News Analysis (02 Jun, 2021)

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State of Finance for Nature Report

Why in News

The UN report, titled **State of Finance for Nature,** analyzes the investment flow in **nature-based solutions (NbS)** and identifies the **future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets** (set in three **Rio Conventions**).

> The report was jointly produced by the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP), the **World Economic Forum** and the **Economics of Land Degradation.**
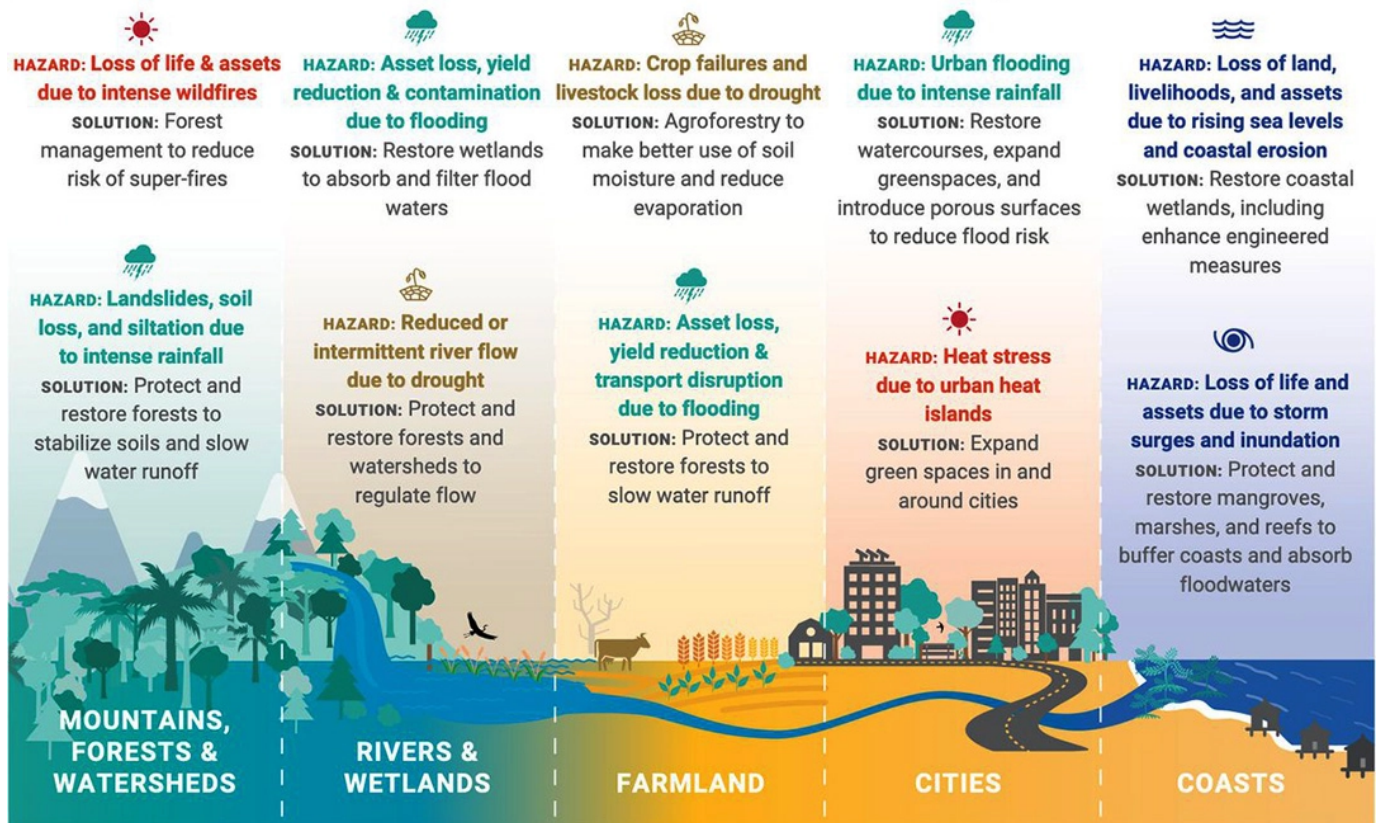
Key Points

About the 'Nature-based solutions (NbS)':
- The **NbS** refers to **sustainable management and use of nature** to tackle socio-environmental challenges, which range from disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss to food and water security as well as human health.
- NbS creates **harmony between people and nature, enables ecological development** and represents a holistic, **people-centred response** to climate change.
    - Thus, NbS underpin the **Sustainable Development Goals**, as they support vital ecosystem services, biodiversity, and access to fresh water, improved livelihoods, healthy diets and food security (organic agriculture) from sustainable food systems.
    - Also, NbS are an essential component of the overall global effort to achieve the goals of the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**.

