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

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering