

QUALITY INDIA

GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE ON QUALITY

QCI works for the improvement in the quality of goods and services through its constituent Boards and Divisions.

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INTERVIEW



Chhavi Rajawat
Former Sarpanch of Soda Village, Rajasthan



Transforming Aspirations into Achievements

SPOTLIGHT

Asian Games 2023:
The advent of India's ascent to prominence in sports

ACHIEVEMENTS

City Finance Rankings 2022:
Laying a Strong Foundation of Urban Finances

17 SUCCESS STORY
ZED Growth Story

26 MILESTONE
NABH Enhancing Healthcare Ecosystem Nationwide

28 QCI INITIATIVE
National Training Program for Women Sarpanchs

Quality Council Of India (QCI)

National Accreditation Body of India

QCI was established through a Cabinet Decision of February 1996 as an independent autonomous body under the (now) Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, to provide accreditation services and to spread quality movement in India across industry sectors.



E-learning

Software

Chairperson's Message

Inspiring Vision, Leadership, and
Words of Wisdom



Shri Jaxay Shah
Chairperson, Quality Council of India

Dear Friends,

As we journey through the past quarter at the Quality Council of India, our endeavours have not only been about enhancing current standards but also about envisioning and shaping a vibrant future for our nation. Reflecting on the past year, we've seen remarkable growth in both India and the Quality Council of India, highlighting our collective commitment to continuous improvement and excellence. This is particularly embodied in our alignment with the ambitious 'Viksit Bharat@2047' vision, which marks the centenary of India's independence. This vision inspires us to think long-term, to lay the foundations for a future where quality and excellence are not just aspirations but realities in every sector. As we forge ahead, let us keep this vision in our hearts and minds, driving our efforts towards a 'Viksit Bharat' where the quality of life, education, healthcare, and governance meet the highest global standards. It's a journey of a thousand miles, and we have already begun.

Our latest edition of Quality India Magazine vividly captures these transformative strides. A prime highlight has been the launch of the Gunvatta Gurukul. This initiative represents a synthesis of technology and traditional learning, aimed at cultivating a generation of young professionals who will become the architects of a developed India. The Gunvatta Gurukul, with its collaborative partnerships with industry leaders and experts, offers students real-world insights and mentorship, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the future. This initiative is more than just a training program; it's an investment in the future, a bridge connecting talent with opportunity, and a beacon of quality and skill enhancement.

This year, the Quality Council of India marked significant achievements in quality enhancement and standardisation. The ZED (Zero Defect Zero Effect) Certification Scheme, overseen by the Ministry of MSME and QCI, reached a milestone of over 100,000 certifications, reflecting the commitment of MSMEs to quality and sustainability, and aligning with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. Additionally, the inauguration of the QCI office for the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in Ahmedabad signifies a major step

in bolstering India's capabilities in testing and calibration, furthering our national goal of excellence in quality standards.

Our interaction with Chhavi Rajawat, the trailblazing former Sarpanch of Soda Village, stands out as a beacon of effective community leadership. Her insights have been invaluable in shaping our approach to rural development and governance. The National Training Program for Women Sarpanchs is a testament to our commitment to empowering women in leadership. This program, under our Sarpanch Samvaad initiative, is not just about training; it's about instilling the concept of quality at the grassroots. We're equipping these remarkable women with the tools to drive change and foster community well-being.

Another key milestone was the Gunvatta Sankalp events in Assam and Andhra Pradesh. The Assam Gunvatta Sankalp marked a significant step in our commitment to enhancing quality standards, particularly in agriculture, across the state. Similarly, the Andhra Pradesh Gunvatta Sankalp fostered a crucial partnership between QCI and the state government. This collaboration, central to our mission of fostering a quality culture at the grassroots level, saw the launch of the IndGAP portal, revolutionising Indian agriculture by aligning it with global quality standards. Both events symbolise our national efforts in building robust quality ecosystems and empowering diverse stakeholders, from farmers to agri-startups.

As we stride into India's Amrit Kaal, the Quality Council of India's role becomes ever more pivotal. In our pursuit of Viksit Bharat@2047, the emphasis on quality is not just a priority, but a necessity. It is the cornerstone upon which a developed, self-reliant India will be built. Our efforts today in enhancing quality across all sectors are the building blocks for a future where excellence is the norm. This journey towards a developed India, a Viksit Bharat, will be marked by our commitment to upholding and exceeding global standards, ensuring that India's growth is both inclusive and sustainable.

Together, let's embrace this journey towards excellence, embodying quality in our actions and initiatives. Our collective efforts will define the future we create, a future where quality is not just a benchmark but a way of life.

Secretary General's Message

Guiding Principles, Insights, and Engaging Perspectives



Shri Rajesh Maheshwari
Secretary General (I/C), Quality Council of India

Greetings!

At QCI, we have embarked on a nationwide mission to disseminate the message of quality. It brings me immense joy to share that India's national accreditation system under the Quality Council of India (QCI), has once again accomplished a remarkable milestone. For the second consecutive year, it has secured the prestigious 5th position in the esteemed Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2023. This remarkable accomplishment further cements India's position as a leading player in the global arena. The visionary leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Honourable Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal ji has been instrumental in driving QCI's unwavering commitment to establishing 'Make in India' as a globally trusted brand, firmly grounded in the principles of quality and credibility. This prestigious ranking serves as yet another testament to India's steadfast progress on the path of self-reliance. Our systems have become a shining example, emulated by other nations, showcasing our unwavering dedication to excellence and innovation.

The effective execution of the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme by the Quality Council of India is also a testament to the scheme's success. In a short span of time, it has accomplished a significant milestone by awarding over 1,00,000 ZED certifications. This remarkable achievement reflects the increasing dedication of MSMEs from various sectors to uphold quality and sustainability within their operations.

This quarter marked the commencement of our latest initiative 'Guvatta Gurukul,' tailored for the vibrant young minds of our nation. Beyond imparting mere knowledge and skills, Guvatta Gurukul envisions a holistic platform that instills a deep sense of responsibility and dedication among the youth, fortifying the foundation of India's future. November 29, 2023, marked a historic moment as Guvatta Gurukul commenced its journey in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, all united in their commitment to "Skill India." The event was graced by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary DPIIT, as the esteemed Chief Guest. Our initiative takes immense pride in nurturing a diverse maiden batch of 87 students, and each one of them embarked on a transformative path towards excellence.

In alignment with our innovative initiative "Sarpanch Samvaad," we successfully organized a one-day Training Program specifically designed for Women Sarpanchs in Delhi on December 2, 2023. This program aimed to empower the elected functionaries with essential knowledge and skills to effectively manage Panchayat affairs. The program was graced by the participation of Women Sarpanchs from 10 states across India, including Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. This remarkable initiative underscores QCI's unwavering commitment to promoting

inclusive and effective local governance in India through capacity building and empowerment of Women Sarpanchs.

In our pursuit of fostering a reliable network, we have strategically expanded our physical presence across various states, including Bangalore, Kolkata and Ahmedabad. This expansion aims to not only enhance the states' testing, calibration, and medical lab facilities but also to strengthen communication with the local CABs. By establishing these new offices, we are making it more accessible for Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities to reap the benefits of our services, thereby promoting comprehensive grievance resolution for all stakeholders involved.

With the full support of the Government of Assam and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, QCI, in its endeavour to promote a quality mission across the states of India, organized the Assam Guvatta Sankalp and the Andhra Pradesh Guvatta Sankalp events. These significant events were aimed at bringing a transformational quality revolution directly to the citizens of the states. The events were graced by eminent personalities, such as Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam; Dr. J.B. Ekka, IAS, Principal Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Department; Dr. Lakshmanan S, Secretary, Industries, Commerce & PE Department, Assam at the Assam Guvatta Sankalp and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh Govt. Shri Kakani Govardhan Reddy Garu; Shri Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Chief Commissioner, RBKs, & Special Chief Secretary to A.P. Govt.; Shri Chiranjiv Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Govt. Marketing & Cooperation Development; Dr S. S. Sreedhar, Commissioner of Horticulture & Sericulture at the Andhra Pradesh Guvatta Sankalp. The presence of these esteemed individuals demonstrated the collective commitment to fostering quality improvement and excellence in various sectors, making the events a significant milestone in both the states' journey towards progress.

To achieve the goal of making India self-sufficient in defence manufacturing, QCI has created the System for Advanced Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) Certification Scheme in collaboration with DRDO. The certification is based on a maturity assessment model developed by QCI and is applicable to both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large manufacturing enterprises. The scheme is a significant step toward fostering excellence and resilience in our nation's defence sector and making India a net defence exporter by focusing on quality.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you and all our stakeholders for the unwavering support and trust bestowed on QCI. As we embark on our journey towards the Amritkal, QCI anticipates more opportunities to drive the quality ecosystem in India. On this joyous occasion, I offer my warmest wishes to our readers for a prosperous, impactful, and blissful Year 2024.

INSIDE

Improving Quality in all aspects of life

QUALITY INDIA | SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

06



GUNVATTA GURUKUL COVER STORY

Shaping Professionals
for a Developed India

14



A STUNNING TALE OF EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

INTERVIEW: A movement towards quality &
excellence at the grassroots

17



ZED SUCCESS SAGA SUCCESS STORY

The scheme encourages MSMEs to adopt
best practices and implement quality
management systems

28



SARPANCH SAMVAAD A QCI INITIATIVE

National Training Program For
Women Sarpanchs

OUR BOARDS



37



44



47



54



57



**EARN
WHILE
YOU
LEARN**

#GUNVATTAGURUKUL

SELF RELIANCE | DEVELOPMENT | SKILL INDIA

Youth is the canvas upon which the future paints its masterpiece. India currently boasts the world's largest working-age population, estimated to reach 68.9% of its total population by 2030. This provides a vast pool of potential talent for driving economic growth. India's demographic dividend is not just a statistic; it is the heartbeat of a nation's potential. With a youthful population, pulsating energy, and a thirst for knowledge, India stands at the cusp of a transformative era. Harnessing this demographic dividend is not just an economic imperative; it is a societal commitment to nurture the dreams and aspirations of millions, steering the nation towards a rewarding future for all.

Imperative for Skill Development: Challenges Faced by the Youth in India

Skill gap

While India has a large workforce, the skills possessed may not always align with the demands of the current and future job markets. Bridging this skill gap is crucial for maximizing the potential of the demographic dividend.

Missing industry-academia link

The goals and priorities of educational institutions and the industry may differ, resulting in challenges related to employability and job quality. Establishing a stronger connection between academia and industry is essential to address this gap and enhance the employability and quality of the workforce.

