

Statistics Olympiads organised by CR Rao AIMSCS

Although Statistics is a young discipline, it has during the last century grown to be an essential body of information based knowledge useful in all areas of human endeavour from individual decision making in daily life to scientists fathoming the mysteries of nature. There will be a great demand in future for statisticians to help in decision making by the government, industrial and research establishments. It is one of the aims of the C R Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science (AIMSCS) to encourage talented young students, both rural and urban, to pursue professional and research careers in Statistics .To create awareness of Statistics and to encourage those with an aptitude for numbers and numerical reasoning to study Statistics, Prof. C R Rao suggested organizing Statistics Olympiad on lines similar to Mathematics Olympiad. Following his suggestion, a team of statisticians headed by Dr.T.J.Rao and Dr.S.Bendre organized the **FIRST STATISTICS OLYMPIAD**, for the **first time in India and probably in the whole world, in June 2009** by administering tests to students at the high school/junior college levels in the cities of Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. In all about 270 students took the test. The questions were not routine or conventional type from mathematical statistics , but framed to test the ability of students to cross examine data, detect misuses of statistics, statistical comprehension ,table and chart reading etc. (all at the respective levels of syllabi), together with a general knowledge of official statistics expected at the school level. A special grading scheme was devised to discriminate and pick those with an aptitude for statistical reasoning and ability to deal with numbers. AmStat. News, International Statistical Institute Newsletter, Royal Statistical Society News Letter and several other international news magazines published news items about the Olympiad conceived by Prof. C R Rao.

During the last year, which was celebrated as the International Year of Statistics: 2013 throughout the world, the **Fifth Statistics Olympiad** was held in selected centres in Andhra Pradesh and the number students that took the test was close to 1500.

Each year, the top students are felicitated at a function held on June 29, the Birthday of Professor Mahalanobis, which is declared by the Government of India as Statistics Day. (The first Statistics Day was observed on June 29, 2007).

On 29 Jun 2013, the Institute celebrated the Seventh Statistics Day and 13 prize winners who took the Olympiad test in April 2013 were felicitated. From the year 2014, the Institute wishes to make Statistics Olympiad, an international event with neighbouring countries Sri Lanka, Bangladesh willing to join.