ELECTION
Linguistic Society of India
(2024-26)

C/o Deccan College Postgraduate & Research Institute, Pune 411 006 (India)

ELECTION REPORT
by Returning Officers
December 20, 2023

Table of Content

A Summary Report: Linguistic Society of India Election 2024-26

1. A Summary of the Report

Introduction

This report serves as the official record of the LSI election process, presenting a comprehensive overview of proceedings. As the Returning Officers, our responsibility is to detail the election's various phases and outcomes.

Election Overview

The LSI election for 2024-26 occurred from December 15 to December 17, 2023, aiming to appoint key members. Positions included President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Executive Committee Working Members, Editor of Publications, and Members of the Publication Committee.

Key Components

Nomination and Candidacy

The nomination period (Nov 5 to Nov 25, 2023) yielded nine nominations, with 6 remaining after scrutiny.

Campaigning and Community Engagement

A brief campaign allowed candidates to connect with the LSI community.

Voting Phase

Spanning from Dec 15, 2023, to Dec 17, 2023, a total of 396 raw responses were received through the dedicated voting through Google Forms. It's worth noting that the LSI Voter list comprises approximately 1270 raw records (non-unique). After validation, 343 responses were found to be valid to send a Vote Confirmation Number (VCN). We have received 273 confirmed and verified votes (while the remaining were not received before the deadline).

Counting Process

Rigorous measures ensured accuracy and transparency in the counting process.

Results Declaration

Official results were declared on Dec 20, 2023.

Acknowledgments

Appreciation is extended to LSI members, candidates, volunteers, and stakeholders for their significant contributions.

Conclusion

The election, conducted with a commitment to fairness and inclusivity, concludes with confidence in the capabilities of newly elected representatives to advance linguistic studies within the dynamic LSI community.

This report adheres to the established guidelines for the Linguistic Society of India election.

02 Introduction

This report serves as the official record of the Linguistic Society of India (LSI) election process and its outcomes. In our capacity as the Returning Officers, it is my responsibility to provide a comprehensive overview of the election proceedings.

03 Election Overview

The Linguistic Society of India election for the term 2024-26 was conducted from 15 December 2023 to 17 December 2023. The primary objective of this election was to appoint new members to various positions, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Executive Committee Working Members, Editor of Publications, and Members of the Publication Committee. These individuals play a crucial role in making decisions for the betterment and progressive development of the LSI.

04 Key Components of the Election

4.1 Nomination and Candidacy

The nomination phase officially began on November 5, 2023, and successfully concluded on November 25, 2023. During this period, we received a total of 9 nominations from proposers. Out of these nine unique nominations, two were canceled (on the grounds of improper Proposer/Seconder), and one proposer chose to withdraw his/her nomination.

4.2 After thorough scrutiny, a total of six valid nominations remained, representing individuals for various positions as outlined in the introduction. The final list of candidates for the upcoming election was officially announced and posted on the Linguistic Society of India (LSI) website on December 1, 2023.

4.3 Campaigning and Community Engagement

A brief campaign period provided candidates with the opportunity to articulate their visions and actively engage with the vibrant Linguistic Society of India (LSI) community.

4.4 Voting Phase

The voting phase for the Linguistic Society of India (LSI) election spanned from December 15, 2023, at 7:00 AM, to December 17, 2023, at 7:00 AM. Participants accessed the designated link on the LSI website (https://lsi.org.in/lsi_election) to cast their votes. During this crucial phase, members had the opportunity to choose their preferred candidates for key positions, including President, Vice-President,

Secretary, Joint Secretary, Working Member Executive Committee, Editor of Publication, and Members of the Publication Committee.

A total of 396 raw responses were received through the dedicated voting Google form. It's worth noting that the LSI Voter list comprises approximately 1270 raw records (non-unique). After validation, 343 responses were found to be valid to send a Vote Confirmation Number (VCN). We have received 273 confirmed verified votes.

Upon casting their votes, valid participants received a Vote Confirmation Code (VCN) through their registered email or mobile, in accordance with the LSI voter list database available at https://lsi.org.in/lsi_election.