Inequitable distribution of benefits

The benefits of the demographic dividend may not be distributed equitably, potentially widening inequalities across different regions and social groups. To maximize the advantages of this demographic shift, it is essential to ensure inclusive growth and address disparities, thereby promoting a more balanced distribution of opportunities and benefits.

How Gunvatta Gurukul aspires to fill this gap?

Recognizing the immense potential that lies within young minds, Gunvatta Gurukul takes this a step further, actively shaping and nurturing that potential into a potent force for positive change.

VISION

To create a cadre of young professionals, forge and augment Leadership, ignite Brilliance, stimulate Quality growth, and act as a catalyst of nation-building.

MISSION

To integrate a diverse & vibrant workforce from across the country and nurture them into valuable 'Quality' talent through experiential learning for Developed India.

OBJECTIVE

Empower individuals with high-value skills, foster personal and professional growth equipping them with tools to succeed in the competitive employment landscape.

A Gurukul for tomorrow's India: Key Features

Unique and Innovative:

Empowering the youth to carve a niche in the advancing world while reinforcing India's traditional roots and pledging towards the nation's development. Gunvatta Gurukul initiative transcends a blend of technology and traditional training programs, serving as a testament to our commitment to cultivate a generation of young professionals poised to become the architects of Viksit Bharat.

SHAPING PROFESSIONALS FOR A DEVELOPED INDIA

ज्ञान का प्रवाह, गुणवत्ता की दिशा



Collaborative Partnerships

Gunvatta Gurukul actively collaborates with industry leaders, experts, and institutions to provide students with exposure to real-world scenarios. This collaborative approach ensures that students receive insights and mentorship from experts in their respective fields

Diverse & Unifying

Distinguished by its inclusivity, Gunvatta Gurukul transcends geographical, gender, economic, and social biases, bringing together students from Tier 1 to Tier 3 cities across India.

Rigorous Selection

The selection process is rigorous, comprising four layers of screening — aptitude test, technical interview, background verification, and psychometric test and interview. This meticulous selection is designed to form a dynamic cohort of participants who will thrive in the Gunvatta Gurukul learning experience and positively contribute to their respective fields and society at large.

Industry-Relevant Curriculum

Recognizing the dynamic nature of industries, the curriculum is meticulously crafted to be in sync with the needs of the evolving job market. Tailored for recent graduates from any field of study and young professionals with 0-2 years of experience, the 8-week classroom program will focus on enhancing their skills, through extensive curriculum modules covering both behavioural and technical programs.

Holistic Learning

Gunvatta Gurukul aspires to create a holistic learning environment that goes beyond traditional academic boundaries. The program focuses on developing academic, practical, interpersonal, and leadership skills. An emphasis on experiential learning sets this program apart, providing participants with insights into the government ecosystem and an understanding of the public policy domain through case studies and fieldwork.



Earning While Learning

Students of Gunvatta Gurukul receive a monthly stipend of Rs 15,000 during the training period. Exceptional performers also have the opportunity to secure employment with QCI and associated bodies upon completion of the training, creating a pathway for sustainable career growth and development.

Facilities on-board

Gunvatta Gurukul ensures a fulfilling learning experience with facilities such as meals and refreshments, digital notice board and CCTV surveillance among others.

In essence, Gunvatta Gurukul emerges as a holistic platform that not only imparts knowledge and skills but also instills a sense of responsibility and dedication among the youth for the betterment of India's future.

Significance of Gunvatta Gurukul

The establishment of Gunvatta Gurukul holds profound significance both at the national level and for individuals, contributing to overarching goals and fostering personal growth.

Launch Event: A Stellar Beginning

To the Nation

Gunvatta Gurukul stands as a pivotal contributor to the national agenda of **skill development**. It will bolster the nation's workforce quality as a step towards fostering a more **productive, competent and resilient** workforce to achieve the goal of becoming a **developed nation by 2047**.



To the Individual

It will act as a catalyst for transformative change. By imparting industry-relevant skills, the initiative will significantly enhance the **employability** of young professionals. Gunvatta Gurukul is an **investment** into the future, a **bridge** that connects talent with opportunity and a **beacon of quality** and **skill enhancement**.

As emphasized by **Mr. Jaxay Shah, QCI Chairperson**-“Through this programme, we are on a mission to identify candidates who exhibit qualities such as innovation, passion for impact, diversity and inclusion, and effective communication. The programme aims to create a dynamic cohort of individuals who will be the **torchbearer of quality, standardization, and excellence** in every sector they work for.”

Gunvatta Gurukul initiative transcends a blend of technology and traditional training programs, serving as a testament to our commitment to cultivate a generation of young professionals poised to become the architects of Viksit Bharat.

On November 29, 2023, **the journey of Gunvatta Gurukul began** in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, all pledging to “Skill India.” **Shri Rajesh Singh**, Secretary DPIIT, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, accompanied by dignitaries like **Mr. Jaxay Shah** (Chairperson QCI), **Mr. Rajesh Maheshwari** (Secretary General QCI), **Mr. Mahesh Verma** (Chairperson NABH), and **CEOs** from all QCI boards.







Current Status: An Immersive Prelude to Transformation

Currently, Gunvatta Gurukul takes pride in nurturing a diverse maiden batch of 88 students who are on the path towards excellence. The first batch is characterized by its **inclusivity, with over 53.5%** female representation and around 56% of students hailing from outside the **Delhi NCR** region. The batch comprises individuals from across India, including Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. The students bring a rich array of backgrounds, with participants holding qualifications in law, engineering, MBA, political science, economics, and various other fields.

The first batch of aspiring youth has embarked on their journey at Gunvatta Gurukul, signaling a promising start. Before delving into the eight weeks of intensive training, the students were taken **on a tour**, immersing them in different historical phases of India, including visits to iconic landmarks such as the **Red Fort**, 11 Murti, and Rajghat. This immersive experience was part of an illustrious **conditioning week** during which students had the opportunity to interact with senior QCI leaders. These interactions served to prepare and orient them for the transformative journey that lay ahead.



As emphasized by Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT, "Gunvatta Gurukul programme will enrich students with understanding of the government ecosystem and will also give access to students to get jobs at much faster pace."

Fuelled by unwavering support and a vibrant, passionate community, Gunvatta Gurukul is poised to spark a generation of leaders who will illuminate the path to a brighter future.

The story has just begun.....



INAUGURATION
**National Accreditation Board for
Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)**
QCI OFFICE IN AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT

A Gift City **AHMEDABAD**

QCI office was inaugurated at Ahmedabad, on 16th October, 2023

during the auspicious Navratri festival, by Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, Quality Council of India in the august presence of Padmashree Prof. Subbanna Ayyappan, Chairperson NABL; Shri N. Venkateswaran, CEO NABL; Shri Rajesh Maheshwari, SG (I/C) QCI & CEO NABCB; Dr. Mahesh Verma, Chairman NABH; Dr Atul M Kochhar, CEO NABH; Dr. A. Raj, CEO, NBQP and Dr. R P. Singh, Ex. SG, QCI.

As part of our efforts to establish a robust network that will facilitate swift action and grievance resolution for all stakeholders involved, we are expanding our physical presence throughout states such as Ahmedabad. It would also expand and improve the state's testing, calibration, and medical labs. The office will communicate better with the local CABs. It will also make it easier to reach Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities, which will benefit from the opening of these new offices.



Chhavi Rajawat

Former Sarpanch of Soda Village,
Rajasthan

Chhavi Rajawat is a former Sarpanch (elected head of the Village Council) from Soda village, Tonk district, Rajasthan, and is the first Sarpanch in India with an MBA degree.



A stunning tale of empowerment, change, and leadership takes place in the middle of rural India, surrounded by colorful scenery and undulating fields. Meet Chhavi Rajawat, the first female MBA Sarpanch who blazed a way and is a shining example of empowerment, reform, and local leadership. Explore Chhavi Rajawat's incredible journey, which defied gender stereotypes and redefined the job of a village head, in an exclusive conversation with Quality Council of India. Learn about her goals for the future, her proud accomplishments, and the challenges she overcame.

What motivated you to leave the corporate world and pursue leadership at the grassroots level?

I first pursued a corporate job after receiving my MBA because I grew up in an urban environment. In order to be closer to my family, I moved from the city to Jaipur in 2015. Since I attended boarding school and spent holidays in my hometown, I was able to connect with rural life while coming from an urban background. My interactions with my villagers were good. And that's why, upon learning of my connections, the villagers chose me as the Sarpanch in 2010 to address issues like water scarcity and agricultural challenges. However, I realized that infrastructure is not as vital to my village as human development is. Although there was some progress, it was not very apparent. I explored sustainable holistic

development after recognizing gaps in knowledge, farming methods, skill development, and ecology. My continuous objectives have been raising youth's understanding of climate change, advancing agricultural practices through science and technology, and changing the way young people view agriculture. I placed a high priority on education as the cornerstone of development, emphasizing sustainable practices and digital literacy. Funding for corporate social responsibility, which is essential for rural development, should prioritize human development in addition to infrastructure. I support working together to close the knowledge gap between business needs and rural needs. Essentially, my move from corporate leadership to grassroots leadership is motivated by my love of holistic development and my desire to bring about long-lasting, constructive change in my village.

When you took on the role of Sarpanch, what initiatives did you take in your village to raise the standard of living for the populace and what obstacles did you encounter?

In 2009, we had a serious water shortage in our community when I took on the position of sarpanch. Getting clean water became my first concern. Understanding the connection between poor water quality and health problems, I contacted international organizations, non-governmental groups, and people dealing with Rajasthan's water problems. We tried to rehabilitate our 100-acre pond but couldn't afford it because of Panchayat funding. Establishing trust was essential, and I did this by highlighting my openness and my dedication to the village's growth. It was obvious that the pond needed to be restored before the monsoon, but we only got Rs. 20 lakhs in payments throughout 2010, which is significantly less than the Rs. 2 crore rupees that are needed. When I was appointed sarpanch in February 2010, I had trouble getting money for rural development. There were no government, private or PSU finances available. Seeing how desperate things

were in the villages, I made the decision to raise money on my own. I raised more than Rs. 20 lakhs in four days, starting with my family and friends. This gave us the motivation to start excavating our pond, which is 10 acres in size. After hearing my interview on All India Radio, Ms. Vandan Singh, a young entrepreneur, gave 50,000 right away. 2013 saw the completion of the pond project in spite of early difficulties. My emphasis is still on projects that the private sector adopts for broad participation and support. You won't believe that once our pond was excavated, we were able to obtain drinking water and our farmers' agricultural output rose by 70%. Since groundwater is dangerous, we are only dependent on surface water. This improved

people's economic situation in addition to helping them survive. We observed that some individuals were using motor pumps to extract water for their farms and houses, so we became tough. Thus, we made numerous changes in this manner. Some people say it's really hard to change one's perspective, but I don't think it is. Biases are eliminated and people realize that they must participate when you communicate with them freely, like we are doing now, and you listen to me with respect and I respond to you with respect. We talk about everything in our village meetings. Everyone was welcome to attend any Panchayat meeting at any time. Women, young people, and kids all participated in these gatherings and expressed their issues. Perhaps for that reason, our village are well-known both domestically and overseas. Soda is the name of my village, which is easy for people to remember. In my opinion, infrastructure development is the only area where the fundamental needs that are frequently emphasized in development apply. However, we can create a sustainable, all-encompassing atmosphere in the village if we also focus on education, the environment and skill sets.

The well-being and progress of the community to serve the nation



Since we are discussing the growth of Soda village, which sectors have you developed in your village?

In 2010, the construction of toilets began in our town, and it was arguably the first to be officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). However, my focus was not on seeking recognition or qualifications; instead, I considered the rural population as the main stakeholders, emphasizing their understanding and commitment to development efforts. I viewed the role of leadership akin to that of parents, aiming not only to build infrastructure but also to educate people about the global changes occurring, making them capable of adapting and progressing. Education became a priority alongside infrastructure development. We established a bank, collaborated with the Indian Army and private sectors like TCS, conducted career counselling, and partnered with Microsoft for digital literacy pilot programs and investment workshops. To enable villagers handle their investments, we formed skill development groups with non-governmental organizations, teaching fundamental technical skills. Addressing the educational gap between urban and rural children, we engaged college students from Delhi to teach subjects like Math, Physics, English, and environmental studies. To bridge the educational divide, rural youngsters received tutoring from their urban counterparts. Emphasizing sports as a means of expanding opportunities, particularly for girls, we worked towards inclusion. Recognizing the importance of women understanding self-care and ensuring basic education for all, we closely collaborated with Anganwadi workers. Street dramas, in partnership with Delhi University students, were employed to educate villagers about government programs, especially those for women and the elderly. We emphasized raising awareness in every family and explained form completion to young people in our area. The entire team of young villagers assisted in building toilets and educating residents on the importance and cost of installation. The Panchayat provided

construction support. Collaboration with farmers aimed to enhance productivity and explore alternative options in agriculture, involving businesses like Mahindra & Mahindra and a transportation company interacting with rural farmers.

Partnering with a Sheep and Wool Research Centre, we revitalized our forest and grazing land, teaching cattle owners how to cultivate animal feed and engage in multi-layer farming. The Panchayat rewarded toilet builders with plants, emphasizing the parallels between caring for plants and raising children.

Connecting small neighbourhoods to the main Ring Road in a Circle of Economy enhanced interdependence, especially beneficial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Messages conveyed through Digital India reached companies and individuals, resulting in donations. We provided three to four months' worth of rations to 500 households, particularly those without farmland. Support came from within the country and abroad.

In our village, there is a Girls' College serving as a teacher training college. With the help of these girls, a waste management program funded by the government was created. Villagers were educated about segregating waste, and waste collection was carried out by the college girls using three-wheelers. Training on waste processing was provided.



What message do you want to share with the public?

My message to the people is that we should work together to build a better future for our country. We need to develop a strong team spirit and work together to achieve our goals. I also believe that everyone has the potential to make a difference. We should not be afraid to help others, even if we are just one person. Together, we can make a difference in the world.



ZED SUCCESS SAGA

1 JOURNEY OF LAKH CERTIFICATIONS

In a testament to an effective implementation of the MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, by the Quality Council of India, the Scheme has achieved a significant milestone by granting 1,00,000+ ZED certifications in a short span of time. This remarkable success underscores the growing commitment of MSMEs across various sectors to ensure quality and sustainability in their operations.

The revamped MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme was launched in April 2022 by Hon'ble Minister of MSME, Narayan Rane, with a vision to improve MSME manufacturing systems & processes, enhance MSME competitiveness, make them sustainable and transform them as National and International Champions. Through the journey of ZED Certification, MSMEs can reduce wastage substantially, increase productivity, enhance environmental consciousness, save energy, optimally use natural resources, expand their markets, etc. MSMEs



will also be motivated to adopt best practices in work culture, standardisation of products, processes, systems etc. in order to enhance their global competitiveness and sustainability.

The scheme encourages MSMEs to adopt best practices, implement quality management systems, and minimize their environmental impact. The rapid attainment of 1 lakh certifications reflects a widespread acknowledgment of the scheme's potential to enhance competitiveness, improve product quality, and reduce environmental footprints.

Embarking on the journey of ZED, the MSMEs have become more aware on the importance of various aspects like Swachh Workplace (Cleanliness & Hygiene), Safety, Quality, Environment, etc. leading them towards better management of

their processes and systems which will go a long way in adding to their competitiveness.

One of the key drivers behind the success of the ZED Certification Scheme has been its comprehensive approach. The ZED certification framework is a holistic framework which incorporates key systems for enhancing competitiveness, aligned with the growing global trend towards responsible and sustainable business practices bringing in confidence from various stakeholders on the ZED Certification Scheme. Effective implementation of ZED parameters confers several advantages to the enterprise enhancing their overall capabilities and competitiveness.

Further, there are several incentives that have been put into place for encouraging the MSMEs to adopt Zero Defect, Zero Effect practices which are being actively availing the same.

ZED Advantages

<p>Improved Quality</p> <p>ZED parameters help in establishing right processes for enhanced quality</p>	<p>Improved Productivity</p> <p>ZED implementation enhances productivity by eliminating waste</p>	<p>Reduced Rejection</p> <p>Implementation of ZED helps in reducing rejections through robust processes and their monitoring</p>
<p>Improved Profits</p> <p>Being holistic in nature, ZED implementation improves overall quality & productivity leading to improved profitability</p>	<p>Increased Safety</p> <p>ZED implementation encourages establishment of safety systems to prevent accidents & ensure safe working environment</p>	<p>Recognition</p> <p>ZED certified MSMEs are listed on the ZED portal and are recognized as responsible organizations</p>
<p>Enhanced Customer Satisfaction</p> <p>ZED practices help to establish necessary systems for improved quality that leads to enhanced customer satisfaction</p>		<p>Enhanced Environmental Consciousness</p> <p>ZED enhances environmental consciousness through specific parameters on environment & natural resource conservation</p>

The key incentives from the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, under the ZED Scheme are:

- Joining reward of Rs. 10,000/-
- 100% Subsidy on Cost of Certification for Women-owned MSMEs
- Up to 95% Subsidy on Handholding (Consultancy) to upgrade to a higher ZED Certification level
- Subsidy of 75% (up to a maximum of Rs. 50,000/-) of the total cost of Testing/System/Product Certification
- Up to Rs. 3,00,000/- on expenses incurred on purchase of Zero Effect Solution

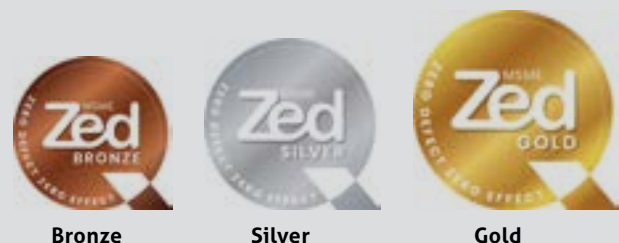
In addition to the above, several State governments and Financial institutions have also announced attractive incentives for the ZED Certified MSMEs.

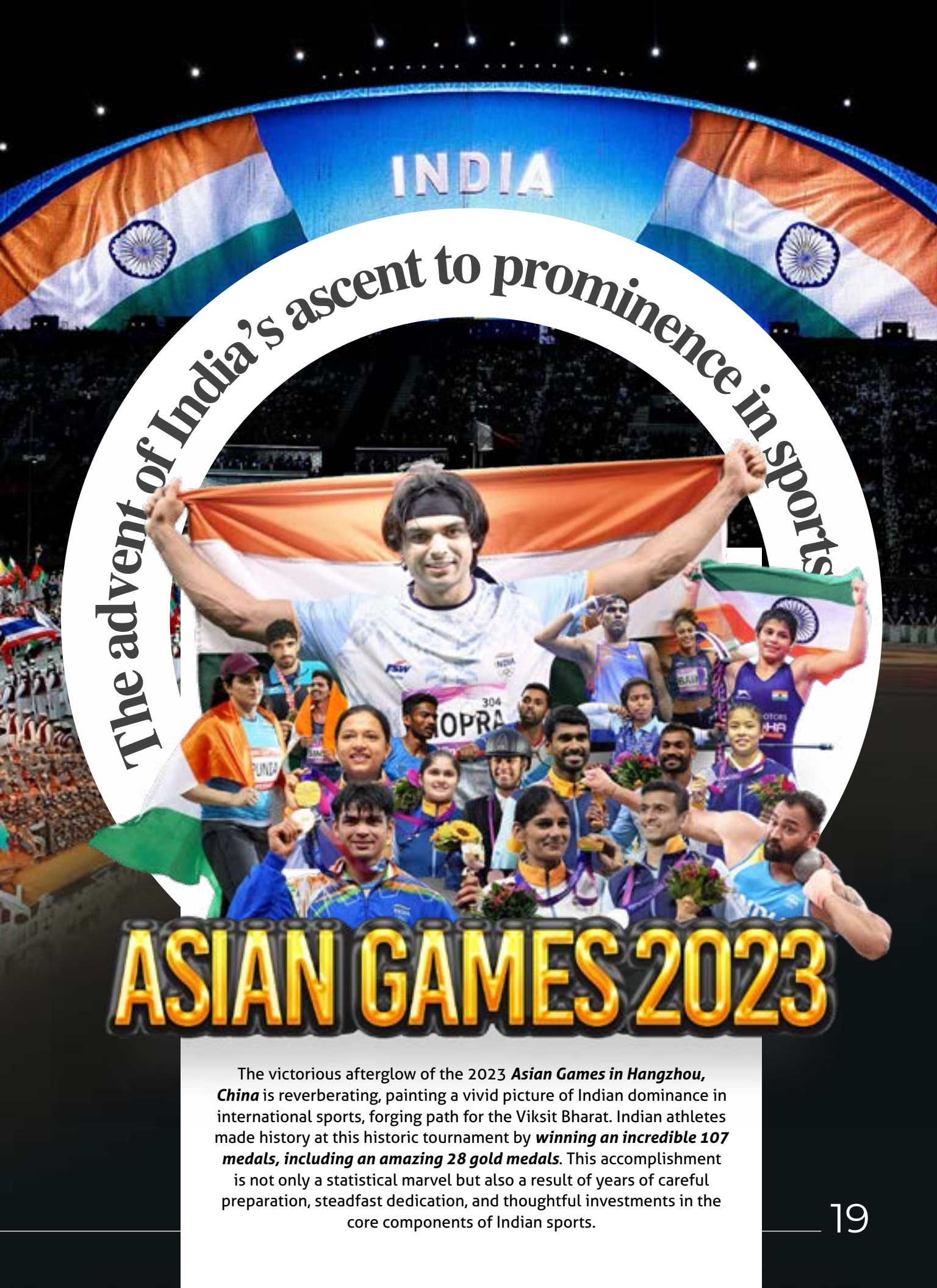
The seamless integration of various components of the Scheme and attractive incentives along with the quick and efficient certification process has helped in gaining such a large participation of MSMEs. However, the positive impact of the ZED Scheme goes beyond certification numbers; the participating MSMEs are becoming increasingly aware of the key aspects of enhancing their competitiveness through improved efficiency, reduced waste, sustainability and increased customer satisfaction.