Nature-Based Solutions Can Build Resilience to Multiple Climate Hazards

MOUNTAINS, FORESTS & WATERSHEDS

HAZARD: Loss of life & assets due to intense wildfires
SOLUTION: Forest management to reduce risk of super-fires

HAZARD: Landslides, soil loss, and siltation due to intense rainfall
SOLUTION: Protect and restore forests to stabilize soils and slow water runoff

RIVERS & WETLANDS

HAZARD: Asset loss, yield reduction & contamination due to flooding
SOLUTION: Restore wetlands to absorb and filter flood waters

HAZARD: Reduced or intermittent river flow due to drought
SOLUTION: Protect and restore forests and watersheds to regulate flow

FARMLAND

HAZARD: Crop failures and livestock loss due to drought
SOLUTION: Agroforestry to make better use of soil moisture and reduce evaporation

HAZARD: Asset loss, yield reduction & transport disruption due to flooding
SOLUTION: Protect and restore forests to slow water runoff

CITIES

HAZARD: Urban flooding due to intense rainfall
SOLUTION: Restore watercourses, expand greenspaces, and introduce porous surfaces to reduce flood risk

HAZARD: Heat stress due to urban heat islands
SOLUTION: Expand green spaces in and around cities

COASTS

HAZARD: Loss of land, livelihoods, and assets due to rising sea levels and coastal erosion
SOLUTION: Restore coastal wetlands, including enhance engineered measures

HAZARD: Loss of life and assets due to storm surges and inundation
SOLUTION: Protect and restore mangroves, marshes, and reefs to buffer coasts and absorb floodwaters

- **Key Findings of Report:**
  - **Current Investments:**
    - Approximately **USD 133 billion** currently flows into nature-based solutions **annually** (using 2020 as base year). It **comprises about 0.10% of global gross domestic product.**
    - The funds flow **to protect biodiversity and landscapes,** mixed with activities such as sustainable forestry.
    - NbS finance is **much smaller in scale than <u>climate finance</u>** and relies more heavily on public finance.
  - **Public vs Private Funds:**
    - Public funds make up 86% and private finance 14% of these investments.
    - The **public financial services providers** included the government, development finance institutions (DFIs), environmental/climate funds.
  - **Top Spenders:**
    - Public sector spending for the same is **dominated by the United States and China,** followed by Japan, Germany and Australia.
    - Countries such as **Brazil, India and Saudi Arabia are likely spending large amounts** of money too, but they do not report internationally comparable data.

- **Recommendations:**
    - **More Investments:**
        - **Public and private actors will need to scale up their annual investments** by at least four times to meet future climate, biodiversity and land degradation targets.
        - **Annual investment should reach USD 536 billion** by 2050.
    - **Enhancing Cash Flows for Investment:**
        Reforming taxes, repurposing agricultural policies and trade-related tariffs and harnessing the potential of <u>carbon markets.</u>
    - **Smart Investments:**
        Restoration of **natural vegetation and afforestation** are essential to meet international targets.
        The most important component of annual investment needs is the **cost of establishing new forests,** as it accounts for 80% of total costs.
    - **Making Nature-based Solution a part of Government Policies:**
        - Supporting **inclusion of nature-based solutions in current <u>nationally determined contribution</u> revisions,** national adaptation plans and domestic sectoral legislation.
        - **Aligning private finance with public policy** for scaling up capital flows to nature to a level that can meet the targets of the three Rio Conventions.
    - **System to Track Finances:**
        - There is a need for a comprehensive system and framework for labelling, tracking, reporting and verifying the state of finance for NbS.
        - This would improve data comparability and quality as an input to future decision-making.
        - Further, there is a need to increase positive financial flows by de-risking & incentivizing and reducing harmful financial flows.