Verification of VCN

1) Voters are required to enter the received Vote Confirmation Code through the specified link sent to their mobile.

2) The entered code undergoes cross-verification with the actual one in the database to authenticate the voter's vote.

VCN-verified votes are considered as a VALID votes for counting.

With the voting phase concluded, the counting process is initiated. We appreciate the active participation of all members in shaping the future of the Linguistic Society of India.

4.5 Counting Process

The counting process commenced immediately following the conclusion of the voting phase and the verification of Vote Confirmation Numbers (VCN). Rigorous measures were implemented to guarantee accuracy and transparency throughout this crucial stage.

4.6 Results Declaration

The official results were declared on 20-Dec-2023.

President :

Names	Votes
1. Pramod Kumar Pandey	100
2. Prof. M J Warsi	172 (Elected)
3. NOTA	01

Vice-President :

Names	Votes
1. Mina Dan	106
2. Dr. V. Thiruvalluvan	159 (Elected)
3. NOTA	08

Secretary :

Names	Votes
1. Abhinav Kumar Mishra	165 (Elected)
2. Dr. Ambarish V. Khare	91
3. NOTA	17

Joint Secretary (Candidate from Registered office, Kolkata) :

Names	Votes
1. Dr. Samir Karmakar	107
2. Dr. Sunandan Kumar Sen	148 (Elected)
3. NOTA	18

Working Member, Executive Committee ANY 11 :

Name	Votes (Rank)
1. Sanjay Shivaji Hargude	100
2. Arup Kumar Nath	140
3. Aadil Amin Kak	216 (1-Elected)
4. Durge Vinayak Gyanobarao	89
5. Kalika Nitin Mehta	122
6. Pradnya Kulkarni	120
7. Suman Preet Virk	179 (7-Elected)
8. Dr. Kakoli Dey	197 (2-Elected)
9. Chaithra Puttaswamy	184 (5-Elected)
10. Bipasha Patgiri	191 (3-Elected)
11. Dr. C.S. Swathi	183 (6-Elected)
12. Dr. K Rajyarama	164 (9-Elected)
13. Mendem Bapuji	163 (10-Elected)
14. Niranjan Uppoor	186 (04-Elected)
15. Dr. Sundarabala S.	167 (08-Elected)
16. Thennarasu Sakkan	162 (11-Elected)
17. NOTA	12

Editor of Publications:

Name	Votes
1. Sonal Kulkarni Joshi	119
2. Prof. Aejaz Mohd Sheik	151 (Elected)
3. NOTA	03

Members of Publication Committee-ANY 3

Name	Votes (Rank)
1. Satish Sudam Bangar	32
2. Prof. Prasad Prakash Joshi	103
3. Dr. Pauthang Haokip	96
4. Nazrin B. Laskar	168 (1-Elected)
5. Dr. Anish Koshy	102
6. Saralin A. Lyngdoh	150 (2-Elected)
7. Dr. Mimi K Ezung	132 (3-Elected)
8. NOTA	03

05 Encountered Challenges

We encountered several issues and challenges outlined below:

Challenge 1: LSI Members List

The absence of a unified and validated list of LSI members presented a noteworthy challenge. Multiple duplicates were identified, and complications arose from instances where the same registration number was issued to more than one member. Additionally, a lack of standardized procedures contributed to difficulties in maintaining uniformity and consistency across the list.

e.g.

Same Registration Issues :

TASILDAR B RAVINDRA (01/11)

....

Distt- AHMEDNAGAR-422605

Email: ravishmi1@gmail.com

MHAISAKAR RAHUL (01/11)

....

Email- mhaiskar.rahul74@gmail.com

Standard Uniformity Issues :

13, 934/23, 17/2016, LM-55/17, LM-04/2016, LM19/22, Receipt no 240, Member, AM-16/23

Resolution: We uploaded the voter list online for corrections and emailed the LSI member list, urging members to review their votes and provide necessary corrections. However, the response received was not optimal, leading us to engage in extensive manual efforts to rectify the list to the best of our ability. Given the size of the list, this process is time-consuming.

Please refer to the email in Annexure-A with the subject line "Request for Checking and Correcting Voter List Details" for further details.