As the ZED Scheme continues to gain momentum, it is likely to contribute significantly to the broader goal of making Indian industries globally competitive. The 1,00,000+ certifications achieved in such a short span of time are not only a testament to the scheme's success but also an indication of the transformative power of 'Zero Defect Zero Effect mantra' given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This milestone will serve as an inspiration for all the MSMEs and the Industry to embrace zero defect, zero effect practices and contribute to the realisation of vision of "Viksit Bharat".

Zed Certification Levels

ZED i.e. ZERO DEFECT ZERO EFFECT is a simple, transparent and affordable certification with 3 levels, Bronze, Silver & Gold, and is based on well-defined parameters of quality, safety, production, cleanliness, energy, environment and more.





INDIA

The advent of India's ascent to prominence in sports

ASIAN GAMES 2023

The victorious afterglow of the 2023 *Asian Games in Hangzhou, China* is reverberating, painting a vivid picture of Indian dominance in international sports, forging path for the Viksit Bharat. Indian athletes made history at this historic tournament by **winning an incredible 107 medals, including an amazing 28 gold medals**. This accomplishment is not only a statistical marvel but also a result of years of careful preparation, steadfast dedication, and thoughtful investments in the core components of Indian sports.

The success story extends beyond traditional sports, with Indian athletes showcasing excellence in a diverse range of disciplines. Key campaigns such as **#ViksitBharat**, **#GauravKaal**, **#IssBaar100Par**, and **#BharatAtAG2** played a pivotal role in shaping India's outstanding performance at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou. These initiatives have clearly left a lasting impact, evident in the remarkable statistics reflecting the country's remarkable sporting accomplishments. The concerted efforts behind these campaigns underscore the holistic approach taken to nurture talent, instil a winning mindset, and foster a culture of sportsmanship.

The 2023 Asian Games have not only been a showcase of India's athletic prowess but also a celebration of the collective spirit that drives the nation's sports agenda. The medals won represent more than just metal; they symbolize the dreams fulfilled, the hard work paid off, and the emergence of India as a force to be reckoned with in the global sporting arena. As the echoes of success continue to resound, the 2023 Asian Games stand as a defining moment in India's sporting history, marking a journey from aspirations to achievements on the grandest stage. In fact, India broke free from limitations, becoming the first nation to break the three-figure barrier. The enormity of this achievement, which is an astounding **34% larger than the previous record set in 2018**, signifies a profound change in India's position in the world of sports. This wasn't just a numerical uptick, it was a symphony of wins in a wide range of sports, demonstrating the adaptability and persistence of Indian sportsmen.

The story of triumph was not limited to the walls of customary castles. Indian athletes made a name for themselves in traditional sports like badminton and wrestling in addition to dominating in more recent and specialized sports like gymnastics, where Ashish Kumar's gold on the parallel bars signalled the start of a new era. Weightlifting gold medallist Mirabai Chanu's embodied the spirit of tenacity and resolve, echoing her historic Olympic triumph.

Gender equity became a recurring subject amid this rise to sporting success. A significant number of medals were won by female competitors and individuals such as P.V. Sindhu and Mirabai Chanu made history in the sports world. This represents the government's unwavering commitment to removing obstacles and promoting equal opportunities, not just a victory for female athletes. **These historic accomplishments are a concrete manifestation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advocacy for inclusion in sports.**

But sports are about much more than just professional competition. The very fabric of Indian culture is woven with it. Sports have become a passion for millions of people because to grassroots programs like the **'Fit India Movement'** and school-level competitions held by the **School Games Federation of India (SGFI) championships**. These programs are creating a culture of physical activity and making the country healthier and more active, in addition to generating outstanding athletes.

This victory is the result of a skilfully performed symphony, in which the efforts of many people, organizations, and initiatives come together to create a melodic coda. The success of this initiative may be attributed to the **Khelo India program**, which was initiated by **Sports Minister Vijay Goel** and has set new standards for talent development. The program's emphasis on diversification created opportunities that had never been considered before and cast a wide net to find and develop new talent.



**H S PRANNOY
(BADMINTON)**

Key campaigns such as #ViksitBharat, #GauravKaal, #IssBaar100Par, and #BharatAtAG2 played a pivotal role in shaping India's outstanding performance at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou

The massive infrastructure development that has revolutionized Indian sports is the cornerstone of this triumph. Around the country, cutting-edge facilities have proliferated, offering athletes the perfect settings for honing their craft and competing at the greatest levels. This dedication is demonstrated by the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Kolkata and the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Lucknow. In addition to these facilities, programs like the Pradhan Mantri Khel Vikas Yojana make sure that the country's young talent has the resources and support it needs to grow.

This all-encompassing strategy for sports development demonstrates the government's dedication to public health. Initiatives that prioritize health and fitness, such as the Fit India Movement, are in line with the larger objective of creating a population that is healthier. In



Initiatives that prioritize health and fitness, such as the Fit India Movement, are in line with the larger objective of creating a population that is healthier

**ROSHIBINA DEVI,
WUSHU**

addition to enhancing athletic ability, the rise in awareness and exercise supports the country's dedication to general well-being.

These efforts, coupled with infrastructure development, talent identification, and a commitment to gender equity, have defined India's ascent in the world of sports. The success story goes beyond mere statistics; it is a testament to the nation's path, resilience and spirit of unity.



**SHOOTING
MEN'S TRAP
TEAM 2023**

**ARCHERY
WOMEN'S
COMPOUND
TEAM 2023**

The path from regional enthusiasm to worldwide recognition highlights the revolutionary possibilities of a comprehensive approach to sports development. Athletes, coaches, officials, and a government dedicated to advancing their objectives come together on this voyage to make India a household name in the world of sports. Hangzhou's echoes are a constant reminder of the unwavering fervour that ignited triumph and led the nation toward its ambitious goal of sporting supremacy. As India revels in the aftermath of this momentous accomplishment, it is important to remember that a country's rise in sports is defined by its path, resiliency, and spirit of unity, not just by its medal haul.



অসম
গুণবত্ত সংকল্প

ASSAM GUNVATTA SANKALP
অসম গুণবত্তা সংকল্প

Celebrating Awesome Assam's Quest for Quality

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 | GUWAHATI

Creating a roadmap for paving an ecosystem of quality that underlines the idea of a Sashakta Assam.

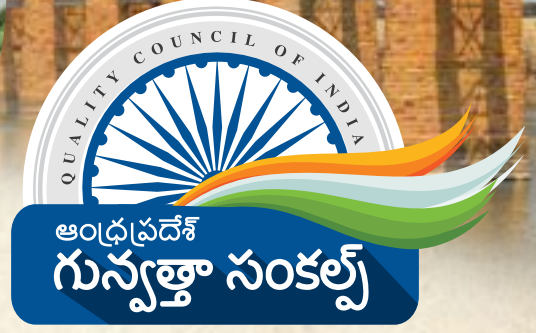
The Quality Council of India with the support of Government of Assam proudly hosted the Assam **Gunvatta Sankalp** on 12th September 2023, in Guwahati, Assam to bring quality revolution at the doorstep of citizens of Assam. The event commenced with the inaugural session marked by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and launch of the Assam Gunvatta Sankalp video by **Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam; Dr. J.B. Ekka, IAS, Principal Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Department; Dr. Lakshmanan S, Secretary, Industries, Commerce & PE Department, Assam** in the presence of eminent dignitaries including **Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI; Dr. R.P. Singh, Secretary-General, QCI; and Shri P.R. Mehta, Chairperson, NABET among others.**

The event also witnessed the exchange of an MoU signed between QCI and Commissionerate of Food Safety, Assam, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Assam with an intent of "Improving the Food Safety ecosystem in the state of Assam through creating Quality Infrastructure mechanism by intervention such as conformity assessment framework & infrastructure, training & capacity building of stakeholders etc."

Shri Paban Kumar Borthakur, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam, spoke on the relationship between 'Quantity and Quality' emphasising that high-quality products and services can enhance a country's economic growth. In the same manner QCI's efforts in areas such as quality certification, accreditation, and training can help improve the quality of products, services, and infrastructure in Assam, which in turn can have a positive impact on the state's development.

Dr. J.B. Ekka, IAS, Principal Secretary, Panchayat & Rural Development Department, also addressed the audience at the closing ceremony of Assam Gunvatta Sankalp and explained how to improve the Quality of life of the people of Assam, government was focusing on the important areas such as healthcare, education, infrastructure development, job creation, environmental conservation, and social programs that address the needs of the population.

Dr Lakshmanan S, Secretary, Industries, Commerce & PE Department, Assam, while inaugurating Assam Gunvatta Sankalp highlighted, "Assam's unique cultural heritage and vast potential have always set us apart, and today, as we embark on this journey, we do so with the determination to harness that potential to the fullest. The Gunvatta Sankalp isn't just a pledge; it's a promise to raise the bar in every aspect of our society, and we are committed to igniting quality revolution as a strong pillar for Assam's growth."



ANDHRA PRADESH GUNVATTA SANKALP

DECEMBER 19, 2023 | VIJAYAWADA

**Sunrise State:
A Commitment
to Quality**

The Quality Council of India (QCI) and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have forged a landmark partnership by signing an MoU to transform the state's agricultural sector during the Andhra Pradesh Guvatta Sankalp event, a QCI initiative to foster a quality mission across the states of India.

