

# National Statistics day, 2021

June 29, 2021

## In news

National Statistics Day is an annual event observed on June 29.

## About National Statistics Day

- **Aim:** Popularising the use of statistics in our daily lives as well as in creating national economic policies.
- National Statistics Day is celebrated on June 29 on the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.
- In 2006, the decision to celebrate this day was taken by the Indian government **to honour the father of Indian statistics, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis – a phenomenal Indian statistician, scientist.**
- This year's National Statistics Day celebration marks the **128th birth anniversary of the Mahalanobis.**
- To emphasize the importance of statistics in the socio-economic framework, the National Statistics Day endeavours are directed towards educating, raising awareness among the public, and inspiring the younger generation.
- Note: National Statistics Day **not to be confused with the World Statistics Day** date as the latter is celebrated every five years on October 20.

## Theme 2021:

**End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture** (Sustainable Development Goal or SDG 2 of the UN) is the theme of this year's National Statistics Day. Goal 2 seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security.

## About P.C Mahalanobis(1893-1972)

- The renowned scientist was **born in Kolkata on June 29, 1893**
- He **founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931** and contributed to the design of large-scale **sample surveys**.
- In the next year, **he launched Sankhya: The Indian Journal Of Statistics**.
- For his contributions, Mahalanobis has been considered the **father of modern statistics in India**.
- He made pioneering studies in anthropometry(measurement of human individual) in India.
- Professor was well-known for his several extraordinary contributions to statistics including :
  - **Mahalanobis Distance** (a statistical measure)
  - **Large-scale sample surveys**, and
  - A statistical method called '**Fractile Graphical Analysis**' (which is meant to compare socio-economic conditions of diverse groups).
- With the objective of providing comprehensive socio-economic statistics, PC Mahalanobis had **established the National Sample Survey in 1950**.
- He had also **set up the Central Statistical Organization to coordinate statistical activities** in the country.
- Mahalanobis was instrumental in **formulating India's second five-year plan (1956-1961)**, which laid the blueprint for industrialisation and development in India.
- His variant of Wassily Leontief's **Input-output model, the Mahalanobis model**, was employed in the Second Five Year Plan, which worked towards the rapid industrialisation of India.
- He was a **pioneer in applying statistics to planning for flood control**.

- **He analysed data regarding the floods in Odisha and published his findings in 1926.** This analysis later formed the basis for the construction of the Hirakud dam on the Mahanadi River.
- The Padma Vibhushan recipient was one of the members (1955-1967) in the Indian Planning Commission and was instrumental in designing India's industrialization plans.
- He is credited with calculating acreages and crop yields by using random sampling methods.
- He died on June 28, 1972, a day before his 79th birthday.