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Sankhyā, Series A brings out this special issue in its volume 80 in celebration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (June 29, 1893 – June 28, 1972), the founder of Indian Statistical Institute and the founder Editor of Sankhyā, from 1933 to 1972. Besides being renowned in India and the world over as a phenomenal institution-builder, his contributions to Statistics are widely recognized, especially his research in Large Scale Sample Surveys – for which he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1945 and his work is still a beacon for every large scale sample surveys done around the world, in Multivariate Analysis – impact and uses of “Generalized Distance”, known as “Mahalanobis Distance”, are seen in every discipline of research requiring the use of statistics, and in Econometrics – his pioneering research is still a source of inspiration of new results and in fact to honour him, Sankhyā B will bring out a special issue on Econometrics in about a year’s time.

The present issue contains articles inspired by Professor Mahalanobis’s contributions and beyond. In addition, we include one of the most well known contributions of PCM in this special issue, “On the Generalized Distance in Statistics”, originally published in Proceedings of the National Institute of Sciences of India, vol. 2, no. 1, pages 49-55, 1936. We thank the Indian National Science Academy for their permission to reprint this article in the present issue. Our heartfelt thanks also go to all the contributors who accepted our invitations for contributions and the reviewers who have helped us immensely in bringing out this issue. We further thank ISI Library, Reprography & Photography Unit and P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives for helping in the process.

Editors
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS (in order)

• Professor Mahalanobis delivering speech at the First Convocation of ISI, 1962.

• Honorary D.Sc. award to R. A. Fisher, at the First Convocation.

• Honorary D.Sc. award to W. A. Shewhart, at the First Convocation.

• P. C. Mahalanobis flanked by the Chairman and Secretary, WHO Committee, Geneva, 1955.

• Left to right P.C.Mahalanobis, D. B. Lahiri, Russian Interpreter, Monakhov (USSR Central Board of Statistics), A. Moser (London School of Economics) at the meeting of the United Nations Working Group on household survey, 9-13th October 1961.
Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis delivering speech at the First Convocation. L-R, Prof. S.N. Bose, Dr. W.A. Shewhart, Sir R.A. Fisher, C.R. Rao, Sri Vishnu Sahay, K.B. Madhava and other dignitaries are present on the dais.

Photo by Reprography and Photography Unit, Library, ISI Kolkata
K.B. Madhava awarding the honorary degree of D.Sc to Sir R.A. Fisher at the First Convocation

Photo by Reprography and Photography Unit, Library, IISc, Kolkata

K.B. Madhava awarding the honorary degrees of D.Sc to Dr. W.A. Shewhart at the First Convocation

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