This collaboration witnessed 'QCI' providing extensive technical support across various agriculture and allied sectors, fuelling Andhra Pradesh's journey towards a Viksit Bharat built on quality and sustainability. The Andhra Pradesh Guvatta Sankalp commenced with the lamp lighting in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh Govt. Shri Kakani Govardhan Reddy Garu; Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI; Shri Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, Chief Commissioner, RBKs, & Special Chief Secretary to A.P. Govt.; Shri Chiranjiv Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Govt. Marketing & Cooperation Development; Dr S. S. Sreedhar, Commissioner of Horticulture & Sericulture and Dr. A. Raj, CEO of the National Board for Quality Promotion, QCI. Hon'ble Minister also launched the QCI IndG.A.P. Portal and presented IndG.A.P. certificates to selected farmers belonging to different villages of the state.

Under this strategic partnership, QCI lend its expertise in developing and designing a robust conformity assessment framework for the state's agricultural sector. This framework established a clear quality standard and ensured adherence to best practices throughout the value chain, from farm to fork. It also had provided crucial training programs for stakeholders at

all levels, empowering farmers, cooperatives, industry players, and government officials with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the quality ecosystem effectively. Additionally, QCI offered its esteemed accreditation services, further bolstering confidence in the quality and safety of Andhra Pradesh's agricultural produce.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Andhra Pradesh Govt. Shri Kakani Govardhan Reddy Garu, said, "We are delighted to join hands with QCI in this transformative initiative. Their expertise and support will be invaluable in our vision to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in quality agriculture. Together, we will build a quality ecosystem at the grassroots level for all the stakeholders associated with agriculture and its allied sectors, including farmers."

Shri Gopal Krishna Dwivedi, IAS, Chief Commissioner, RBKs, & Special Chief Secretary to A.P. Govt. said, "QCI has been building a quality culture across agriculture & its allied sectors through their multivariate schemes like INDG.A.P. and initiatives like 'Sarpanch Samvaad' in order to make rural India take center stage in driving the quality mission at the grassroots level. This strategic collaboration between QCI and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh will certainly benefit the state's agriculture stakeholders, right from the farmers to the agri-startups."

The Andhra Pradesh Guvatta Sankalp also witnessed the Sarpanch community taking center stage with discussions on leveraging ICT tools, best practices sharing, and capacity building.

Glimpses of the Gunvatta Sankalp event

Assam



Andhra Pradesh



City Finance Rankings



Laying a Strong Foundation of Urban Finance

“Empowering India’s Urban Growth Unveiling City Finance Rankings 2022 for Sustainable Development”

India’s population in cities is estimated to grow to over 800 million by 2050. Over 70% of India’s GDP and new jobs are expected to come from cities by 2030. As India becomes progressively urbanized, cities will function as engines of economic growth with Urban Local Governments playing a pivotal role.

Recognizing that financial strength serves as the cornerstone of any developmental initiatives, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) introduced City Finance Rankings to evaluate the financial performance of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). For effective grassroots development, it’s crucial that cities or ULBs practise financial self-sufficiency and become ‘Atmanirbhar’ in the long run. To achieve the same, MoHUA initiated ‘City Finance Rankings’ to assess and rank municipalities by their financial health and progress for the first time in Indian history.

Helmed by QCI, City Finance Rankings 2022 aims to serve as a national framework of standardized, timely and credible financial information on India’s cities on a range of financial indicators. After a series of outreach efforts and painstaking calculations, an astounding participation of 2570 ULBs and finalisation of 1600+ ULBs was achieved, thus making the entire framework more robust, rigorous and data rich.

A Strong Start

The City Finance Rankings initiative commenced in March 2023. Since this voluntary initiative was being conducted for the first time, the participation was expected to be approximately 500 ULBs. However, through the concerted efforts of the Project Management Unit (PMU) Team in implementing robust outreach and awareness initiatives, the participation figure surged to an impressive 2570 ULBs within 3 months. Notably, the Rankings achieved the

distinction of being the first-ever initiative with widespread voluntary participation at the Urban Local government level.

The City Finance Rankings Portal served as a unified platform for ULBs to upload their financial statements and budgets. Consequently, the CFR portal became an unprecedented repository, encompassing financial data spanning four years, from Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 to FY 2021-22. Currently, the portal hosts over 20,000 financial statements and budgets.

The milestone marks the first-ever comprehensive repository of ULB documents, enhancing transparency and benchmarking. This enabled a pan-Indian study, revealing a diverse range of formats and complexity in both budgets and annual accounts. Secondly, it highlighted the various inadequacies which exist in the urban financial ecosystem that could be a step towards better development.

Given the substantial participation and the complexity of verifying the numbers using the supporting documents, the project team was expanded from 11 to 42 members. This dedicated team collaboratively liaised with various bureaucrats and consultants within the States forming networks to ensure the accuracy and comprehensibility of the data uploaded on the portal.

The PMU implemented a series of strategic measures to streamline the data in light of the considerable diversity evident in financial documents and the linguistic diversity therein. These measures included a comprehensive outreach strategy, the adoption of innovative solutions such as leveraging translators, using the State Budgets, creating our own guide for specific states and maintaining regular communication with State Single Points of Contacts (SPOCs). The purpose of these initiatives was to ensure the harmonization and coherence of the data, despite the inherent variations in document structures and languages employed.

Functioning as a pioneering pilot project, the City Finance Rankings initiative stands as a truly comprehensive Pan-India endeavour. The project provided a distinctive opportunity for smaller ULBs to showcase their governance capabilities, transcending constraints related to population size or geographic boundaries. The active participation of ULBs across nearly every region of the country was meticulously achieved through a systematic categorization based on population viz, ensuring a well-rounded representation of diverse geographical areas. This thoughtful approach not only facilitated a thorough assessment of financial performance but also underlined the commitment to inclusivity within the initiative.



NABH Enhancing Healthcare Ecosystem Nationwide

In the sprawling expanse of India's healthcare ecosystem, The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a powerful force in the vast landscape of India's healthcare system, relentlessly advancing the goal of universal access to high-quality treatment. NABH has been leading the way in the transformation of healthcare facilities since its founding in 2005 by establishing rigorous yet doable standards for infrastructure, clinical quality and patient safety.

The growing number of healthcare providers pursuing certification is indicative of its impact. Today, over 750 healthcare facilities and establishments are honoured to display the NABH logo, demonstrating their commitment to quality. Furthermore, studies demonstrate measurable improvements in patient satisfaction, staff morale, and financial performance following NABH accreditation, in comparison to non-accredited hospitals.

NABH is dedicated to more than just accreditation. Its exacting standards, which are constantly evaluated and updated to stay applicable and significant, serves as a beacon for advancements in healthcare. Since accreditation is a difficult procedure, only providers who carefully fulfil these requirements are eligible to get the esteemed NABH badge.

On a trial basis, NABH has inspected three homoeopathic colleges and hospitals in accordance with the specifications supplied by Inspection of National Commission of 2016. Homoeopathy (NCH). The reports were delivered to Inspection of National Commission of Homoeopathy. NCH has shown a strong desire to expand this initiative to include all 247 homoeopathic universities now operating in the nation.

Additionally, NABH is working with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the promotion of medicaltourism in India. NABH already has a well curated Empanelment program with a validity of twoyears for all the Medical Value travel facilitators (MVTF) since 2016. A full day one of its kind in India, technical training program for the Empanelment criteria has also been created for ease of the MVTF.



NABH International

Additionally, NABH has expanded its influence internationally by establishing NABH International, which accredits facilities in a variety of contexts, including Oman and the SAARC countries. This program encourages worldwide collaboration and knowledge sharing in addition to promoting medical tourism in India. 2023 marked a year of remarkable milestones for NABH. Currently there are 13 applicants in NABH-I accreditation programme at various stages. Out of 13 applicants, 8 hospitals are accredited: 4 hospitals from Oman, 2 each from Nepal & Bangladesh, 4 applicants from Oman, Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Bhutan are in in-process. One applicant is in new category from Maldives.

Team NABH had the chance to learn and share knowledge, take part in committee meetings, present India's efforts towards patient safety and healthcare quality, network and look for collaborations from like-minded friends, gather ideas, and more at the 39th Annual Conference of ISQua, which was held in Seoul, South Korea, from August 28 to 30, 2023.



Glimpse of NABH's impactful achievements

Digital Health Revolution

In line with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's dream of making our country digitally empowered, NABH led the creation of India's first-ever digital health standards for hospitals because it understood the critical role that digital health plays. These ground-breaking recommendations promote telemedicine, electronic medical records, and best practices for data protection, laying the groundwork for improved patient outcomes and greater healthcare efficiency.

Certification of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Health Solutions

In consultation with National Health Authority (NHA), NABH has conducted pilot assessments for Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission compliant healthcare solutions. Development of certification scheme for HMIS, LMIS & Clinics is underway and will soon be announced by NABH.

Elevating Standards across Specialties

Throughout the year, NABH released a number of updated and new standards to meet the demands of various healthcare industries. Rapid diagnosis and treatment are guaranteed by the inaugural edition of the NABH Certification Standards for Stroke Care Centres, which

could save many lives. The initial iteration of the NABH Accreditation Standards for Care Homes and the Entry Level Certification Standards for Dental Clinics both address the increasing need for superior healthcare in underprivileged areas and extended-care environments, respectively.

Strategic Collaborations

NABH established strategic alliances with institutions such as NATHEALTH, Koita Foundation, and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University to enhance its influence. The quality of healthcare and patient safety awareness has significantly improved as a result of these partnerships, which support patient safety initiatives, training programs, and research.

Empowering Patients and Practitioners

Acknowledging the importance of patient involvement, NABH established the "Choose Safer Healthcare" Patient Safety Microsite, which gives patients a specialized platform to help them make educated decisions about their healthcare options. Additionally, hospitals can navigate the complexities of accreditation with the help of the HOPE portal chatbot "ASHA", which streamlines the application procedure for the Entry Level program.

Investing in the Future

NABH Quality Connect Grants foster a culture of continuous improvement within the healthcare industry by providing funding for creative projects that address patient safety and healthcare quality. Accredited institutions can share their creative ideas and encourage others to aim for excellence by participating in programs like the NABH Best Ideas Club.

The journey of NABH is marked by an unshakable dedication to quality, which is evident in its noteworthy accomplishments and strategic alliances. One significant achievement at a time, NABH is still a driving force behind the advancement of the Indian healthcare industry, creating a tapestry of quality and innovation. Together, NABH and its partners are reshaping healthcare in India so that every person has access to excellent care in the future.

