



## National Statistics Day

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### Why in News

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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**.

### Key Points

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- **Aim:**

To popularise the use of statistics in everyday life and sensitise the public as to how statistics help in shaping and framing policies.
- **Theme for 2021:**

**Sustainable Development Goal** (SDG)- 2 (End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture).
- **Related Events:**

Winners of **Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics, 2021** and **Prof C. R. Rao National Award for Young Statistician, 2021** will be announced

  - 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.**

**Prof. 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 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**