently leads a Research and Development group.

Dr. Nair's broad research interests include reliability, design and analysis of experiments, network tomography, behavioral interventions, risk modeling, machine learning, and generative AI. The interview, titled "*A Conversation with Vijay Nair*", traces his distinguished professional journey, beginning with his early years growing up in a Malaysian household, and is conducted by Dr. Elizaveta Levina and Dr. Naveen N. Narisetty. Interested readers may find the abstract and full interview in the reference below.



Vijay Nair

Citation

1. Levina, E., and Narisetty, N. N. (2025). A Conversation with Vijay Nair. *Statistical Science*, 40(2), 329–345. <https://doi.org/10.1214/25-ST5992>

Early Career Award in Statistics and Data Science

Applications Track

Srijan Sengupta



Srijan Sengupta is an Associate Professor of Statistics at North Carolina State University. His research focuses on developing formal inferential algorithms for networks and other complex, high-dimensional forms of data, with particular emphasis on uncertainty quantification and scalable statistical learning. These methods form the basis of his applied research across epidemiology, the social sciences, environmental and climate health, and patient safety. His work has been supported by funding from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, National Security Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Through this interdisciplinary program of research, he aims to translate rigorous statistical theory into practical tools and insights for data-driven decision-making in medicine, public health, and policy.

Theory Track

Po Ling Loh



Po-Ling Loh received her PhD in Statistics from UC Berkeley in 2014. From 2014-2016, she was an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Pennsylvania. From 2016-2018, she was an Assistant Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at UW-Madison, and from 2019-2020, she was an Associate Professor of Statistics at UW-Madison and a Visiting Associate Professor of Statistics at Columbia University. She began her appointment in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics at the University of Cambridge in 2021, where she is currently a Professor of Statistics and a Fellow of St. John's College. Po-Ling's current research interests include high-dimensional statistics, robustness, and differential privacy. She is an IMS Fellow and a recipient of a NSF CAREER Award, ARO Young Investigator Award, IMS Tweedie New Researcher Award, Bernoulli Society New Researcher Award, Philip Leverhulme Prize, Ethel Newbold Prize, and a Hertz Fellowship.

Follow us on LinkedIn!

Follow the official LinkedIn
account of IISA.

Get regular updates.



Advancing Statistical Science at CUSAT

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COCHIN 682022, INDIA
E-mail: statistics@cusat.ac.in

Department of Statistics is one of the leading University departments in India and is committed to advancing knowledge and learning through teaching and research in Statistics. The Department of Statistics was established as a separate department in 1996. The University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India has identified this department as an advanced centre in Statistics under its 'Special Assistance Programme (SAP)' at DRS level III. The Department of Statistics is supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India under the 'Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST)' scheme.

The Department offers five year Integrated M.Sc. Programme in Statistics and two year Masters Programme in Statistics. This program contains core courses in statistics along with a few advanced courses in statistics, computer science and mathematics. The students will acquire a good knowledge on R, SAS, SPSS and Matlab software's. M.Tech. Programme in Data Science and Analytics offered by the department is an advanced programme focusing on methodologies, techniques, and concepts related to data science, including mathematics, statistics, data mining, deep learning, machine learning, and visualization. The M.Tech. in Data Science and Analytics programme is approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). In addition, the department offers PhD programme in Statistics. The Department is actively engaged in research in the fields of both theoretical and applied areas of Statistics. The research areas of the department include Distribution Theory, Reliability Modeling, Survival Analysis, Time Series Analysis, Statistical Inference, Information Measures, Simulation Techniques, Actuarial Statistics. The faculty and students of the department received several awards and recognition for their contributions.

The Department provides consultancy services to various industry organizations and business sectors. The students of the department got placements in academic institutions and industrial establishments. The alumnae of the department are working as Indian Statistical Service officers of central government departments and as research officers in Reserve Bank of India and Kerala State Economics and Statistics Department. The students are also placed in IT and Pharma industries as data analyst and programmers.