<u>Source: DTE</u>

Positive Indigenisation List

Why in News

The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has notified the **second negative import list**, now renamed as the **'positive indigenisation list'** of 108 items.

The <u>**'First Negative Indigenisation'**</u> List comprising 101 items was notified in August 2020.

Key Points

- **About the Second Positive Indigenisation List:**
  - **Procurement:** All the 108 items will now be procured from indigenous sources as per provisions given in **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**.
  - **Timeline:** It is planned to be implemented progressively with effect from **December 2021 to December 2025.**
  - **Items Included:**
    - It comprises complex systems, sensors, simulator, weapons and ammunitions like Helicopters, Next Generation Corvettes, Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) systems, Tank Engines, Medium Power Radar for Mountains, **MRSAM (Medium Range Surface to Air Missile) Weapon Systems** and many more such items to fulfil the requirements of Indian Armed Forces.
  - **Potential Benefits:**
    - It will give a boost to indigenisation with **active participation of public and private sector** for fulfilling the twin objectives of achieving self-reliance (**Atmanirbhar Bharat**) and promoting defence exports.
    - **Import substitution of ammunition** which is a recurring requirement has been given special focus.
    - Not only does the list recognise the potential of the local defence industry, it will also invigorate impetus to **domestic Research & Development** by attracting fresh investment into technology and manufacturing capabilities.
    - It also provides an **excellent opportunity for 'start-ups'**, as **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** will get a tremendous boost from this initiative.
- **Other Initiatives Taken to Boost Domestic Production of Defence Equipment:**
  - **Increased Capital Acquisition Budget (CAB) for Domestic Sector:** The Ministry of Defence has decided to earmark around 64% of its modernisation funds under the capital acquisition budget for 2021-22, a sum of Rs 70,221 crore, for purchases from the domestic sector.
    - For FY 2020-21, the capital budget allocation for domestic vendors was made at 58%, an amount of Rs. 52,000 crore.
  - **Defence Industrial Corridors:** India has inaugurated **two defence industrial corridors, one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh** to boost the flagship "Make in India" programme that in turn would attract investment as well as encourage employment generation.
    - The Central government has **increased the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit** in the defence sector **from 49 to 74% under automatic route** and **beyond 74% through the government route.**
  - **Corporatization of the Ordnance Factory Boards**: This was announced for better management, so that they can be listed on the stock market and people can buy their shares.
  - **Defence India Startup Challenge**: DISC aims at supporting Startups/MSMEs/Innovators to create prototypes and/or commercialize products/solutions in the area of National Defence and Security.
    - It has been launched by the **Ministry of Defence** in partnership with **Atal Innovation Mission.**
  - **SRIJAN Portal:** It is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items for indigenization.

Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020

- It **enables the notification of a List of Weapons or Platforms that will be banned for import.**
- It focuses on **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in defence manufacturing and indigenization of the manufacturing prices.**

- It also introduces several new ideas such as the need to incorporate artificial **intelligence in platforms and systems, use of indigenous software** in defence equipment and **'innovation' by Start-ups and MSMEs as a new category of defence acquisition.**
- It includes following **procurement categories:** Buy (Indian – Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured), Buy (Indian), Buy and Make (Indian), Buy (Global - Manufacture in India) and Buy (Global).
  - It **increases the Indigenous Content (IC) requirement** for all projects from 40% to 50% earlier, depending on the category, to 50% to 60%.
  - Only under procurement through Buy (Global), foreign vendors can have 30% IC from Indian companies.

