

Draft Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2025

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Economy

Why in news?

Protest in Kolkata against the Central government's new Bill to repeal the ISI Act, 1959, saying it would seriously reduce the institute's academic autonomy.

- **Aim** - To give ISI a stronger legal identity and a more robust governance system.
- **Replaces** - ***Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Act, 1959***, that conferred ISI's national importance status.

Key Provisions of the bill

- **Institutional Status** - It transforms ISI into a ***statutory body corporate*** established by an Act of Parliament and ends its current status as a registered society.
 - Making it more like that of central institutions such as the IITs and IIMs.
- **Governance Structure** -
 - **Visitor** - It proposed to appoint the President of India as Visitor.
 - **Board of Governance** - Chairperson nominated by the Visitor on the Union government's recommendation.
 - Representatives of the Centre, eminent persons, director and other institute representatives are nominated by the Centre.
 - **Functions** - Decide on administrative matters, grant degrees, and make appointments to academic and other posts, and also frame regulations and rules to implement the Act.
- **Academic Council** - It consists of the heads of divisions & centres and is headed by the director, make recommendations to the board on academic matters.
- **Appointment & Oversight** -
 - **Director** - Appointed by Board Chairperson from a panel recommended by a search-cum-selection committee constituted by the Union government.
 - **Visitor's Power** - Remove the Director and order inquiries and reviews of the institute's work.

Quick Fact

Indian Statistical Institute

- It is a premier national institution which plays a crucial role in statistical research, education, and training in India.
- **Established** - In **1931** by PC Mahalanobis as a statistical laboratory at Presidency College, Kolkata.
- **Headquarter** - Kolkata.
- **Centres** - Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Tezpur, and other parts of India.
- **Registered under** - Societies Registration Act, 1860 & the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961
- ***Institution of National Importance*** - Declared in 1959, through the ISI Act, 1959.
- **Academic Programmes** - Offers UG & PG degrees in Statistics, Mathematics, and other allied fields.
- **Governance Structure** -
 - **Member Council** - The highest decision-making body, consisting of 33 members.
 - The director, academic and administrative head, is appointed by the council.

References

1. [The Hindu | Academics protest against the draft ISI bill](#)
2. [Indian Express | Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2025](#)

