

One nation one standard mission

June 2, 2021

In news- RDSO (Research Design & Standards Organization) of Indian Railways has become the FIRST Institution to be declared Standard Developing Organization (SDO) under “One Nation One Standard” mission by **BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards)**.

About the mission-

- To attain the “ One Nation One Standard” vision of the Government of India, BIS launched a scheme which provides for “Recognition of SDO” in 2019.
- Through this scheme, BIS aims at **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.
- It then enables **convergence of all standard development activities** in the country resulting in “**One National Standard for One Subject**”.
- The onus of complying with the terms and conditions entails conformance to the established **Six principles of Standardization** with greater emphasis on maintaining **Transparency, Openness, Impartiality, Effectiveness, Coherence and Development Dimension**.
- Participatory approach to Development of standards involving all stakeholders in the process of standard making from the very early stages is set to **reduce the time between development of standards and their ground adaptation or user utilisation**.
- The initiative ushers in a faster transition from development of technology & innovation stage to actual use on ground.

About RDSO-

- Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) 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.
- In 1903, the Indian Railway Conference Association (IRCA) was set up to provide for standardization and coordination amongst various Railway systems.
- This was followed by the Central Standards Office (CSO) established in 1930 at Shimla for preparation of designs, standards and specifications.
- The Research Section of the CSO was reorganized as Railway Testing Research Centre (RTRC) and established on 1st September 1952 as a separate Directorate of Railway Board with headquarters at Lucknow and two sub- centres at Lonavla and Chittaranjan
- In 1957, the **CSO and RTRC were integrated into a single unit as Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) at Lucknow.**
- **Functions include-**
 - Development of new and improved designs.
 - Development, adoption, absorption of new technology for use on Indian Railways.
 - Development of standards for materials and products specially needed by Indian Railways.
 - Technical investigation, statutory clearances, testing and providing consultancy services.
 - Inspection of critical and safety items of rolling stock, locomotives, signalling & telecommunication equipment and track components.

Its recent **recognition will be valid for 3 years** and will require renewal after completion of the validity period.

Bureau of Indian Standards-

- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the **BIS Act 2016**.
- It is working under the aegis of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, Government of India.
- The organisation was **formerly the Indian Standards Institution (ISI)**, registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is set up for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith.
- BIS is **involved in following activities-**
 - Standards Formulation
 - Product Certification Scheme
 - Compulsory Registration Scheme
 - Foreign Manufacturers Certification Scheme
 - Hall Marking Scheme
 - Laboratory Services
 - Laboratory Recognition Scheme
 - Sale of Indian Standards
 - Consumer Affairs Activities
 - Promotional Activities
 - Training Services, National & International level
 - Information Services