

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

165th Meeting of the Executive Committee

PROCEEDINGS – (AGENDA PART – I)

Day and Date : Wednesday, 02 September 2026

Venue : Bureau of Indian Standards,
DG's Committee Room,
Manak Bhavan, 9, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi - 110002

PRESENT:

Chairman : 1. Shri Sanjay Garg, DG, BIS,

Members (Present) : 2. Smt. Richa Misra, Additional Secretary,
Department of Consumer Affairs,
Food & Public Distribution

3. Smt. Anamika Tiwari, ACS,
Additional Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Industries, Commerce & PE Department

4. * Dr. Kadambari Balkawade, IAS,
Commissioner (Industries),
Industries Commissionerate,
Government of Maharashtra

5. * Ms. Anindita Mehta (CEO), Chief Executive Officer,
Consumer Education & Research Centre (CERC)

6. * Shri. Arvind Kumar, Director (Refineries)
Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)

7. * Brig. CH Shiva Shankar, Director,
Directorate of Standardization, Ministry of Defence

Representatives : 1. * Dr. Abhishek Meena, Joint Director,
LEI Division, DPIIT;
(Represented Shri Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Joint
Secretary, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry
and Internal Trade);

2. * Smt. Asha Nangia, Scientist G (Group Coordinator) MEITY;
(Represented Shri Sushil Pal, Joint Secretary, MEITY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology);
3. Maj. Neil Castelino, Chief-Institute of Quality, (CII);
(Represented Shri Shri R Mukundan, President, Confederation of Indian Industry);
4. * Dr. Rakesh Kumar (ADG);
(Represented Dr. Amaresh Kumar Nayak, Deputy Director General (NRM), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR))

Members (Leave of Absence)

- : 1. Prof. Rangan Banerjee,
Director, IIT Delhi

ABSENT

- : 1. Ms. Aparna Bhatia,
Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor,
Department of Consumer Affairs

BIS Officers in Attendance

- : 1. Shri S.K Verma, DDG (Hallmarking);
2. Shri K.V. Rao, DDG (Standardization-II);
3. Lt Col (Retd.) Kumar Shantanu, DDG (Administration);
4. Shri. Sudhir Bishnoi, DDG (Certification);
5. Smt. Nishat S. Haque, DDG (Lab);
6. Smt. Reena Garg, DDG (Standardization-I);
7. Shri. Rajneesh Khosla, DDG (International Relations);
8. Shri. Amit Garg, Director Accounts;
9. Ms. Alka, Secretary (BIS);
10. Smt. Neha Singhal, Head (GSD);
11. Shri D M S Srinivas, Sc. D, SCMD

* Through video conference

Item 1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 1.1** The 165th meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of BIS was held on 02 September 2026. The Agenda (Part-I) of EC 165th meeting was circulated to all EC members through email dated 26 August 2026. However, Agenda (Part-II) of the meeting, being confidential in nature, was sent to the members by post on 26 August 2026. DG, BIS welcomed the members.

Item 2. PRESENTATION ON IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BIS SINCE LAST EC MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2026

- 2.1** A presentation on activities and overview of BIS, highlighting the important initiatives and achievements by BIS in recent past was made by the Activity Heads of BIS.

Item 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 164th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) OF BIS HELD ON 25 MARCH 2026

- 3.1** There being no comments from the members, EC confirmed the proceedings of the 164th meeting of the EC held on 25 March 2026 2025 as given as Annex-3A of the agenda.

Item 4. ACTION TAKEN REPORT (ATR) ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN/ACTIONABLE POINTS OF THE 164th MEETING OF EC HELD ON 25 MARCH 2026

- 4.1** EC noted the Action Taken Report of the 164th meeting of the EC held on 25 March 2026 as given in Annex-4A of the agenda.

