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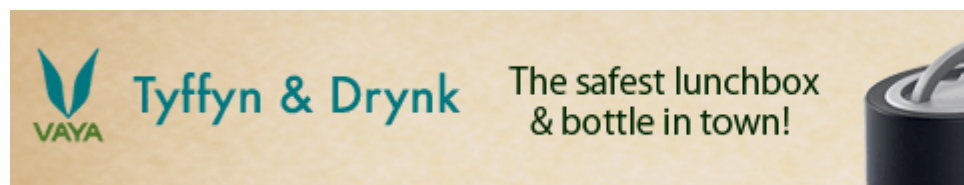
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🕒 June 21, 2019 👤 Posted by: InsightsIAS

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Relevant articles from PIB:

Paper 2:

Topics covered:

1. Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies

National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)

(<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/06/21/national-accreditation-board-for-certification-bodies-nabcb/>)

What to study?

For prelims and mains: about NABCB, roles, objectives and significance of accreditation.

Context: The **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB)**, India's national accreditation body, has secured **international equivalence for its accreditation programme** for personnel certification bodies.

Background:

NABCB signed the **Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** of the **Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)** for its accreditation programme based on international standard, ISO/IEC 17024.

ISO/IEC 17024: Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons specifies criteria for the operation of a Personnel Certification Bodies (also known as a certification body for persons). The standard includes requirements

for the development and maintenance of the certification schemes for persons upon which the certification is based.

Significance:

- With the above recognition, NABCB hopes to facilitate export of Indian services and skills into the world market by attesting that persons are certified following international standards by the certifying bodies.
- Personnel Certification would support many professionals in India, especially those who do not have formal education or certificate programme.
- Any person carrying ISO/IEC 17024 certificate with NABCB logo will be recognized internationally.
- It can also be used by regulators for establishing confidence in certified personnel for different activities.
- This signifies that the accreditation of personnel certification bodies by NABCB is now accepted as equivalent at international level.

About NABCB:

NABCB, a ***constituent Board of the Quality Council of India***, an autonomous body attached to the ***Ministry of Commerce and Industry***, is responsible for accreditation of certification/inspection bodies as per applicable international standards under an international system of equivalence.

Significance of accreditation:

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring that accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation.

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC):

It was established on 1 January 2019 by the ***amalgamation of two former regional accreditation cooperations – the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC)***.

APAC 's primary role is ***to manage and expand a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA)*** among accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region.

The ***MRA facilitates the acceptance of conformity assessment results*** (e.g. test reports, test certificates, inspection reports, and certification) across the region and with other regions around the world.

APAC's members include accreditation bodies, accreditation focal points and other organisations that have an interest in accredited conformity assessment results.

Relevant articles from various news sources:

Paper 3:

Topics Covered:

1. IPR related issues.

Namma Kolhapuri chappal gets GI boost

(<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/06/21/namma-kolhapuri-chappal-gets-gi-boost/>)

What to study?

For Prelims: GI tags and about Kolhapuri chappal.