Category wise IC Requirement

Category	Vendors eligible to participate	Indigenous Content
Buy (IDDM)	Indian	Indigenous design and ≥ 50%
Buy (Indian)	Indian	In case of indigenous design ≥ 50%, otherwise≥ 60%
Buy and Make (Indian) (Buy portion may be nil)	Indian	≥ 50% of the 'Make' portion and transfer of critical technologies from the foreign vendors as per the specified range, depth and scope
Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)	Foreign and Indian	≥ 50%
Buy (Global)	Foreign and Indian	Foreign Vendor – Nil Indian Vendor ≥ 30%

Way Forward

- The Ministry of Defence, **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and Service Headquarters shall take all necessary steps, including hand holding of the industry, to ensure that the timelines mentioned in the list are met.
  - It will thereby facilitate an environment for Indian defence manufacturers to create world class infrastructure, assist in the government's '**Make in India**' vision to make India self-reliant in defence and develop the capabilities for defence export in the near future.
- The Ministry of Defence is also expected to put out the final version of the **'Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020'.**
  - DPEPP is envisaged as an overarching guiding document to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

Source: TH

World Milk Day

Why in News

Every year, the **first day of June is observed as World Milk Day.**

> On the occasion, the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying** announced the launch of the **Gopal Ratna Awards** and integration of **e-Gopala App with UMANG platform.**

UMANG Platform

- **Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG) Mobile App** is a **unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app** launched under the **Digital India initiative** of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in 2017.
- It is a unified application that can be **used to avail a number of pan India e-government services** such as: Filing income tax, **Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** services, **Aadhar**, **Pension**, **ePathshala**, e- Land Records, **Crop Insurance** etc.

Key Points

- **About:**
    - World Milk Day was **established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in 2001.** The day is intended to provide an opportunity **to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.**
        - FAO is **one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations** that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- **2021 Theme:**
    - Theme will **focus on Sustainability in the dairy sector** with messages around the environment, nutrition and socio-economics.
        - In doing so it will reintroduce dairy farming to the world.
- **Gopal Ratna Awards:**
    - They are **National Awards for the Cattle and Dairy sector**, the awards have been launched to **promote the best herd of Indigenous Breed** and **practicing best management practices** and it will be given in three categories:
        - Best Dairy farmer.
        - Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT).
        - Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk producer Company/ **Farmers Producer Organisation.**
- **e-Gopala (Generation of wealth through Productive Livestock) App:**
    - It is a **comprehensive breed improvement marketplace and information portal** for direct use of farmers.
    - It provides solutions on the aspects of:
        - **Managing livestock** including buying and selling of disease-free germplasm in all forms (semen, embryos, etc.).
        - **Availability of quality breeding services** (Artificial Insemination, veterinary first aid, vaccination, treatment, etc.).

- **Other Initiatives Related to the Dairy sector:**
    - **National Action Plan on Dairy Development 2022:** It seeks to increase milk production and double the income of dairy farmers.
    - <u>**National Animal Disease Control Programme & National Artificial Insemination Programme**</u>: It was launched to control and eradicate the Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country,
    - **Pashu-Aadhar:** It is a unique ID on a digital platform for traceability for the animals.
    - <u>**Rashtriya Gokul Mission:**</u> It was launched in 2019 for setting up of 21 Gokul Grams as Integrated Cattle Development Centres.

Operation Flood (White Revolution)

- **About:**
    - The White Revolution in India was the brainchild of **Dr Verghese Kurein**. Under him many important institutions were established like the **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd** and the <u>**National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).**</u>
    - The White Revolution was started by the NDDB in the 1970s and the bedrock of the revolution has been the **village milk producers' cooperatives.**
- **Phases of the Revolution:**
    - **Phase I:**
        It started **from 1970 and lasted for 10 years i.e. till 1980.** This phase was **financed by the sale of butter oil and skimmed milk powder** donated by the <u>**European Union**</u> through the World Food Program.
    - **Phase II:**
        It lasted for **five years from 1981 to 1985.** During this phase, the number of **milk sheds increased** from 18 to 136, **milk outlets were expanded** to about 290 urban markets, **a self-sustaining system was set up** that included 4,250,000 milk producers spread across 43,000 village cooperatives.
    - **Phase III:**
        It also **lasted for almost 10 years i.e. 1985-1996.** This phase **enabled the dairy cooperatives to expand** and gave a finishing touch to the programme. It also strengthened the infrastructure required to procure and market increasing volumes of milk.
- **Objectives:**
    - Increase milk production ("a flood of milk").
    - Increase rural incomes.
    - Reasonable prices for consumers.
- **Significance:**
    - It helped dairy farmers direct their own development, placing control of the resources they create in their own hands.
    - It has helped India become the largest producer of milk in the world in 2016-17.
        - Currently, **India is the world's largest milk producer, with 22% of global production.**

<u>**Source: PIB**</u>

India-Australia Meeting

Recently, India and Australia reviewed **cooperation in the sectors of agriculture and defence.**

Key Points

- **In the field of Agriculture:**
  - The **India-Australia Grains Partnership** aims to use Australia's expertise in post harvest management to strengthen rural grain storage and supply chains so as to reduce losses and wastage.