Item 5. PROPOSAL FOR ENGAGEMENT OF ADDITIONAL BIS HALLMARKING REPRESENTATIVES (BHRs) FOR STRENGTHENING THE HALLMARKING SCHEME

Background

Mandatory Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Artefacts was implemented in June 2021. At that time, BIS had 30,000 registered jewellers; this number has increased more than seven-fold. The number is expected to continue increasing in the coming years as consumer awareness and demand for BIS hallmarked jewellery continue to grow. Mandatory hallmarking coverage has expanded to 392 districts at present and proposal for inclusion of seven additional districts in the Order is at final stage of gazette notification. With the increase in no. of BIS registered jewellers, assaying and hallmarking centres will be set up in non-mandatory districts, as it is market driven business.

Further, in last years, owing to the significant increase in silver prices, consumers have started demanding for hallmarked silver jewellery. Silver hallmarking still being Voluntary has shown unexpected growth in BIS Registered silver Jewellers, setting up of Silver hallmarking facility by AHCs and hallmarking of silver articles. In terms of scale, the Hallmarking Scheme is very large activity, with over 65 Crore gold articles hallmarked with HUID (w.e.f. 1 July 2021) and over 70 lakh silver articles hallmarked with HUID (w.e.f. 1 September 2025).

Market surveillance of gold and silver jewellers is primarily carried out by BIS Hallmarking Representatives at BOs. Based on experience, each BHR is assigned a target of 110 market samples per month equalling to approximately 135 Market Surveillance of jewellers per month, enabling a maximum theoretical Market surveillance of approximately 1,62,000 (135 Surveillances × 12 Months × 100 BHRs) jewellers by 100 BHRs (approved strength). Therefore, with the strength of 100 BHRs, BIS would not be able to carry out market surveillance of all BIS Registered Jewellers.

The BHRs are presently engaged centrally through a manpower agency selected through GeM. Experience indicates that such centralised hiring results in a large proportion of BHRs being sourced from northern India, leading to language barriers, cultural unfamiliarity and logistical challenges in other regions. Engagement through regional/local empanelled manpower agencies would facilitate deployment of local manpower and improve operational efficiency.

Proposal made to the EC

For effective market surveillance of 2.3 Lakh BIS registered Jewellers, approximately 142 BHRs are required. (*Note – Each BHR is responsible for covering Market Surveillance of 1620 jewellers per year*)

Additionally, one BHR each to CRO, ERO, NRO; two BHRs to SRO and WRO (handling over 50% AHCs) and one BHR for Hallmarking Department are proposed to support BIS Hallmarking Officers, ensuring effective implementation of the Hallmarking Scheme.

In view of the above, EC was requested for the approval of engagement of a total of 150 BIS Hallmarking Representatives on contract through Regional/local manpower agencies via GeM, with the Terms and Conditions as specified in at Para 5.1.2 of the agenda item.

Decision of the EC

The Executive Committee approved.

Item 6. PROPOSED REVISION OF BIS R&D GUIDELINES

Background

BIS had launched the R & D Scheme in the year 2023 and more than 200 R&D projects have been floated so far, out of which 155 projects have been successfully completed under Phase 1 to 4. The reports of these R & D projects have been utilized as inputs for formulation or revision of Indian Standards.

With the experience gained through the four phases of R&D Projects and feedback received from the stakeholders (including academicians, TC members, Researchers etc.), it has been observed that the maximum amount for each project i.e. Rs 10 Lakhs and time limit of six months may not be adequate to carry out complete study/analysis for getting the desired output for some projects.

During the recent review meeting convened by DG BIS, with the Heads of Technical Departments, it was decided to propose revised upper limit for expenditure per project to Rs 25 Lakhs and increase the time limit to one year.

Proposal made to the EC

Accordingly, following amendments are proposed in the existing R&D Guidelines (SCMD/R&D Guidelines/20260115 dated 15 Jan 2026):

