



National Statistics Day

Why in News

Every year, the Statistics Day is celebrated on **29th June**, the birth anniversary of **Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, to recognise his invaluable contribution in establishing the [National Statistical System](#).

Key Points

- **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 1st 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.

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