<https://nabh.co/13050-2/>

<https://nabh.co/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NABH-Newsletter-Issue-6.pdf>

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/nathealth-nabh-sign-mou-towards-reinforcing-patient-safety-quality-healthcare-across-nation/103753313>

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National Training Program For Women Sarpanchs

About the Training Program

SARPANCH
SAMVAAD

The Quality Council of India, under its Sarpanch Samvaad initiative, conducted a one-day Training Program for Women Sarpanchs in Delhi on December 2, 2023 to equip the elected functionaries with the necessary knowledge and skills in the management of the Panchayat affairs. The program witnessed the participation of 45 Women Sarpanchs from 10 states across the country viz. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

The training was conducted by three training facilitators/resource persons

Dr. Anita Brandon
Lead Training Facilitator

Senior Consultant, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Ms. Bhavna Shinde
Training Facilitator

State Head, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission (FLN Mission) and National Lead SERI USAID Program, Room to Read

Mr. Panthdeep Singh
Training Facilitator

Master Assessor and Master Resource Person, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and National Panchayat Award Winner, Sarpanch of Chhina Gram Panchayat, Gurdaspur, Punjab



Building Capacities of Women Leaders Through a Targeted Training Program

The enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992 was a defining moment in the history of India not only for the decentralisation of political power at the grassroots level but also for the participation of women in politics. The mandated one-third reservation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions was a significant landmark towards the political empowerment of women in India which gave the opportunity to women to enter politics in such large numbers. Today, over 46% of the members in Panchayati Institutions of India are women, with as many as 21 states of the country having reservations up to even 50%. This has elevated more than 14.5 lakh women to leadership positions in India's local governance. With women occupying merely 6.7% of seats in the National Legislature i.e. the Parliament, women's success emerging from women-led Panchayats will extend the social revolution from the grassroots to all levels of decision-making.

However, despite the significant representation of women in grassroots politics, a combination of socio-economic and political factors have inhibited the effective leadership of women leaders in Panchayats. Lack of education, social and family barriers, preoccupation with family duties and financial dependence are some of the main reasons that have prevented women from participating in the political process. This has led to the evolution of the concept and presence of "Sarpanch-pati" or "Adhyaksh-pati" reducing women to mere rubber stamps with male relatives exercising control over the Panchayats.

Thus, training workshops specifically targeted towards women leaders play a pivotal role in addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that women encounter given their position and status in a patriarchal and male-

Supporting women's leadership in India through initiatives like Sarpanch Samvaad strengthens both gender equality and democratic governance

dominated society and the multifarious demands on elected functionaries. In view of these challenges, the training workshop focused on issues

like gender mainstreaming in rural development, confidence building and leadership qualities, effective communication skills, in addition to the usual topics on local governance. The objective of this women-specific training workshop was to empower the elected women leaders to effectively perform their public role as people's true representatives.

Strategic Training Curriculum Design and Approach: Shaping Empowered Leaders

At the heart of this training workshop is a carefully crafted curriculum and a participatory approach, designed to equip women leaders with the tools they need to navigate the complex terrain of local governance. Moving away from a conventional lecture-based classroom learning, the workshop constituted first-hand accounts of Sarpanchs in governing Panchayats and experience sharing, group discussions, and presentations which encouraged active participation and practical application of knowledge.

The training program covered a range of topics

Responsibilities of a Panchayat Sarpanch and Leadership Development

- Enabled Sarpanchs to analyse their present capability in handling the role and responsibilities of Panchayat Sarpanch and identify areas for strengthening.
- Facilitated Sarpanchs to enlist qualities desired in a good Panchayat Leader and identify their strong points and weak points against the desired Leadership Qualities.

Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP)

- Gauged present understanding of Women Sarpanchs of Panchayats on Localizing SDGs and



the 9 Themes prioritized for action by Panchayats through Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and identify which themes they are already working on and which more can they focus on and how.

Foundational Learning in Villages and NIPUN Bharat Mission

- Underscored the need to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy among children upto grade 3 through a transformative education system and modus operandi of implementing this in Panchayats

Creating Women-Friendly Panchayats

- Sensitized the Women Sarpanchs of Panchayats on how to create Women Friendly

Panchayats and integrate Gender in Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Strategies for Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

- Equipped Women Panchayat Sarpanchs with possible strategies to eliminate Violence against Women and Girls and curb all harmful practices that impede their progress.

Eliminating Proxy Participation due to interference of Male-relatives in Panchayats

- Discussed ways for empowering Women Leaders in PRIs and do away with proxy – participation due to interference of their male relatives.

Conclusion

The Training Program for Women Sarpanchs stands as a testament to QCI's commitment to fostering inclusive and effective local governance in India. By empowering women elected leaders with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to navigate the complexities of Panchayati Raj institutions, the training workshop contributes to building a more equitable and participatory democracy at the grassroots level. As the need and impact of the training resonated across the participants from diverse regions, it becomes evident that investing in the leadership potential of women is not just a step towards gender equality but a strategic move towards strengthening the foundations of democratic governance in India which the Sarpanch Samvaad initiative aims to achieve.



The program witnessed the participation of 45 Women Sarpanchs from 10 states across the country



Investing in the leadership potential of women is not just a step towards gender equality but a strategic move towards strengthening the foundations of democratic governance in India which the Sarpanch Samvaad initiative aims to achieve

Women Panchayat Leaders as Changemakers

In the rural hinterlands of Rajasthan characterized by deep-rooted patriarchal norms and gender-based discrimination, the Sarpanch of Mandawar Gram Panchayat has emerged as a beacon of women empowerment. In a bid to increase women's participation in the rural workforce and provide them with a source of income, under the Mahila Mate program of the MGNREGA scheme, Smt. Pyaari Kumari has set a record by making her Panchayat one of the first to ensure 100% adoption of the scheme and establishing Mahila Mates at all worksites. Another noteworthy achievement has been securing a consensus of the villagers in enforcing liquor prohibition, despite the heavy production and consumption of alcohol in the adjoining districts. Her campaign against alcoholism and the subsequent ban has helped to reduce cases of domestic violence and other crimes in the area.

Pyaari Kumari

Gram Panchayat Mandawar, Rajasthan

Smt. Meenu Chhetri has been a stalwart in the realm of Panchayat leadership, maintaining an unwavering grip on her seat since 2008. Her transition from a women's reserved seat to a non-reserved seat in 2014 to an uncontested victory in 2019, leading her to her third term as a Sarpanch, is a testament to her exemplary leadership and dedication. Focusing on natural farming and agri-entrepreneurship, she has spearheaded efforts in composting, production and marketing of local crops and food. She also harnessed uncultivated lands to grow lemon grass to generate additional revenue stream for her Gram Panchayat. She was awarded the prestigious Deen Dayal Rashtriya Panchayat Purushkar in 2020 for her transformative work which serves as an inspiration for all women leaders.

Meenu Chhetri

Gram Panchayat Purohit Wala, Uttarakhand



SYSTEM FOR ADVANCE MANUFACTURING ASSESSMENT AND RATING

SAMAR in DRDO Quality Conclave

The Directorate of Quality Reliability and Safety (DQR&S), DRDO organised a Quality Conclave on the theme 'Quality Odyssey for Self-reliance in Defence Products' on 29 November 2023 at DRDO Headquarters, DRDO Bhawan, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries were Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairman, Quality Council of India, Shri Samir V Kamat, Chairperson, DRDO, and Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The conclave was attended by Director Generals, Directors, DRDO laboratories, Industry and other stakeholders.

Chief Guest
Shri Rajnath Singh

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri

Theme : Quality Odyssey for Self Reliance in Defence Products

Dr D S Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi



In his address, the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri highlighted the need for realisation of high-quality military systems that are effective, reliable, and safe to enable our soldiers to successfully accomplish the mission. Further, the Hon'ble Minister emphasized the significance of quality culture in manufacturing for India to become a net defence exporter.

To realize the vision of making India self-reliant in defence manufacturing, Quality Council of India (QCI) in collaboration with DRDO has developed the System for Advanced Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) Certification Scheme. The certification is based on a maturity assessment model developed by QCI and is applicable to both MSME and Large manufacturing enterprises. SAMAR certification framework recognizes 5 levels of enterprise maturity in terms of the defined organizational attributes.



SAMAR, a collaborative effort between QCI and DRDO to enhance the Defence Manufacturing ecosystem in the country, marks a significant stride towards fostering excellence and resilience in our nation's defence sector

and making India a net defence exporter through focus on quality. The Hon'ble Minister, presented SAMAR certificates to the representatives of certified industries: Ask Automotive Limited, Central Tool Room and Training Centre Bhubaneswar, and Team Engineering.

The conclave brought together the key stakeholders to discuss and network with experts to create an ecosystem in the country for producing high-quality indigenous systems and implementing standards, policies, and global best practices. The event covered various aspects of quality for the defence manufacturing revolution in India to achieve the dual goal of self-reliance and exports.

विकसित भारत के प्रकाश स्तम्भ हैं मोदी के

नौ संकल्प

जनभागीदारी से आसान होगी राह

वर्तमान वैश्विक परिदृश्य में भारत की बढ़ती ताकत विकसित राष्ट्र बनाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त कर रही है। 21वीं सदी में नए भारत के शिल्पकार प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के सफल नेतृत्व में देश नित नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित कर रहा है। प्रौद्योगिकी, नवाचार एवं जनभागीदारी से जनसामान्य के जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार लाने के प्रयास निरंतर जारी हैं। पिछले 10 साल के अपने कार्यकाल में केन्द्र सरकार ने अनेक कल्याणकारी योजनाओं, कार्यक्रमों एवं नीतियों के माध्यम से देश में करोड़ों लोगों के जीवन स्तर को ऊपर उठाने का उल्लेखनीय कार्य किया है। हाल ही में जारी की गई नीति आयोग की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में बहुआयामी गरीबी जो वर्ष 2013-14 में 29.17 प्रतिशत थी, 2022-23 में घटकर मात्र 11.28 प्रतिशत रह गई है। पिछले 9 साल में लगभग 24.82 करोड़ लोग गरीबी रेखा से बाहर निकल गए हैं। जमीनी स्तर पर नागरिकों के जीवन में सकारात्मक बदलाव लाने के सरकार के इन प्रयासों में क्यूसीआई महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती रही है। भारतीय गुणवत्ता परिषद् अपने बोर्ड एवं प्रभागों के माध्यम से केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकारों की गुणवत्ता सुधार से जुड़ी अनेक योजनाओं, परियोजनाओं एवं कार्यक्रमों के तृतीय पक्ष आकलन, मूल्यांकन, निगरानी एवं निरीक्षण सहित प्रत्यायन एवं प्रमाणन से संबंधित कार्यों के द्वारा अपना योगदान दे रही है।