    National Institute of Agricultural Marketing will be the **nodal organisation from India.**
  - The flagship program of **National Innovation for Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)** was mentioned and collaboration could be set up with the research organisations of Australia.
    - **NICRA** is **a network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** launched in February 2011.
    - The project aims to enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration.
    - The research on adaptation and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries, and natural resource management.
- **On Defence Cooperation:**
  - Participation of Australia in **Exercise Malabar.**

    After the **Ladakh confrontation**, **India extended the invitation to Australia** and an Australian contingent participated in the **2020 Malabar exercises.**
  - Various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives like **AUSINDEX**, **Mutual Logistic Support Arrangement (MLSA)** and **Defence Science & Technology Implementing Arrangement (DSTIA)** were reviewed.
  - Expressed an intent to convene the **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** at the earliest.

    2+2 Ministerial Dialogue is a format of dialogue where the **defense and foreign ministers meet with their counterparts** from another country. It is the **highest-level institutional mechanism** between the two countries.
- **India-Australia Ties:**
  - **On the Covid-19 front**, Australia has sent oxygen, ventilators and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to India as part of an immediate support package.
  - The trade Ministers of **India, Japan and Australia** have formally launched the **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).**
  - Recently, **India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)** was organised.
  - Both countries upgraded their relationship to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and signed **multiple defence agreements in 2020.**
  - India and Australia co-operate in various **multilateral fora.**
    - Australia supports India's candidature in an expanded **UN Security Council.**
    - Both India and Australia are members of the **Quad**, **Commonwealth, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia Pacific Partnership on Climate and Clean Development,** and have participated in the **East Asia Summits**.
    - Both countries have also been cooperating as members of the **Five Interested Parties (FIP)** in the **World Trade Organization** context.
    - Australia is an important player in **Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** and supports India's membership of the organisation.
  - A **Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement** between the two countries was signed in September 2014.
  - The **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and the Extradition Treaty** between India and Australia, which were signed in June 2008, have been ratified by both the Governments.
  - Both sides are also likely to **explore other options** such as a **closer intelligence relationship,** and in other areas such as **high technology and outer space.**

Source: PIB

PM-CARES for Children Scheme

Why in News

The government has announced a special **"PM-CARES for Children" scheme** for all those orphaned due to **Covid-19.**

Also, the **Supreme Court** has ordered the district authorities to upload the details of children in need of care and protection on **NCPCR** (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) **portal Bal Swaraj.**

Timely support — The Centre has announced a comprehensive financial aid package for children orphaned during the pandemic

- Students can be enrolled in **Kendriya Vidyalayas** or private school with govt. taking care of expenses
- Students of 11-18 years can be enrolled in Sainik Schools or Navodaya Vidyalayas
- **Health insurance** cover of ₹5 lakh
- Corpus of ₹10 lakh per child to be created
- **Monthly stipend** will be offered from corpus after 18 years of age
- Lump sum to be disbursed once the age of 23 is attained

Key Points

About the 'PM-CARES for Children' Scheme:
- **Eligibility:**
  - **Children** who have **lost both parents** or their **lone surviving parent** or their **legal guardian** or **adoptive parent** due to **Covid-19.**
    - There are a total **577 Covid-19** orphans identified across the country. Also, there has been a rise in cases of **child trafficking.**
- **Features of the Scheme:**
  - **Corpus of Rs. 10 Lakh:**
    - A corpus of **Rs. 10 lakh will be allocated to each of these children** from the PM CARES fund.
    - This corpus will be **used to give a monthly stipend from 18 years of their age,** for the next five years and **on reaching the age of 23 years, he or she will get the corpus amount as one lump-sum** for personal and professional use.
  - **Education to the Children:**
    - The education expenses of younger children will be supported by way of **admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas and private schools** up to higher secondary level.
    - These children will also be supported during **their higher education** through either a **scholarship** equivalent to the tuition fees or **educational loans** where the interest on the loan will be paid by the PM-CARES fund.
  - **Health Insurance:**
    - All children will be **enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme** with a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh.
    - The **premium amount will be paid by PM-CARES till a child turns 18.**

