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# Government Establishes Online Gaming Authority to Regulate Sector

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The Government of India has set up the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming framework to regulate the rapidly expanding online gaming sector. The authority will function under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and aims to ensure a safe, transparent, and accountable gaming ecosystem.

## Structure and Composition

The OGAI has been constituted as a multi-member body comprising representatives from key ministries including Home Affairs, Finance, Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, and Law & Justice. It is chaired by a senior official (Additional Secretary level) from MeitY, ensuring inter-ministerial coordination in regulating the sector.

## Functions and Responsibilities

The authority is responsible for registration and classification of online games, monitoring compliance with regulatory norms, and enforcing rules. It will also issue directions to gaming platforms, oversee data-related safeguards, and take action against violations, especially in cases involving illegal or harmful gaming practices.

## Regulatory Approach

The government has adopted a differentiated regulatory strategy. Non-monetary or casual online games will be subject to a relatively "light-touch" regulation, while real-money gaming platforms will face stricter scrutiny due to

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higher risks of addiction, fraud, and money laundering.

### **User Protection and Safety Measures**

A major focus of the framework is user protection. Measures such as age verification, safeguards against financial loss, and mechanisms to prevent psychological harm have been emphasized. The authority will also work to curb illegal betting and offshore gaming platforms.

### **Significance**

The establishment of OGAI reflects the government's effort to balance innovation and regulation in the digital economy. With India being one of the fastest-growing online gaming markets, this move is expected to enhance investor confidence while ensuring responsible gaming practices.