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने वर्ष 2047 तक देश को विकसित भारत बनाने का जो लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है, उसे प्राप्त करने के लिए हमारे समक्ष दूरदर्शी एवं प्रभावी नौ संकल्प प्रस्तुत किए हैं। यह संकल्प विकसित भारत के प्रकाश स्तम्भ के रूप में वह क्षेत्र हैं जिन पर कार्य करके हम विकसित राष्ट्र के निर्माण के सपने को साकार कर सकते हैं।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के नौ संकल्प

जल संरक्षण- आज के दौर में यह एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है, क्योंकि बढ़ती जनसंख्या और जलवायु परिवर्तन के कारण जल की मांग में निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है। जल जितना जीवन के लिए आवश्यक है, उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन यह कृषि और उद्योगों के लिए भी है। जल के समुचित प्रबंधन से हम जल संकट की चुनौती से निपट सकते हैं। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए भारत सरकार द्वारा अनेक स्तर पर इस बारे में जागरूकता फैलाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। हमें भी जल की हर बूंद को बचाना है और ज्यादा से ज्यादा लोगों को जल संरक्षण के बारे में जागरूक करके अपने कर्तव्य को निभाना है।

पोषण के लिए श्री अन्न का उपयोग- श्री अन्न प्राचीन काल से ही भारतीय परंपरा एवं खानपान का हिस्सा रहे हैं, भारत में कुपोषण को समाप्त करने के लिए हमें श्री अन्न अर्थात मोटे अनाज जैसे ज्वार, बाजरा, रागी, कुट्टू, आदि को अपने भोजन में शामिल करना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह अनाज पौष्टिकता से परिपूर्ण होते हैं और इनके लाभकारी गुण इन्हें सुपर फूड बनाते हैं। इनके उपयोग को बढ़ावा देकर हम पोषाहार प्राप्त करने के साथ ही किसानों के आर्थिक उत्थान में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे सकते हैं।

स्वच्छता- हम सभी यह तो जानते ही हैं कि स्वच्छ वातावरण में ही स्वस्थ शरीर एवं स्वस्थ मस्तिष्क का विकास होता है। स्वच्छता का संबंध न सिर्फ हमारे स्वास्थ्य से है, बल्कि राष्ट्र के विकास के लिए भी यह आवश्यक है। पर्यटन, रोजगार व पर्यावरण को भी यह प्रभावित करती है। इसलिए हमें अपने गांव, शहर और आसपास के वातावरण को स्वच्छ रखने का पुरजोर प्रयास करना चाहिए। साथ ही अन्य लोगों और समुदायों को स्वच्छता के महत्व से अवगत कराने में अपना योगदान देना चाहिए।

स्थानीय पर्यटन- यह संकल्प प्रेरित करता है कि हम स्थानीय पर्यटन को प्रोत्साहित करें और तब तक विदेश घूमने ना जाएं जब तक कि हमने भारत के पर्यटन स्थलों का भ्रमण ना किया हो। इससे भारतीय पर्यटन उद्योग को बहुत लाभ होगा, स्थानीय स्तर पर देश में रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे तथा देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को गति मिलेगी। साथ ही अपने विविधतापूर्ण तथा अद्भुत राष्ट्र के बारे में और अधिक जानने का स्वर्णिम अवसर भी प्राप्त होगा।

वंचितों की मदद- मोदी जी का यह संकल्प हमें गरीबों की मदद करने के लिए प्रेरित करता है। हमें चाहिए कि हम कम से कम एक गरीब परिवार का सहारा बनें और अपनी क्षमता व सामर्थ्य के अनुसार किसी न किसी रूप में उनकी सहायता करें। इस संकल्प को आगे बढ़ाने से देश में गरीबी की दर को कम करने में मदद मिलेगी। गरीबों की मदद के कई तरीके हो सकते हैं- भोजन, आवास, शिक्षा, चिकित्सा और रोजगार जैसी बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं को उन तक पहुंचा कर हम उनकी बेहतरी में योगदान दे सकते हैं और एक अधिक न्यायसंगत और समावेशी समाज का निर्माण कर सकते हैं।

डिजिटल साक्षरता-

डिजिटल साक्षरता वह कौशल है जो लोगों को इंटरनेट और अन्य डिजिटल उपकरणों का सही एवं सुरक्षित उपयोग करने में सक्षम बनाता है। इस संकल्प के तहत हमें गांव-गांव जाकर डिजिटल लेनदेन के बारे में लोगों को जागरूक करना है एवं इसके महत्व से अवगत कराना है। इससे लोगों को डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी का सुरक्षित और प्रभावी ढंग से उपयोग करने में मदद मिलेगी, ऑनलाइन फ्राड के खतरों से लोगों को बचाया जा सकेगा तथा डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती मिलेगी। आज जब संपूर्ण विश्व तकनीक की राह पर चल रहा है, ऐसे में भारत में भी डिजिटलीकरण को प्रोत्साहित करने के वृहद् स्तर पर प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

वोकल फॉर लोकल- इस संकल्प के तहत हमें स्थानीय उत्पादों का उपयोग करने के लिए लोगों को प्रोत्साहित करना है तथा भारत में बने उत्पादों को महत्व देना है। इस प्रकार हम स्वदेशी उत्पादों को प्रोत्साहित करेंगे और मोदी जी की

संकल्पना के अनुरूप आत्मनिर्भर भारत के प्रण को पूरा करने में अपना योगदान कर सकेंगे। इससे स्थानीय स्तर पर लोगों के रोजगार में वृद्धि होगी, छोटे शहरों एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में नागरिकों के जीवन स्तर में सुधार होगा। साथ ही निर्यात बढ़ने से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती मिलेगी तथा विकसित भारत का सपना साकार होगा।

प्राकृतिक खेती- रासायनिक उर्वरकों एवं कीटनाशक दवाइयों के बढ़ते प्रयोग से भूमि एवं फसलों पर हो रहे दुष्प्रभावों को रोकने के लिए प्राकृतिक खेती को प्रोत्साहित करना अत्यन्त आवश्यक है। प्राकृतिक खेती एक ऐसी पद्धति है जो मिट्टी, पानी और पर्यावरण के साथ संतुलन स्थापित करती है। इसमें रासायनिक उर्वरकों, कीटनाशकों और अन्य हानिकारक रसायनों का उपयोग नहीं किया जाता है। प्राकृतिक खेती में मिट्टी की उर्वरता को बनाए रखने के लिए जैविक खाद और जीवामृत आदि का उपयोग होता है। भारत में सरकार द्वारा प्राकृतिक खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अनेक प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। सरकार ने प्राकृतिक खेती को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कई योजनाएं शुरू की हैं। इस विधि से खेती करने से जल, मिट्टी एवं पर्यावरण को बचाने में मदद मिलती है, किसानों की आय में वृद्धि होती है और हमें हानिरहित एवं पौष्टिक फसलें प्राप्त होती हैं।

फिटनेस और खेल- हमारे शरीर और मन को स्वस्थ रखने में योग, व्यायाम एवं खेलकूद की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। इसलिए हमें इसे अपनी दिनचर्या में अवश्य शामिल करना चाहिए। जब हमारा शरीर स्वस्थ और सक्रिय रहेगा तो न सिर्फ हमारी कार्यक्षमता में वृद्धि होगी, बल्कि उत्पादकता और प्रति व्यक्ति आय में भी बढ़ोतरी होगी। देश में नागरिकों के सेहतमंद होने से बीमारियों पर होने वाले खर्चों में कमी आएगी तथा सरकारी धन की बचत होगी, जिसका उपयोग सरकार अन्य कल्याणकारी योजनाओं में कर सकेगी। इसी को ध्यान में रखकर देश के नागरिकों को फिटनेस के प्रति जागरूक करने के लिए मोदी सरकार द्वारा फिट इंडिया अभियान चलाया गया। क्योंकि स्वस्थ भारत ही एक सशक्त और विकसित भारत का निर्माण कर सकता है।

निष्कर्ष

वर्ष 2047 तक विकसित भारत बनाने के संकल्प को सिद्धि तक पहुंचाने में माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी द्वारा बताए गए नौ संकल्पों की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होगी। इनको जमीनी स्तर पर सफलता पूर्वक क्रियान्वित करने के लिए सरकार के साथ ही उद्योग जगत एवं जनसामान्य की भागीदारी को सुनिश्चित करते हुए अभियान चलाकर इसके प्रति जागरूकता का प्रचार-प्रसार करना होगा।

वीरेंद्र नाथ मिश्र
मीडिया प्रकोष्ठ, क्यूसीआई



QCI'S BOARDS



National Accreditation Board
for Education and Training



National Accreditation Board
for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers



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National Accreditation Board
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NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

**Striving for Quality on
Education, Environment,
MSME and Capacity Building**

NABET's core operations span various verticals, each contributing significantly to its mission of enhancing education, training, and environmental impact.

FORMAL EDUCATION EXCELLENCE DIVISION (FEED)

Medical Education

Assessment & Rating of Medical Colleges

FEED-NABET has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the following:

1. National Medical Council (NMC);

2. National Commission for Homeopathy (NCH);
3. National Commission For Indian System Of Medicine (NCISM);
4. Pharmacy Council of India (PCI);
5. Indian Nursing Council (INC)

The objective is to conduct assessment and rating of colleges on a framework designed. Presently, a pilot has been conducted in 8 colleges under NMC, 3 colleges under NCH, and 5 colleges under NCISM. For PCI and INC, pilot assessments are scheduled in the month of February 2024.

Outcomes

- Improvement of Standards & mandatory compliances
- Assessment and Rating of colleges based on a defined framework.
- Ease in the selection of colleges by stakeholders
- Data-driven decision-making by respective councils



Institutions (NSCSTI) framework which includes eight pillars of excellence.

CBC has mandated NABET-QCI to assess and certify all the civil services training institutions based on the developed framework.

Currently, 74 civil services training institutions have been accredited and certified on the NSCSTI portal, 37 training institutes are undergoing through the desktop assessment stage and 154 training institutes are in the process of self-assessment stage.



Pilot assessment in one of the colleges under NCISM in the month of November 2023



Pilot assessment of a college under NCH in the month of November 2023

Capacity Building of Training Institutes

Assessment of Central Training Institutes (CTIs) and Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) under Capacity Building Commission

Capacity Building Commission (CBC) has developed and designed National Standards for Civil Services Training

Outcomes

- Ensures compliance with standards in the institutes for quality delivery
- Encourages sharing of best practices among training institutes
- Sharing of faculty/ Courses as part of collaboration

Assessments

Quality Interventions in 128 schools under Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC)

The project has two components namely; student assessment and teaching-learning process assessment. Under student assessment, NABET has completed the baseline assessment of 41,987 students across 128 schools. Based on the above-collated data, the performance of students has been analyzed with subject-specific assessment objectives (Language, Mathematics and science/EVS subjects) for classes 1st to 10th.

