

BIS CARE

February 2, 2021

In News: Recently, the Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) Mobile App 'BIS-Care' and three portals namely the Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Training Portals of e-BIS for consumers.

Key Points

BIS-Care app: What is it?

- The new BIS-Care app will allow users to check and know about the quality of the products that are ISI and hallmark quality-certified.
- This will allow users to be aware of the authenticity of products and even file complaints about the products that aren't authentic.
- The app is available in both Hindi and English for the ease of use.
- With the app, users can access the complete Complaint Management System and perform the same tasks as the BIS website.

What Is e-BIS?

- The e-BIS is an integrated portal covering all functions of BIS such as enlisting the services of outside agencies for factory and market surveillance and development of mobile app-based and Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled surveillance methods.
- e-BIS strengthening BIS important functions such as Certification and surveillance to enforce the implementation of standards.

Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS)

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.
- It is established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 – Hence it is a Statutory Body.
- The organisation was formerly the Indian Standards Institution (ISI). (The ISI was registered under the Societies Registration Act – Therefore ISI was NOT a Statutory Body.)
- As a corporate body, BIS has 25 members drawn from Central or State Governments, industry, scientific and research institutions, and consumer organisations.
- BIS also works as WTO-TBT (World Trade Organisation Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade) enquiry point for India.

Benefits of BIS

- 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.

Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016

- BIS Act allows multiple types of simplified conformity assessment schemes including self-declaration of conformity.
- BIS act provides enabling provisions for making hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory.
- The Act enables the Central Government to appoint any authority/agency, in addition to the BIS, to verify the conformity of products and services with the established standard and issue certificate of conformity.

- There is a provision for repair or recall, of the products (bearing Standard Mark) that do not conform to the relevant Indian Standard.
- BIS (Hallmarking) Regulations, 2018 under the BIS act calls for Hallmarking of Gold, Silver jewellery and Gold, Silver artefacts.