



## National Statistics Day

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### Why in News

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This year, the **Statistics Day (29<sup>th</sup> June)** will be celebrated virtually, in view of the travel and safety advisories on account of the global **Covid-19 pandemic**.

### Key Points

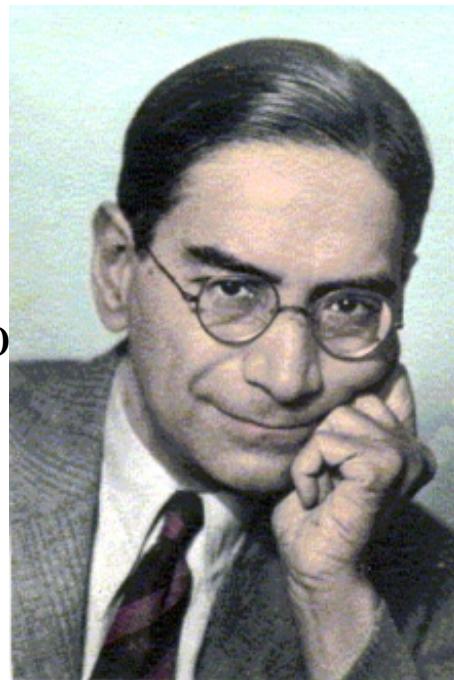
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- Every year, the Statistics Day is celebrated on 29<sup>th</sup> June, the **birth anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, to **recognise his invaluable contribution** in establishing the **National Statistical System**.
- **Aim:**
  - To popularise the use of statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how statistics help in shaping and framing policies.
  - To raise public awareness, especially among the younger generation, about the role of statistics in socio-economic planning.
- **Theme for 2020:**  
**SDG-3** (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and **SDG-5** (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).  
It **carries forward the theme for 2019** which was '**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**'.

- **New Releases and Launch:**

- The updated version of the **Report on Sustainable Development Goals-National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2020** will be released during the event.
- The **Indian Statistical Services Cadre Management Portal** will also be launched.
- The winners of **Prof. P C Mahalanobis National Award** and **Prof. P. V. Sukhatme Award 2020** will be declared during the event.
  - In **2019**, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** instituted Prof. P C Mahalanobis National Award in official statistics for recognizing outstanding achievement of official statisticians in central government, state governments and institutions.
  - The Ministry also recognises the outstanding contribution for high-quality research work in the field of **applied and theoretical statistics benefitting the official statistical system** through the Prof. C R Rao and Prof. P V Sukhatme awards, awarded in alternate years.

**Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (1893-1972)**



- He is considered the **father of modern statistics in India**, founded the **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)**, shaped the **Planning Commission** (which was replaced by the **NITI Aayog** on **1<sup>st</sup> January 2015**) and pioneered methodologies for large-scale surveys.
  - He introduced innovative techniques for conducting large-scale sample surveys, calculated acreages and crop yields, using the method of random sampling.
  - He also devised a **statistical method called ‘Fractile Graphical Analysis’**, used to **compare socio-economic conditions of varied groups**.

- **Timeline:**

- **1930:** Proposed the **Mahalanobis Distance** for the first time, which is a measure of comparison between two data sets.

The formula is used to find the distance between a point and a distribution, based on measurements in multiple dimensions. It is widely used in the field of cluster analysis and classification.

- **1932:** Founded the ISI in **Kolkata (formerly Calcutta)** which was declared as an **institute of national importance in 1959.**

- **1933:** Launched '**Sankhya: The Indian Journal of Statistics**'.

- **1950:** Established the **National Sample Survey** and set up the **Central Statistical Organisation** to coordinate statistical activities.

- **1955:** Became a member of the Planning Commission and continued in that capacity till 1967.

He was instrumental in formulating **India's second five-year-plan (1956-1961)**, which laid the blueprint for **industrialisation and development in India.**

- **1968:** Honoured with the **Padma Vibhushan.**

He was also conferred a large number of awards by international organisations.

**Source: PIB**