

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS (BIS)

Bureau of Indian Standards signs MoU with Testing, Inspection, Certification Council to promote and harmonise the implementation of standards and quality, safety and sustainability practices in laboratories.



About:

- **What is BIS?** BIS is the **National Standards Body of India** under Department of Consumer affairs, **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food**

& Public Distribution.

- **Status:** It is a statutory body established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016 which came into effect on 12 October 2017.
- **Functions:** BIS is involved in various activities such as Standards Formulation, Product Certification Scheme, Hall Marking Scheme, Laboratory Services etc.
- **HQ:** New Delhi.
- The Minister in charge of the Ministry or Department having administrative control of the BIS is the ex-officio President of the BIS.

Testing, Inspection, Certification Council

- It is an **international non-profit association** acting as the voice of the testing, inspection and certification industry.
- The TIC Council engages governments and key stakeholders to advocate for effective solutions that protect the public, facilitate trade and support innovation.

CREDIT GUARANTEE SCHEME FOR STARTUPS (CGSS)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the establishment of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS).



About:

- CGSS is aimed at providing **credit guarantee** up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz. Startups. This scheme would help provide **collateral-free debt funding to startups**
- The credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be transaction-based **and umbrella based**.
- **In transaction-based guarantee cover**, the guarantee cover is obtained by the MIs on single eligible borrower basis. It will promote lending by Banks/ NBFCs to eligible startups.
- **The umbrella-based guarantee cover** will provide guarantee to Venture Debt Funds (VDF) registered under AIF regulations of SEBI.
- The exposure to individual cases would be **capped at Rs. 10 crore per case or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less**.
- DPIIT will be constituting a **Management Committee (MC) and a Risk Evaluation Committee (REC)** for reviewing, supervising and operational oversight of the Scheme.
- **The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC)** will be operating the Scheme.

PRADHAN MANTRI RASHTRIYA BAL PURASKAR

Last date for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar extended to 31st October, 2022.



About:

- The National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement was instituted in 1996 to give recognition to children with exceptional abilities and outstanding achievements in the fields of **innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture and sports**.
- A medal and a cash prize are given to each awardee.
- From the year 2018, the award has been renamed as the Bal Shakti Puraskar and **achievements of children in the field of bravery are also acknowledged**.
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

MAHAKALESHWAR TEMPLE

PM Modi to inaugurate first phase of Shri Mahakaleshwar Temple Extension project.



About

- Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga is a Hindu temple **dedicated to Shiva** and is **one of the twelve Jyotirlingas**, shrines which are said to be the most sacred abodes of Shiva.
- It is located in the ancient **city of Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh**, India. The temple is **situated on the side of the holy river Shipra**.
- The temple's Mahakal Lingam is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested) and **unlike any other jyotirlingas** in the country, the **idol of Mahakaleshwar faces south**.
- Mahakal temple complex expansion project was planned in the year 2017. This expansion project are being conducted in two phases. The second Phase will be completed in 2023-24.

12 Jyotirlingas in India

- The jyotirlinga shrines are places where Shiva appeared as a fiery column of light. A Jyotirlinga is a shrine where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of a Jyotirlingam.
- **12 Jyotirlingas In India** are Somnath(Gujarat), Nageshwar (Gujarat), Bhimashankar (Maharashtra), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Grishneshwar (Maharashtra), Vaidyanath (Jharkhand), Mahakaleshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Kashi Vishwanath(Uttar Pradesh), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu), Mallikarjuna (Andhra Pradesh).

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2022

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2022 has been awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties.



About

Vikas Nagar, Behind Huda City Park, Rohtak 9215649666

Ales Bialiatski of Belarus

- Ales Bialiatski, who is in jail since 2021, is a **vocal critic of Putin's ally**, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus. In 1995, Bialiatski founded the **Belarus human rights group Viasna (Spring)**.
- He was first jailed in 2011 for evading taxes. He was released in 2014, before being arrested again in 2021 during mass public protests in Minsk against elections that opposition activists said had kept Lukashenko in power the previous year.