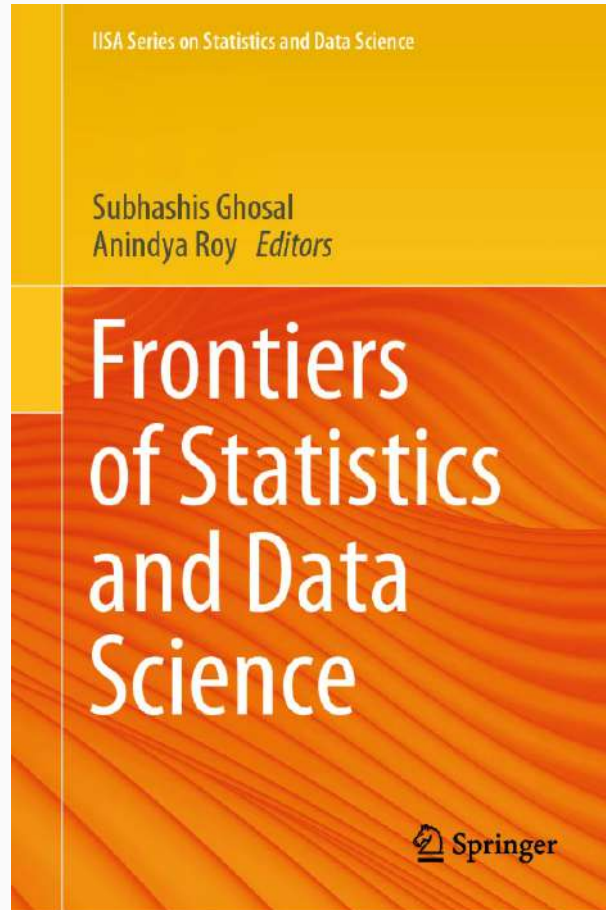
IISA Series on Statistics and Data Science

We are pleased to highlight the IISA Book Series associated with the International Indian Statistical Association, which features cutting-edge contributions in statistical science and computational data analytics. The series brings together theoretical advances, methodological innovations, and impactful applications, including selected works from IISA conferences, serving both academic researchers and practitioners in industry and government.

Link: <https://link.springer.com/series/16210>

About this book series

(From publisher's website:) The book series is aimed at promoting the emerging research and case studies in the discipline of statistical science and cutting-edge computational data analytics by publishing books on theoretical foundations, computational techniques, methods, models and their applications. In addition to methodological research, the series also includes volumes on case studies that illustrate novel methods with applications to allied sciences including but not limited to biological, biomedical, epidemiological, engineering, finance, statistical learning and artificial intelligence. The books published within this series will be of interest not only to statisticians and researchers in academia but also to practitioners in industries and government institutions. The series encompasses theoretical aspects of statistical methods, as well as innovative applications and their properties in the context of big data analytics, and data science, in general. The scope of the series is broad based such that it can publish a reference book of various topics of statistical instructions as well as advanced research monographs. A few volumes of this series may include articles presented by eminent researchers and practitioners at the annual conferences of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) and will also include articles that provides comprehensive overview of some of the emerging and changing foci of statistical sciences and data analytics.



About this book

(From publisher's website:) This book addresses a diverse set of topics of contemporary interest in statistics and data science such as biostatistics and machine learning. Each chapter provides an overview of the topic under discussion, so that any reader with an understanding of graduate-level statistics, but not necessarily with a prior background on the topic should be able to get a summary of developments in the field. These chapters serve as basic introductory references for new researchers in these fields, as well as the basis of teaching a course on the topic, or with a part of the course on topics of precision medicine, deep learning, high-dimensional central limit theorems, multivariate rank testing, R programming for statistics, Bayesian nonparametrics, large deviation asymptotics, spatio-temporal modeling of Covid-19, statistical network models, hidden Markov models, statistical record linkage analysis. The edited volume will be most useful for graduate students looking for an overview of any of the covered topics for their research and for instructors for developing certain courses by including any of the topics as part of the course. Students enrolled in a course covering any of the included topics can also benefit from these chapters.

Aren't you a member of IISA yet?



Join Us!

Become a Member of our Exclusive Community

Are you ready to be a part of something extraordinary?

We are thrilled to announce that membership is now open for IISA! As a member, you'll have access to a wide range of benefits and opportunities. Join us and be a part of the extraordinary Statistics community!

Student membership is FREE!

Whether you are a professional looking for networking opportunities, an enthusiast passionate about Statistics, or someone seeking personal growth and development, our community welcomes you with open arms.

Don't miss out on this incredible chance to make a difference!

Visit our website at www.intindstat.org to learn more about our organization, the membership benefits, and how to join. Together, let's create a brighter future!

Join now and be part of something extraordinary!