Clause	Original Text	Proposed Text
3.2	The specified duration of a project shall be given in relevant Terms of Reference (ToR), which shall not exceed 6 months , counted from the date of release of the first instalment of the funds to acceptance of the final report by the Sectional Committee (SC) concerned, provided that the timelines for various approvals and release of funds, as recommended in Clause 11.3, shall apply and shall be excluded from the calculation of the project duration.	The specified duration of a project shall be given in relevant Terms of Reference (ToR), which shall not exceed one year , counted from the date of release of the first instalment of the funds to acceptance of the final report by the Sectional Committee (SC) concerned, provided that the timelines for various approvals and release of funds, as recommended in Clause 11.3, shall apply and shall be excluded from the calculation of the project duration.
3.3	The upper limit for expenditure for a project shall be ₹ 10 lakhs (including taxes) only.	The upper limit for expenditure for a project (including taxes) shall be ₹ 10 Lakhs for Category I projects and ₹ 25 Lakhs Category II projects. a) Category I - The projects which can be completed within the expenditure limit of ₹ 10 Lakhs. b) Category II - The projects which require expenditure up to ₹ 25 Lakhs. Such projects may need extensive research and analysis, data generation, wider stakeholder consultation (including site visits), and testing of samples of more than one

		type/variety or testing time/changes are on the higher side Note: A detailed justification for considering a particular project under Category II shall be attached as an Annexure to the ToR duly signed by concerned Member Secretary through HoD & SC Chairperson.
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Decision of the EC

The Executive Committee approved.

Item 7. ALIGNMENT OF BIS PAY SCALES WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PAY MATRIX – LEGAL OPINION IN THE MATTER OF SO/PS CADRE PARITY (PENDING DIVISION BENCH APPEAL) AND FURTHER COURSE OF ACTION

Background

At its last meeting, the Executive Committee considered Agenda Item 14 concerning alignment of BIS pay scales with the Central Government Pay Matrix.

The Executive Committee decided that BIS should first obtain a formal legal opinion on the matter before the proposal is placed for further consideration. BIS was accordingly directed to brief external counsel and place the opinion, together with its recommendations, before the Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting.

In compliance with this decision, BIS referred the matter to Sh. Nischal Joshi, Advocate, who rendered a detailed legal opinion dated 20.07.2026. The considered conclusion of the legal opinion, so far as it concerns the SO/PS matter and the wider proposal, is summarised as follows:

(i) There has been historical parity between the relevant cadres of BIS and the corresponding cadres of the Central Secretariat Services (CSS) and Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service (CSSS) and has not been incidental or temporary. The single judge's judgement dated 20.12.2024 has expressly recognised this historical parity and held that any arbitrary departure therefrom, without a rational and legally sustainable justification, would offend the constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

(ii) BIS is a financially self-sustaining statutory body and has, for several decades, discharged its recurring expenditure from internally generated resources without dependence upon Government grant-in-aid. Consequently, the object underlying Rule 230(12) (i) of the General Financial Rules, 2017 – namely, protecting the Consolidated Fund from uncontrolled financial commitments of grant-dependent autonomous bodies - does not operate in the same manner in relation to BIS.

(iii) There exists no legal impediments to approval of the proposal for alignment of the BIS Pay Matrix with the corresponding Central Government Pay Matrix. On the contrary, the cumulative effect of the constitutional guarantees, the judicial recognition of historical parity by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, the doctrines of Equal Pay for Equal Work and Legitimate Expectation, and the financial autonomy enjoyed by BIS strongly support continuation of such parity.

(iv) Proposal for alignment of the BIS Pay Matrix with the corresponding Central Government Pay Matrix deserves favourably consideration and expeditious approval. BIS is legally justified in recommending and pursuing such alignment before the competent Government authorities. The competent authority should accord due weight to the constitutional principles governing equality, the binding judicial pronouncements recognising historical parity, the financial self-sufficiency of BIS, and the absence of any statutory prohibition against such alignment.

(v) BIS should approve the proposal in principle and forward it, together with a comprehensive justification based on historical parity, financial self-sufficiency, constitutional principles and the judgement of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court in Vijay Kumar & Others, to the competent Government authorities for formal approval wherever such approval is considered necessary under the applicable statutory and financial framework.

Proposal made to the EC

In keeping with the above, it was requested that the Executive Committee may kindly be pleased to consider and, if found suitable, approve the following:

- (i) Take note of the brief of Agenda Item 14 of 164th meeting of EC and decision directing BIS to obtain a legal opinion;
- (ii) Take note of the legal opinion dated 20.07.2026, on the matter;
- (iii) Consider approving, in principle, the proposed amendment to the First Schedule (Regulation 12) of the BIS (Terms and Conditions of Service of Employees) Regulations, 2020; and
- (iv) Authorise placement of the matter, along with the decision of the Executive Committee, before the Governing Council for its consideration and ratification.

