It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the Tenth International Webinar on “Recent Trends in Statistical Theory and Applications-2025 (WSTA-2025)” in conjunction with the Ninth Annual Convention of “Statistics Fraternity Kerala (SFK)” and the 19 th. National Statistics Day Celebrations 2025 during June 29 to July 2 , this year along with ither organisations. In this age of data revolution, it is important to remember that there is a need for a new look at the training in Statistics , not forgetting the strong mathematical foundations and computational techniques. The AI predominance has to be carefully understood. The motto could be “ *Use your own Intelligence before using Artificial Intellgence”.*Rightly worded, this “ webinar aims to showcase recent developments in statistics and related fields, with the objective of formulating statistical strategies to address emerging problems in these areas. Prof. Satheesh Kumar of University of Kerala, Trivandrum (UKT) and his team have done a fantastic and arduous job.

My first visit to UKT was in 1964 when I was a research scholar in the Research and Training School(RTS) of the Indian Statistical Institute. ISI organised a Summer School with the support of the Department of Statistics headed by Prof . Aleyamma George. Second visit was when I was invited to talk in a Conference during PCM Birth Centenary 1993-94. I am thankful to Prof Satheesh Kumar for giving me this opportunity today. This Year 2025 is Special for Statisticians. Not just because it is a perfect square (and all the forwarded WA messages). This is the Year of World Statistics Day(WSD). Around 103 countries were already celebrating Statistics Day in 2020 and the UNSD rightly decided to integrate and coordinate the activities and announced 20/10/2010 as the First WSD . It is celebrated every 5 years. On the suggestions and requests of the ISI Council during 2003-2006 during the Platinum Day Celebrations of ISI in 2006, the then Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh declared that the Statistics Day of India will be observed on the Birth Anniversary of Prof P C Mahalanobis, (PCM) , namely 29 June. This

a fitting recognition to the ‘Father of Statistics of India’;. PCM was the Chief Architect of post independence Statistical System in India, Founder of ISI and *Sankhya*, well known for his concept of ‘ Mahalanobis Distance’, Large Scale Sample Surveys, creator of NSS and CSO etc., etc… National Sample Survey (NSS) is also celebrating its 75 th Anniversary this Year (as well as International Statistical Education Centre in ISI another effort of PCM).

I am sure the delibertions and discussions in the Webinar would be very impressive and useful. I wish the Webinar a Grand Success. Thank you

Happy Statistics Day….

tjrao