



Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
(June 29, 1893 to June 28, 1972)

*P*adma Vibhushan Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis is called the Father of Statistics in India. He founded Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Born in a family of academic achievements and cultural wealth, Prof. Mahalanobis did pioneering work on anthropometric variations, large scale sample surveys, agricultural experiments, fractal analysis, etc. His name is also associated with Mahalanobis distance, a statistical measure. His is a mammoth contribution in post-independence Five Year Planning in India and the second Five Year Plan was based on his model, which is called the Mahalanobis Model. Thus, he put the wheels of India's industrialization on a fast track. His abiding interest in cultural pursuits brought him in close association with Rabindranath Tagore. A Fellow of Royal Society, London, Prof. Mahalanobis was conferred Weldon Medal from Oxford University in 1944. He remained a *Karmayogi* till he breathed his last.