The above is submitted for the kind and favourable consideration of the Executive Committee.

Decision of the EC

The EC opined that the proposal cannot be considered till the SO/PS Litigation (Vijay Kumar & Others v. Director General, BIS & Others, W.P.(C) No. 2848/2013) is decided. The EC recommended to defer the proposal till then.

Item 8. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26

Background

The agenda item "**Annual Accounts of Bureau of Indian Standards for the Financial Year 2025-26**" was received from Accounts Department for approval of the EC members, via circulation, on 25 June 2026.

In view of urgency, the agenda item was circulated to EC members vide our e-mail dated 25 June 2026 with the request to approve the proposal by 29 June 2026 as Annual Accounts to C&AG for audit were required to be approved by the Executive Committee (EC) on the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) before 30th June 2026.

It was also stated in the e-mail that in case no reply is received by the said date, we may be permitted to presume the approval of the agenda item by the EC members. Following members communicated their approval on the agenda item:

- i. Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta, Director CSIR – National Physical Laboratory (NPL);
- ii. Shri. Krushna Chandra Panigrahy, DG, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE);
- iii. Approval of Prof. Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Gandhinagar

Approval of other members was assumed as no comment/query was received from the rest of the members.

Proposal made to the EC

EC was requested to note.

Decision of the EC

The Executive Committee noted.

Item 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

9.1 DDGA, while the agenda item no.5, "*Proposal for engagement of additional BIS Hallmarking Representatives (BHRS) for strengthening the hallmarking scheme*", was being discussed, proposed that the similar practice may be followed while engaging the Standard Promotion Officers (SPOs) by decentralising the process of engagement. The Branch Offices may engage the SPOs at their level through GeM availing services of the local manpower management agencies. The EC acceded to the proposal and approved it.

Item 10. DEVELOPMENT OF A NON-DESTRUCTIVE METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF GOLD CONTENT IN GOLD JEWELLERY

Background

The determination of gold content under the BIS Hallmarking Scheme is presently carried out using the Cupellation (Fire Assay) Method prescribed in IS 1418, *Determination of Gold in Gold Bullion, Gold Alloys and Gold Jewellery/Artefacts – Cupellation (Fire Assay) Method*. Fire Assay is internationally recognised as a reference method for determining gold purity owing to its high accuracy and reliability. In the Fire Assay process, a small sample is extracted from the jewellery article through scraping, drilling or cutting. Despite its accuracy, the Fire Assay method presents several practical challenges. Most notably, it is a destructive testing technique requiring removal of material from the jewellery article. Therefore, testing is carried out on a sampling basis. Although the quantity of gold lost during testing is negligible, the process may damage delicate jewellery items and may adversely affect the marketability of certain articles. The method is also time-intensive, typically requiring 4-6 hours for completion of the assay and hallmarking process. Further, it involves the use of hazardous chemicals such as lead and nitric acid, resulting in lead oxide emissions and nitrous fumes, thereby necessitating appropriate environmental control measures and safe disposal practices. These limitations have resulted in increasing demand from jewellers and AHCs for a reliable non-destructive alternative test method.

A significant proportion of Indian jewellery is handmade and contains multiple soldered joints which may have different fineness from the main body of the jewellery. Additionally, jewellery may be manufactured using casting, electroforming, plating, coating, laser joining and other technologies that may result in localised variations in composition. Such heterogeneity makes surface-based analytical techniques potentially unreliable, as measurements obtained at one location may not represent the overall purity of the article. Further, the exact composition of alloying elements and impurities present in the jewellery is generally unknown prior to testing, thereby complicating accurate quantification.