Memorial group of Russia

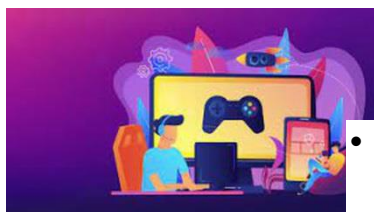
- It was established by human rights activists in the **former Soviet Union** during the Gorbachev years of glasnost and perestroika, and among its founders were 1975 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov and Russian mathematician Svetlana Gannushkina.
- **Its objective** was to record atrocities committed during the communist regime, especially under Joseph Stalin. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Memorial grew to become the **largest human rights organisation in Russia**.

Center for Civil Liberties, Ukraine

- It is a **Ukrainian rights organisation** that is documenting **alleged war crimes by Russia in Ukraine**.
- The Center was **founded in Kyiv in 2007** with the aim of advancing human rights and democracy in Ukraine.

ONLINE GAMING INDUSTRY IN INDIA

A task force set up the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has prepared a final report of its recommendations to regulate the online gaming industry in India.



About:

- The task force has proposed the creation of a central regulatory body for the sector, clearly defining what games of skill and

chance are, and bringing online gaming under the purview of the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.**

Recommendations of the task force

- **A central-level law for online gaming** should apply to real money and free games of skill, including e-sports, online fantasy sports contests, and card games etc.
- **Casual games with no real money** element in the form of stakes may be kept outside the scope of such rules, unless they have a high number of users in India.
- **Creating a regulatory body**, which will determine what qualifies as a game of skill or chance, and accordingly certify different gaming formats, seek compliance etc.
- **A three-tier dispute resolution mechanism**, similar to that prescribed under the Information Technology Rules, 2021 for online streaming services.
- **Any online gaming platform – domestic or foreign**– offering real money online games to Indian users will need to be a legal entity incorporated under Indian law.

Why a central-level law?

- Online gaming so far has been a **state subject**, but state governments find it extremely difficult to enforce certain rules like geo-blocking certain apps or websites within the territory of their state.
- Also, **rules passed in one state are not applicable in another**, which has caused inconsistency.
- State governments also **do not have enough blocking powers like the Centre to issue blocking orders for offshore betting sites.**

Online gaming market in India

- The revenue of the Indian mobile gaming industry is expected to exceed **\$1.5 billion in 2022, and is estimated to reach \$5 billion in 2025.**
- The industry in the **country grew at a CAGR of 38%** between 2017-2020, as opposed to 8% in China and 10% in the US.
- India's percentage of new paying users (NPU) in gaming has been the **fastest growing in the world** for two consecutive years, at 40% in 2020 and 50% in 2021.

e-RUPEE

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon commence pilot launches of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), referred to as Digital Rupee (e₹), for specific use cases.



About:

- The RBI in its concept note detailed various aspects including the technological measures to operationalise its electronic currency, its underlying digital infrastructure and various technological options the central bank is exploring.

E-Rupee

- e-RUPI is a **cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment**.
- It is a **QR code or SMS string-based e-Voucher**, which is delivered to the mobile of the beneficiaries.
- The users of this seamless one-time payment mechanism will be able to redeem the voucher without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the service provider.
- It has been **developed by National Payments Corporation of India** on its UPI platform, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Health Authority.

PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES, THEIR LEADERS, AND THEIR ROLE IN LAW-MAKING

In News:

- Recently, the government has **revamped** the Standing Committees of Parliament.
- Of the 22 committees announced, the Congress has the post of chairperson in only one, and the second largest opposition party, Trinamool Congress, none.

- The ruling BJP has the chairmanship of the important committees on Home, Finance, IT, Defence and External Affairs.
- As a result, many analysts believe this revamp could potentially worsen the relations between the government and opposition parties.

