Professor Jayanta Ghosh receives the Padma Shri from Government of India

Professor Jayanta Kumar Ghosh, former President of ISI, was recently awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India. The award recognizes his service to statistical science as well as to the statistics community.

JKG, as he is known to many statisticians and friends, did his early work in sequential analysis. Since then, he has moved into many other areas and made significant contributions to statistical theory and methodology, covering topics such as invariance, sufficiency, second and higher-order asymptotics, sampling, and many more. Sometime in the 1980's, he converted to the Bayesian creed and has made fundamental contributions to Bayesian statistics. A detailed profile of his contributions can be found in the IMS Collection “Pushing the limits of contemporary statistics: Contributions in honor of Jayanta K Ghosh”.

JKG’s influence is also visible through the many students he has advised. His students have worked on topics ranging from set theory, ergodic theory, and probabilistic number theory to, of course, statistics.

He has spent much of his life at the Indian Statistical Institute as a professor, as Editor of Sankhya, and finally as the Director. He has been spending part of his time at Purdue University for many years. Since his retirement from ISI, he has continued his role as a mentor both at ISI and Purdue University.

He has served the international statistical community through his involvement in many societies, including ISI, IMS, IISA, and ISBA. He was the President of ISI from 1993 to 1995. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Science and of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

JKG is also deeply interested in history and edited a collection of essays on the development of statistics in India and has also written a detailed account of history of the Indian Statistical Institute. He is interested in music, has read widely in Bengali and English literature, and is almost an expert in Modern English poetry.

On behalf of all ISI members, we congratulate him on this well merited recognition by the Government of India.