Challenge 2: LSI Email Account

Using lsiinfo2022@gmail, a non-business account, presented a challenge as simple email id restricted bulk mail sending (Bulk email posting issue).

Resolution: To address this, we adopted a periodic approach of collecting responses from the voting form. We then verified each LSI Registration Number against the voter list available on the LSI website under the election section. Subsequently, the system generated individual Vote Confirmation Numbers (VCNs) for each voter, a process that proved to be time-consuming, but we have tried our best.

Challenge 3: "Error Message: Unable to Confirm Your VCN Verification. Kindly Reach Out to System Admin."

Resolution: This message appears when an incorrect Vote Confirmation Number (VCN) is entered or when the valid VCN is entered more than twice. The system accepts valid VCN only once.

In cases where a voter encountered VCN-related issues and reached out to us for confirmation or resolution, we conducted a thorough cross-check with the verification server. Following this, we informed the voter, assuring them that their vote verification process had been successfully completed.

This process is foolproof; even if someone were to discover and enter the details, the system would verify the registered vote against the original choice of the voter.

Challenge 4: Non-receipt of VCN Email

Resolution: We made every effort to reach out to every valid voter (Life members of LSI with Registration Numbers) by sending emails, and this has been successfully accomplished without any reported cases so far. However, some instances have arisen where emails landed in the junk folder or were not received (very rarely). This occurrence is attributed to the fact that email delivery is a best-effort service and does not guarantee delivery.

To expedite the process, we also shared emails with voters via WhatsApp, particularly for those who proactively reached out to us.

06 Conclusion

In wrapping up this report, we mark the conclusion of the election proceedings for the Linguistic Society of India. Throughout this process, we upheld a steadfast commitment to principles of fairness, inclusivity, and the democratic ideals that form the bedrock of society.

This report is submitted per the established guidelines for the Linguistic Society of India election.

Returning Officers
Rashid Ahmad/Vilal Ali
Co-Founders of eBhasha Setu
9966443729/9984736691
rashid101b@gmail.com/belaal.ali@gmail.com

Appendix-A

1) Important emails circulated from time to time.

========Dec 13, 2023, 12:22:01 PM (6 days ago) ===========
Subject: LSI Election Voting Procedure

Dear Esteemed Member,

Greetings from LSI Election Committee.
I am sharing LSI Election Procedure with you.

 1) Voter List Verification:
- Verify your details in the voter list below link
https://lsie.ebslab.in
- If any corrections are needed, make the necessary changes.

2) Voting Link Distribution:
- You will receive a unique link for casting your vote.

3) Voting Process:
- Access the provided link to cast your vote.
- Choose your preferred candidates for the positions of president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, working member of the executive committee, editor of the publication, and members of the publication committee.

4) Vote Confirmation Code:
- After casting your vote, a vote confirmation code will be sent to your registered email and mobile.
(as per the LSI voter list database at https://lsie.ebslab.in).

5) Verification:
- Enter the received vote confirmation code through the specified link.
- The entered code will be matched with the actual one in the database.

6) Vote Validation:
- If the entered vote confirmation code is correct, your vote will be considered valid.
- If the code is incorrect, the vote will not be considered valid.

This procedure ensures a systematic and secure process for the LSI election, providing each voter with a unique code to confirm the authenticity of their vote. If you have any specific additional requirements or details you'd like to include, feel free to let us know!

=======Dec 12, 2023, 7:31:52 PM (7 days ago) ===
Subject : Request for Checking and Correcting Voter List Details
Dear All,

Greetings from LSI Election Committee.
I am writing to bring to your attention a concern regarding your details in the "LSI Voter list" database.

Open below link to see your information
https://lsie.ebslab.in/

I kindly request you to verify your details and make any necessary corrections to ensure accuracy.
If there are any additional steps or information required from my end to facilitate this process, please let me know, and I will promptly provide the necessary details.

I understand the importance of accurate voter information and appreciate your assistance in resolving this matter.

Your prompt attention to this request is highly valued. I look forward to your prompt response.

