



# 44th Edition of The ISO COPOLCO Plenary

## Why in News?

India is hosting the **44<sup>th</sup> edition of the ISO COPOLCO Plenary** in New Delhi from 23-26 May 2023. This event is organised by the [Bureau of Indian Standards \(BIS\)](#).

## What is ISO COPOLCO Plenary?

- **About:**
  - ISO COPOLCO is the **Committee on Consumer Policy**, a committee of the **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**.
  - It **ensures standards are developed with consumer needs** in mind and promotes consumer engagement in the standardization process.
- **Significance:**
  - The ISO COPOLCO Plenary plays a crucial role in **shaping global standards and subsequently impacting the lives of people worldwide**.
  - The event fosters **collaboration among ISO member countries** and strategizes for the accelerated development of standards.
- **Importance:**
  - The event aims to **address challenges and good practices for consumer engagement, sustainable futures, and legal frameworks** for consumer protection.
  - It provides a platform for high-level speakers, including ministers and eminent personalities, to discuss consumer-related matters.

## What is ISO?

- **About:**
  - It is an international standard development organization **composed of representatives from the national standards organizations** of member countries.
  - It develops and publishes standardization in all technical and nontechnical fields other than electrical and electronic engineering, which is handled by the IEC.
  - ISO officially came into existence in **1947**.
- **Headquarters:**
  - Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Official languages:**
  - English, French, and Russian.
- **Members:**
  - ISO is an independent, non-governmental international organization with a membership of 168 national standards bodies.
- **India's Role in International Standardization:**
  - India has been actively involved in international standardization efforts and was one of the **founding members of ISO**.
  - The BIS serves as the **National Standards Body of India** and **participates in international and regional standardization initiatives**.
    - BIS is a member of ISO, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and regional standards bodies like Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC), and the South Asian Regional Standards Organization (SARSO) within the framework of

## **What is Bureau of Indian Standards?**

- **BIS** is the National Standard Body of India for the harmonious development of the activities of **standardization, marking and quality certification** of goods.
  - It was established by the BIS Act, 1986 which came into effect in December 1986 and a new BIS Act 2016 was brought into force in 2017.
- BIS works under the aegis of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**
- BIS has been providing **traceability** and **tangibility** benefits to the **national economy** in a number of ways by:
  - Providing safe **reliable** quality **goods**.
  - Minimizing **health hazards** to consumers.
  - Promoting **exports and imports** substitute.
  - Control over **proliferation** of varieties etc through standardization, certification and testing.

**Source: PIB**

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