

QCI Celebrates the World Accreditation Day 2020



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GS3 Economy



Context: The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is celebrated on 9th June every year to highlight as well as to promote the role of accreditation in trade & economy.

About the WAD:

- **The theme** for WAD 2020 is “**Accreditation: Improving Food Safety**”, as decided by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).
- National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (**NABCB**) and National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (**NABL**), the two accreditation boards of the Quality Council of India (QCI), organised a Webinar to commemorate the event.

NABCB, a constituent Board of the **Quality Council of India**, is responsible for accreditation of certification/inspection bodies as per applicable international standards under an international system of equivalence.

- NABCB is a member of **International Accreditation Forum (IAF) & International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)** & Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).

Significance of accreditation:

- The role of credible, competent accreditation is to provide **inputs in decision making**.
 - The data provided by accredited conformity assessment bodies is **robust, reliable, trustworthy** in decision making, **compliance testing and standards setting**.
- It **shares the regulatory burden** and helping in compliance monitoring using the services of the accredited conformity assessment bodies.
- Accreditation also **facilitates world trade and economic growth**.
- The ultimate goal is to **improve the quality of product and services** in the food sector as well as other areas.

Six point programme for future:

1. **Scaling up conformity assessment system** in different parts of country;
2. **Encourage PPP model of FSSAI** to work forward for “Saajha Nivesh, Saajha Vikas, Saajha Vishwas”. Work in direction of Certified in India and accepted globally;
3. Informal **Market formalization**.
4. **Initiating “Rashtriya Gunavatta Abhiyan ”** which will help in crowdsourcing to check quality issues in the local market through a double blinded system.
5. To develop a **robust Market Surveillance and Rapid Alert System** with all Regulators on one single e-platform.

The accreditation has a **very important role** to play in the quality ecosystem. The need of the hour is to ramp up capability and capacity to help improve quality in food services and other sectors in India.

The Quality Council of India (QCI):

- It was set up as a **non-profit autonomous society in 1997**, registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860 **to establish an accreditation structure** in the country and to spread quality movement in India by undertaking a National Quality Campaign.
- **Mission Statement:** The Mission of QCI is to lead nationwide quality movement in India by involving all stakeholders for emphasis on adherence to quality standards in all spheres of activities primarily for promoting and protecting interests of the nation and its citizens.
- **The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is the nodal department for QCI.
- Chairman of QCI is appointed by the **Prime Minister** on recommendation of the industry to the government.
- QCI is **governed by a Council of 38 members** including the Chairman and Secretary General. The Council has an equal representation of Government, Industry and other Stakeholders.

Image Source: ilac.org

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