Best regards,
Rashid Ahmad
Returning officer (LSI Election)
Mob. 9966443729
=====

=======Dec 16, 2023, 2:32:29 PM (3 days ago) =========
Subject : Reg. late receipt of Vote Confirmation Number

Dear Esteemed Members,

We have noted that quite a few of the emails that are being sent for confirming the vote are not being delivered.
We have received a system generated email failure notice for quite a few of them.
Some of the esteemed members have already brought this to our notice.

The email account, "lsiin...@gmail.com", is not a business account.
This could be one reason for the failure to send a large number of emails using this account.

So on an individual basis we are trying to address this issue using an alternate communication channel, that is SMS/WhatsApp.
After your individual consent on phone/WhatsApp, we are sending the link for "Vote Confirmation" to each individual.

Hope you would understand the system limitations faced by us and cooperate in carrying out the election in time.
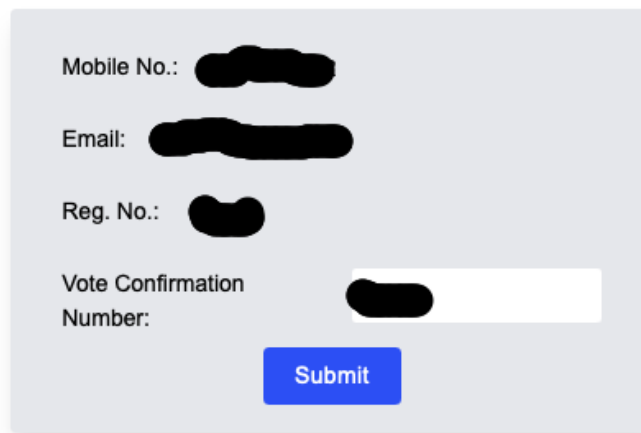
2) Impotant Screenshots

2.1) Screenshot regarding VCN

Error Message: Unable to Confirm Your VCN Verification. Kindly Reach Out to System Admin."

Resolution: This message appears when an incorrect Vote Confirmation Number (VCN) is entered or when the valid VCN is entered more than twice. The system accepts valid VCN only once.

In cases where a voter encountered VCN-related issues and reached out to us for confirmation or resolution, we conducted a thorough cross-check with the verification server. Following this, we informed the voter, assuring them that their vote verification process had been successfully completed.

This process is foolproof; even if someone were to discover and enter the details, the system would verify the registered vote against the original choice of the voter.

3) Important escalated email

====Dec 17, 2023, 12:28:34 PM (3 days ago)===

Re: Designation prefixation of the names of the candidates

…. email content…...

Response: The names listed as valid nominations are extracted from the proposer's submissions during the nomination process, while the names in the voting form are sourced from the candidate's signed consents received. The order in the Google form is maintained on a first-come, first-served basis, reflecting the sequence in which nominations were received.

=============

Shilpa Vernekar <vernekar.shilpa@gmail.com>

I completely agree with Biswanandan Dash, sir. I saw his email now after sending an email on similar lines.

I have been working in the Internet/Software industry for over 17 years now. And all his points are valid.

It's child's play to manipulate the responses in the Google Spreadsheet and even to cover up misuse.

The very fact that they chose not to send a copy of the Google Form to the submitter itself shows something is not right here. That was a very simple option to choose to send people a copy of their form.

Regards,

Dr. Shilpa S. V

Developer Relations Manager

Collate Inc.

Response: 1. Why should anybody manipulate the responses in the Google Form? We were entrusted with the job of conducting it with the utmost neutrality. If somebody thinks the ROs are untrustworthy, then such untrustworthy ROs should not have been appointed. A similar allegation could be raised when the election was conducted through ballot paper. Another point would be whoever alleges that 'It's a child's play to manipulate the responses in the Google Spreadsheet, and even to cover up on misuse." must have tried to get a bit of evidence in support of it and placed it before the responsible members.

2. The team that was entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the election is …… An agency with years of experience provides… technology development services to IIT and several Government organizations. Utilizing Google Forms for online elections is an acceptable method. Every method presents its own challenges and limitations. LSI is free to explore the development of its own voting system, equipped with all the necessary features to conduct elections seamlessly.