



Government of India

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation



PROF. P. C. MAHALANOBIS NATIONAL AWARD IN OFFICIAL STATISTICS, 2020

Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan

In order to promote excellence and recognizing outstanding contributions made by the Statisticians in the area of Official/Administrative Statistics in India, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India has instituted 'Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics'.

Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics 2020, in lifetime achievement category, is presented to Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan for his lifetime achievement and contribution to the National Statistical System in India.

Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan, is one of the leading economists of India. Born in 1932, Dr. Rangarajan has an illustrious career and has several distinctions and honours to his credit. He holds Ph.D. in Economics from University of Pennsylvania, USA. Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan started his career as a teacher and taught at many Universities and Institutions, both in India and abroad. He has also held a number of important administrative positions such as Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India; Governor of Reserve Bank of India; Member, Planning Commission; Governor of Andhra Pradesh; Member, Tenth Finance Commission; Chairman, Twelfth Finance Commission, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. He was awarded Padma Vibhushan in 2002.

Dr. Rangarajan was also the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, which was set up by the Government in January 2000 to critically examine the deficiencies in the statistical system and to recommend measures for its systematic reforms. The Commission, popularly known as Rangarajan Commission, in its report submitted to the Government in September 2001, made several far reaching recommendations and laid the foundation and paved the way for a holistic reform of the Indian national statistical system.

The Rangarajan Commission underlined the need to improve the credibility, timeliness and adequacy aspects of the Indian Statistical System, its products and processes. It recommended a five-fold approach: reform in the administrative structure of the Indian Statistical System; upgrading its infrastructure to ensure autonomy, improvement in system of data collection; explore and exploit alternative techniques for collecting and using statistics; identification of new data series that may be necessary to keep pace with the changes in socio-economic sectors; and evolving appropriate methodologies for collection, analysis and presentation of data for both contemporary and emerging data requirements.

The recommendations of the Rangarajan Commission were accepted by the Government and the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation initiated the reform process in a mission mode. Implementation of the recommendations laid focus on maintaining high standards in the statistical products and processes; aligning national standards and methodologies with international ones; reorient processes and priorities in official statistics in tune with the changes in the technological and economic environment; collect, coordinate, collate and disseminate credible and timely statistics for informed decision making and debate within and outside the Government; and promote human resource development in the official statistics and encourage research and development in theoretical and applied statistics.

In the recognition of his numerous distinguished and outstanding contributions to the Indian Statistical System, Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics, in lifetime achievement category, for 2020, is hereby bestowed upon Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan.

(Rao Inderjit Singh)
Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics
and Programme Implementation
Government of India

New Delhi
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