



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Per. unthalaivar Kamarajar"

Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)

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Context:

The **Draft Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Bill, 2025** has faced protests from students and academicians over concerns about autonomy and governance changes.

About ISI

- **Founded:** 1931
- **Founder:** **Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, eminent Indian statistician, known for the **Mahalanobis distance** and pioneering India's statistical planning.
- **Legal Registration:**
 - Initially under **Societies Registration Act, 1860** (April 1932).
 - Re-registered under **West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961**.
- **Institute of National Importance:** Granted by **Parliament in 1959**, enabling it to confer degrees and set academic standards.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata

Objectives of ISI

1. **Statistical Science:** Advancement and promotion of statistical theory and applications.
2. **Interdisciplinary Research:** Bridging statistics with **mathematics, computer science, economics, and social sciences**.
3. **National Contribution:**

oDevelopment of **National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)**.

oEstablishing India's official statistical system.

oSupporting **economic modelling and planning**.

Significance

- Acts as a **key institution for data-driven policymaking**.
- Contributes to **government and private sector research**, especially in surveys, sampling methods, and statistical modelling.
- Alumni have played crucial roles in **economic planning, census, and social research**.

Current Issue

- Concerns with **Draft ISI Bill, 2025**:
- Potential curbs on **academic autonomy**.
- Governance changes may impact **decision-making powers of faculty and researchers**.
- Fear of political or bureaucratic influence affecting scientific independence.

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