Committees of Parliament

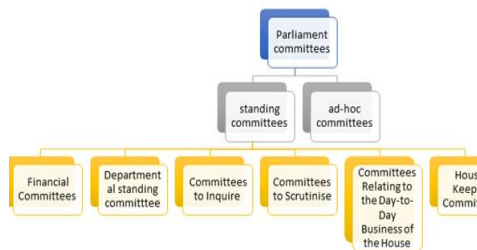
- A Parliamentary Committee is a panel of MPs that is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker.
- It works under the direction of the Speaker and presents its report to the House or to the Speaker.
- Parliamentary Committees have their origins in the British Parliament. They draw their authority from:
 - **Article 105**, which deals with the privileges of MPs, and
 - **Article 118**, which gives Parliament authority to make rules to regulate its procedure and conduct of business.

Significance

- **Limited time for discussion in Parliament**
 - The process of law-making is often complex, and Parliament has limited time for detailed discussions.
 - Also, the political polarisation and shrinking middle ground has been leading to increasing disruptions and inconclusive debates in Parliament.
 - Parliament has only around 100 sittings a year; Committee meetings are independent of Parliament's calendar.
- **MPs often do not get adequate time to put forward their views**
 - The time to speak on a Bill is allocated according to the size of the party/ group in the House.
 - As a result, MPs often do not get adequate time to put forward their views in Parliament, even if they are experts on the subject.
 - Committees are small groups with relatively less demands on their time; hence, every MP gets a chance and the time to contribute to the discussion.
- **Promotes real discussion**

- Because the discussions are confidential and off-camera, party affiliations usually do not come in the way of MPs speaking their minds.
- As a result, many MPs concede that real discussions happen inside the Committees.
- **Facilitates inter-ministerial coordination**
- The Committees work closely with multiple Ministries, and facilitate inter-ministerial coordination.
- Bills that are referred to Committees often return to the House with significant value-addition.

Various Committees of Parliament



- **Financial Committees**
 - It includes the Estimates Committee, Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee on Public Undertakings.
 - These committees were constituted in 1950.
- **Departmentally Related Standing Committees**
 - Seventeen Departmentally Related Standing Committees came into being in 1993 to examine budgetary proposals and crucial government policies.
 - The aim was to increase Parliamentary scrutiny, and to give members more time and a wider role in examining important legislation.
 - The number of Committees was subsequently increased to 24 (16 Committees for Lok Sabha and eight for Rajya Sabha).
 - Each of these **Committees has 31 members** — 21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.
 - Every Committee has members from both Houses.
- **Ad hoc Committees**
 - Ad hoc Committees are appointed for a specific purpose.
 - They cease to exist after they have completed the task assigned to them, and have submitted a report to the House.
 - The principal Ad hoc Committees are the **Select and Joint Committees on Bills**.

- Committees like the Railway Convention Committee, Committee on Food Management and Security in Parliament House Complex, etc. also come under the category of Ad hoc Committees.

- **JPC/Select committees**

- Parliament can also constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) with a special purpose, with members from both Houses, for detailed scrutiny of a subject or Bill.
- Also, either of the two Houses can set up a Select Committee with members from that House.
- JPCs and Select Committees are usually chaired by ruling party MPs, and are disbanded after they have submitted their report.

Other features of these Committees

- A Minister is not eligible for election or nomination to Financial Committees, and certain Departmentally Related Committees.
- Presiding Officers use their discretion to refer a matter to a Parliamentary Committee, but this is usually done in consultation with leaders of parties in the House.
- The appointment of heads of the Committees is also done in a similar way.
- By convention, the main Opposition party gets the post of PAC chairman; it is currently with the Congress.
- Chairmanship of some key committees has been allocated to opposition parties in the past. However, this pattern has changed in the latest rejig.
- An invitation to appear before a Parliamentary Committee is equivalent to a summons from a court.
- MPs typically have a one-year tenure on Parliamentary Committees.