

Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Polity and Governance

Why in News?

Recently, The Government has introduced the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026 to change the governance structure of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI).

- **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)** - Founded in 1931 by P.C. Mahalanobis, declared an Institution of National Importance in 1959.
- **Current Governance** - Run as a society with a 33-member council; director appointed by council.

Proposed Bill 2026

- Bill replaces the **1959 Act**.
- ISI to become a **statutory body corporate** (like IITs/IIMs).
- **President of India** as Visitor.
- New **Board of Governance** with Centre-nominated chairperson, government representatives, eminent persons, and institute members.
- Board to decide administration, appointments, degrees, and regulations.
- **Academic Council** headed by director to advise board.
- **Director appointed by board chairperson** from a panel recommended by a government-constituted committee.
- **Visitor empowered to remove director**, order reviews, and inquiries.

Opposition and Criticism

- **Loss of Autonomy** - Centre gains greater control over governance and director appointments.
- **Representation Issue** - Board dominated by government nominees, unlike current council with wider representation.
- **Director's Position** - Subject to removal, reviews, and government influence, undermining independence.

- **Consultation Concerns** - Faculty and students argue Bill was introduced without wider consultation.

Reference

[Indian Express | ISI](#)

