



World Accreditation Day 2020: QCI

Why in News

Recently, the **World Accreditation Day (WAD)** was celebrated on **9th June** by the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** to highlight as well as to promote the **role of accreditation in trade & economy**.

- The **theme** for WAD 2020 was **“Accreditation: Improving Food Safety”**.

Key Points

- **Accreditation** is a **formal, independent verification** that a program or institution meets established quality standards in terms of **testing, inspection, or certification**.
- **Importance of Accreditation:**
 - It is an important tool to **improve the quality** of product and services in the field of health, education, food as well as other areas.
 - It also promotes the **adoption of quality standards** relating to Quality Management Systems, Food Safety Management Systems and Product Certification.
 - Overall, it helps in realizing the objective of **improving quality competitiveness** of Indian products and services.
- **The International Accreditation Forum:**
 - It is the **world association of Conformity Assessment Accreditation bodies and other bodies** interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programs of conformity assessment.
 - **Conformity Assessment Bodies:** These are bodies that can certify product, process or services, management systems or persons. E.g. **International Organization for Standardization (ISO)**.
 - **India is also a member.**
- **Quality Assessment in the Food Sector:**
 - The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recognized the role of credible, competent accreditation inputs in overall services.
 - There is an urgent need for **development of conformity assessment infrastructure** and **consumer empowerment** in the country.
 - There is a **need to institutionalize the virtual assessment** and the **accreditation of state food testing laboratories**.
 - There is a need to encourage accredited laboratories to undertake **Proficiency Testing (PT)** and increase the number of **accredited Reference Materials Producers (RMPs)**.
 - An **Integrated System for information exchange** is also necessary for the food sector.
 - **Suggested Measures:**
 - **Six Point Programme for Future:**
 - Scaling up conformity assessment systems in different parts of the country.
 - Encourage PPP model of FSSAI to work forward for **“Saajha Nivesh, Saajha Vikas, Saajha Vishwas**.

- Working in direction of Certified in India and accepted globally.
- Informal Market formalization.
- **Rashtriya Gunavatta Abhiyan:** It will help in **crowdsourcing to check quality issues** in the local market and to **develop a robust Market Surveillance.**
- **Rapid Alert System** with all Regulators on **one single e-platform.**

Quality Council of India

- The **Quality Council of India (QCI)** set up in **1997** is an **autonomous body** attached to the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- **The Chairman of QCI** is appointed by the **Prime Minister** on recommendation of the industry to the government.
- Its **mandate is to establish and operate the National Accreditation Structure (NAS)** for conformity assessment bodies and providing accreditation in the field of health, education and quality promotion .
- **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)** and **National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)** are the two **accreditation boards** of the **QCI.**
 - **These two bodies** work closely to support the Government and regulators to ensure that the data provided by **accredited conformity assessment bodies** is **robust, reliable, trustworthy in terms of decision making, compliance testing and standards setting.**
- Indian industry is represented in QCI by three premier industry associations namely **ASSOCHAM; CII; and FICCI.**

Source: PIB

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