PM-CARES Fund

- The government has set up the **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES Fund)** to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation like posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Fund is a **public charitable trust** with the **Prime Minister as its Chairman.** Other Members include **Defence Minister, Home Minister** and **Finance Minister.**
- The Fund **enables micro-donations** as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the **smallest of denominations.**
- It will strengthen **disaster management capacities** and encourage research on **protecting citizens.**
- **Contribution** to **PM - CARES** Fund Qualifies as **CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) Expenditure**.

   Bal Swaraj COVID-Care
   - The **NCPCR** has devised **an online tracking portal "Bal Swaraj (COVID-Care)"** for children in need of care and protection.
   - This has been created with a purpose **for online tracking and digital real time monitoring mechanism of children** who are in need of care and protection.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

- **NCPCR** is **a statutory body** set up in March 2007 under the **Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.**
- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Women & Child Development.**
- The Commission's mandate is **to ensure** that all **laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms** are in consonance with the **child rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India** and also the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.**
- It **inquires into complaints** relating to a child's right to free and compulsory education under the **Right to Education Act, 2009.**
- It **monitors** the implementation of **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.**

Source: TH

BIS SDO Recognition Scheme

Why in News

Recently, the **Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO)** of Indian Railways has become the **first Institution** to be declared a **Standard Developing Organization (SDO)** under **One Nation One Standard mission** of **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).**

   RDSO took the initiative to seek recognition as a Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under the **BIS SDO Recognition Scheme.**

Research Designs & Standards Organization

   It is the **sole R&D Wing of the Ministry of Railways,** is one of India's leading Standard formulating bodies undertaking standardization work for the railway sector situated in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**

Key Points

- **About:**
    - The idea of **One Nation One Standard Mission was first conceived in 2019,** it was envisioned **on the line of <u>one nation, one ration card scheme</u>** in order to ensure quality products in the country.
    - To attain the One Nation One Standard vision of the Government of India, BIS launched a scheme which provides for **Recognition of SDO.**
        - The recognition is **valid for 3 years** and will require renewal after completion of the validity period.
- **Objectives:**
    - **Aggregating and integrating the existing capabilities** and dedicated domain specific expertise available with various organizations in the country engaged in standards development in their specific sectors.
        - The idea is **to develop one template of standard for one given product instead of having multiple agencies set it.**
    - Enable **convergence of all standard development activities** in the country resulting in **One National Standard for One Subject.**
        - This will help in **establishing in the long run Brand India.** This will also ensure **market relevance for the Indian standards.**
- **Other Initiatives of BIS:**
    - **<u>BIS-Care App</u>:**
        - With this app, consumers can **check the authenticity** of the **ISI-marked and hallmarked products** and lodge complaints.
    - **Covid-19 Standards:**
        - BIS developed **<u>Covid-19 </u>**standards for Cover-all and Ventilators and issued norms for grant of **licence for N95 Masks, surgical masks and eye protectors** which has resulted in an increased production of ISI-marked **Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items.**
    - **Quality Control Orders:**
        - BIS has been playing an important role in the **formulation of Quality Control Orders (QCO) to make the standards mandatory.**
    - **Portal for Consumer Engagement:**
        - BIS is developing a portal on Consumer Engagement, which **will facilitate the online registration of Consumer Groups, submission of proposals and approval thereof and complaint management.**

Bureau of Indian Standards

- It has been established for the harmonious **development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods** and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It was **established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986** which came into effect in December 1986. It works under the aegis of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.**
- A new **<u>Bureau of Indian standard (BIS) Act 2016</u>** has been brought into force with effect from October 2017.
    - The Act establishes the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.**

<u>Source: PIB</u>