A 15-day study conducted by Hallmarking Department at the BIS Referral Assay Laboratory, Mumbai, from 13 to 29 June 2022, covering 260 market samples of gold jewellery, evaluated the correlation between XRF and fire assay results. The study found good correlation for XRF testing of melted strips, with 93% of the samples showing a difference of within 3 ppt compared to fire assay results. However, the study did not establish sufficient technical evidence to support the use of XRF as a non-destructive alternative to fire assay, particularly as XRF testing of 'as received' jewellery showed significant variations, indicating that hallmarking cannot be based solely on XRF results of 'as received' jewellery in the Indian context. Subsequently, BIS participated in the Smart India Hackathon 2025 with a similar problem statement to explore new or alternative non-destructive methods for assaying gold jewellery and artefacts, however, no practically workable solution was received.

Development of a reliable non-destructive technology would significantly reduce testing time, improve the throughput of AHCs, minimise environmental impact, eliminate destructive sampling and further strengthen consumer confidence in the BIS Hallmarking Scheme.

In order to identify suitable technological solutions, BIS invited R&D proposals from twenty premier academic institutions/research organisations across the country, including IITs, NITs and CSIR laboratories, vide letter Ref. No. BIS/HMD/Gen-1 dated 24 June 2026. A detailed Problem Statement,

along with relevant Indian Standards, was also shared with the institutions for submission of technical proposals.

Four institutes, namely IIT Kharagpur, MANIT Bhopal, IIT Kanpur and IIT Delhi, have so far submitted proposals to BIS, indicating their interest in undertaking work on the Challenge and sharing the basic outlines of their proposed approaches. The proposals are based on different scientific principles, including multi-modal spectroscopy, Raman/X-ray-based techniques, machine-learning-assisted non-destructive testing and muon-based elemental analysis. Since the proposals are based on fundamentally different scientific approaches, it is not possible at this stage to determine which approach would ultimately result in a technically robust, reliable and commercially deployable solution suitable for nationwide implementation.

Based on the recommendations of the Expert Evaluation Committee, technically suitable research proposals, up to a maximum of three R&D proposals, may be selected for financial support, considering that the proposals are based on different scientific principles and that parallel development of multiple approaches may enhance the probability of successfully developing a reliable non-destructive testing methodology.

DG BIS has full power to sanction R&D project(s) as per the schedule mentioned in regulation 3 of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Powers and Duties of Director General) Regulation, 2018. It is therefore, proposed that DG BIS may accord financial approval of Rs. 5 Crores for the R&D project(s), which will be sought in RBE 2026-27. The selected research projects shall be placed before the DG BIS for financial approval.

The mode of payment for Research & development projects shall be as follows:

- a) First instalment of 30 percent of the total approved project cost would be released after approval of the project.
- b) Second instalment to the extent of 50 percent of the approved estimated cost would be released on the submission of 'Statement of Expenditure and Progress Report'. The Statement of Expenditure shall reflect utilization of at least 75% of the funds already released and shall be duly authenticated by Head of the Institute/Organization. The Expert Evaluation Committee to examine the Statement of Expenditure and Progress Report and recommend release of second instalment endorsing the Statement of Expenditure and Progress Report.
- c) The balance amount of 20 percent shall be released after receipt of the following documents by the Expert Evaluation Committee:
 - i. Final R&D Project Report duly accepted by the Expert Evaluation Committee; and
 - ii. Statement of Total Expenditure duly authenticated by Head of the Institute/Organization. After the release of the balance amount by BIS, the Project Completion Report and the Utilization Certificate for the total grant received shall be submitted by the proposer as per Form GFR 12-A of GFR 2017.

The detailed guidelines of the R&D project(s) including terms of reference shall be prepared by the Hallmarking Department for approval of DG BIS.

Proposal made to the EC

In view of the above, EC was requested for the approval of the following:

- i) BIS to undertake R&D programme for the development of reliable non-destructive method for determination of gold content in gold jewellery/artefacts;
- ii) Constitution of an Expert Evaluation Committee by DG, BIS for technical evaluation of proposals received from academic and research institutions;
- iii) According of budget of Rs. 5 Crores for the R&D project(s); and
- iv) Selection and funding of suitable R&D project(s), up to a maximum of three, by DG BIS, based on the recommendations of the Expert Evaluation Committee.

Submitted for kind consideration and approval, please.

Decision of the EC

The EC approved the proposal with recommendation that the first instalment of 30% be reduced to 10%.