Further based on the above drawn analysis, the students have been categorised in A, B, C & D categories (A being the highest performance level & D being the lowest). This categorization is accessible class-wise and subject-wise, providing valuable support to teachers in devising their teaching strategies.

At present under student assessments, NABET-QCI is in the process of conducting a root cause assessment of students to identify the underlying reasons for the decline in student performance, with a specific focus on categories C and D.

Simultaneously, teaching-learning process observations of 1200+ teachers of these 128 schools have been completed by a team of subject-domain experts.

The above data has been reflected through a comprehensive IT platform that displays school-wise, medium-wise, and subject-wise analysis to PCMC, schools, and teachers.

Outcomes

- Improvement in teaching learning process and learning outcomes of students
- Development of strategic action plan for teachers
- Data driven decision making by PCMC department officials

Accreditation Scheme for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultant Organizations

- Preparation and presentation of EIA/EMP in 39 sectors/ projects, as identified through MoEFCC EIA Notification 2006 & its amendments
- QCI mandated for the Accreditation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Consultant Organizations vide MoEFCC Notification F. No. J-11011/77/2008-IA-II(I) dated March 03, 2016, for preparation of EIA/EMP reports for EC presentation.

Outcomes

215 Organizations Accredited
15 Applications in Process

Accreditation Scheme for Prospecting/ Exploration Agencies (APA) & Mining Plan Preparing Agencies (MPPA) (Ministry of Coal, GoI)

Accreditation Scheme

Outcomes

21 Organizations Accredited
5 Applications in Process



Root cause assessment of students

Scheme For Accreditation of Exploration Agencies in Mineral Sector (Ministry of Mines, GoI)

Accreditation Scheme

Outcomes

17 Organizations Accredited
10 Applications in Process

Accreditation Scheme for Forest Clearance Consultants Organization (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India)

Accreditation Scheme

Outcomes

28 organizations are in process
(Initially 13 organizations were provisionally accredited)

Accreditation Scheme for Ground Water Consultants Organization (Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI)

Accreditation Scheme

Outcomes

24 Organizations Accredited
19 Applications in Process

Outcome

Approximately 8,000 experts from various fields of environmental discipline have been approved and are actively participating in the accreditation schemes.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Division

Capacity Building of NABET Assessors

Assessors Induction/Training Program

'Scheme for Accreditation of EIA Consultant Organisations- Version 3'

Activities

- Role and responsibilities of Assessors
- Salient features of EIA Scheme & Assessment - Version 3
- Assessment Process- Stage-I
- Stage II- Technical Review & NC Closure
- Stage III Assessment - Aspects to be seen
- Assessment Report Writing on Portal (F3)
- Online EIA Portal, Assessor dashboard & online assessment process (Live Run Through) Changes from Version-3 to Version-4 (In Brief)

Outcomes

- Quality improvement
- Faculty development
- Leading to effective implementation of systems Encourages sharing of best practices
- Capacity building through training workshops

Awareness workshop on Prospective EIA Consultants at Port Blair

30th Oct. 2023

Activities

- Introduction of NABET
- Awareness about NABET EIA Accreditation scheme and its requirement
- EIA portal and its working

Outcomes

- Quality improvement
- Engaging new consultants

- Capacity Building among the existing ACOs

Proposed Scheme and Planned Activities

Scheme for Accreditation of EIA Consultant Organizations: Version – 4

Activities

- Human centric to Performance centric in SA/RA
- Category of FAE has been dropped
- Quality Bar raised for Accreditation
- More weightage on Quality of EIA

Outcomes

- Simplification of Surveillance Assessment process
- Accreditation Cost reduction for consultants (one cycle)
- Reduction in time of Accreditation from 90 to 60 days

Accreditation Scheme for Government or Private Universities/ Institutes of Repute as EIA Consultant

Activities

To recognize National Level Reputed Educational & Research Institutions in the identified areas will also bring overall improvement in Quality of EIA Reports and will also recognize



such institute of repute in their field of expertise.

Outcomes

- This will benefit project proponent and consultants in the country

Accreditation Scheme For B2 Project Consultants

Activities

- **Database Management:** NABET will maintain a well-organized database of B2 consultant; this facilitates quick and efficient selection when needed by proponents
- **Periodic Evaluation:** Regular evaluations as per IA, SA RA norms of the B2 scheme will ensure their continued relevance and competence
- **Engagement Model:** It will emerge as a flexible engagement model that allows organizations to easily access the B2 approved consultants

Outcomes

- B2 activities are comparatively has low impacts than Cat. 'B' and Cat. 'A'
- B2 category projects do not requires EIA and there is need of a separate simplified accreditation scheme with comparatively relaxed guideline

NABET is coming with the updated new version 4 of scheme with simplification in assessment process. In addition, NABET is working on Scheme for Accreditation of EIA Consultant Organizations including National Level Reputed Educational & Research Institutions and B2 Project Consultants. To augment the number of EIA consultant organization, NABET has planned capacity workshops in the states with no/less number of accredited consultant.

Research Analysis & Capacity Building And Higher Education Division (RACB-HE)

Science & Research

Activities

- Impact Assessment Study of Centre for Nano Science and Engineering
- Evaluation of R&D Capabilities of Industries for IGSTC's 2+2 Projects

Outcomes

- Comprehensive analysis revealing tangible societal applications and economic potential of the Centre's nano-science innovations. Empowering national advancements through strategic insights, fostering innovation, and driving economic growth
- Empowering the nation's R&D landscape by strategically aligning industries for synergistic 2+2 projects, catalyzing innovation hubs, and fortifying international collaboration for sustainable growth and technological excellence

Higher Education

Activities

- Audit of Haryana State Private Universities
- Audit & Assessment of Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, Thanjavur

Outcomes

- Thorough assessment ensuring compliance with educational standards, enhancing the credibility and quality of Haryana's private university system
- An in-depth audit ensuring academic excellence, refining programs at Periyar Maniammai Institute of Science and Technology, aligning with global standards. Enhancing the institution's reputation, fostering innovation, and equipping students with cutting-edge skills for competitive success



MSME AND STS Division

MSME- Lean MSME Competitive Lean Scheme (MCLS)

Awareness Program

In total 80+ awareness programs were conducted (30 during the period from September to December 2023), to reach out to large number of MSMEs, Industry Associations and OEMs.

MSME Units registered under MCLS

Registration of about 5300+ (4000+ during the period from September to December 2023), MSMEs under the scheme as on 31.12.2023.

MSME Units Certified for Basic Level under MCLS

2522 MSMEs have been certified for Basic Level under MCLS from September 2023 onwards.

MSMEs registered for Intermediate Level of the Scheme

About 650 MSMEs have registered for Intermediate level of the scheme.

Group of Enterprises (GoEs) at Intermediate Level of MCLS

In Intermediate Level and Advance Level of MCLS, Group of Enterprises (GoEs) of 4-10 units shall be formed and each GoE shall be handholded by a QCI trained empanelled consultant, for implementation of Lean Tools & Techniques. During the period from September to December 2023, 56 GoEs have been formed.

Empanelment of Consultant Organizations/Consultants, under MCLS

During the period from September to December 2023, 10 consultant training programs were conducted, resulting in empanelment of 250 consultants & 47 consultant organisations for hand holding of units under GoEs.

Skill Sector (Ranking of Odisha Polytechnics)

Ranking of Polytechnics

The ranking exercise has to be carried out for 157 polytechnics. As on data 119 polytechnics have registered on the portal and their Desktop Assessment is under process.

Professional Development Unit (PDU)

eQuest

Development and Promotion of e-learning content to impart training and capacity-building initiatives amongst the masses

1. September Registrations-

- Free Registrations: **526**
- Paid Registrations: **109**
- Certificates Issued: **130**

2. October Registrations-

- Free Registrations: **2085**
- Paid Registrations: **1025**
- Certificates Issued: **198**

3. November Registrations-

- Free Registrations: **775**
- Paid Registrations: **978**
- Certificates Issued: **204**

4. December Registrations-

- Free Registrations: **666**
- Paid Registrations: **157**
- Certificates Issued: **128**

5. Future intervention:

- Development of more e-learning courses in varied Domains to increase the catalogue of courses offered
- Enter into MoUs with Educational Institutions, Govt. and Private Organizations, MSMEs to facilitate training and capacity building initiatives

NICPP

Promotion of e-learning course content in the Domain of Project Management for Program and Project Professionals.

1. October Registration-

- 90 Minute Course- **148**
- L0 Course- **180**
- L1 Course- **72**
- L2 Course- **87**
- L3 Course- **32**

2. November Registration-

- 90 Minute Course- **2521**
- L0 Course- **4**
- L1 Course- **1**
- L2 Course- **3**
- L3 Course- **6**

3. December Registration-

- 90 Minute Course- **82**
- L0 Course- **58**
- L1 Course- **19**
- L2 Course- **24**
- L3 Course- **16**

4. Future intervention – Continued promotion of the e-learning content offered to increase outreach.

- The work has been expedited on development of e-learning module on DPR or Detailed Project Report, as proposed to the CBC. The work on the project began on December 20th and set to be completed soon.

- Level 0 (9 hrs.) Course of Fundamentals of Program and Project Management- **26**

3. December Registration-

- Certification for 90 Minute e-learning course of "Introduction: Basics of Project Management"- **5228**
- Level 0 (9 hrs.) Course of Fundamentals of Program and Project Management- **444**
- Project Finance Enrolment- **182**

4. Future intervention-

- Continued promotion of aforementioned courses in order to increase course outreach

SWAYAM

Development and Promotion of e-learning courses in the Domain of Quality in association with IIM Bengaluru for SWAYAM

1. CQI Registration 31 Jul- 31 October: **2570**

2. CQI Registrations 19 Jan- 30 April 2024: **490**

3. TPM Registration 31 July-31 October: **1277**

4. TPM Registration 19 Jan- 30 April 2024: **349**

5. Future intervention: eQuest is set to release 2 more courses in the Domain of Quality on the SWAYAM Platform vetted by IIM Bengaluru, namely APQP and PPAP. The uploading process of the same is underway.

iGOT

Promotion of e-learning content in the Domain of Project Management for Program and Project Professionals

1. August- October Registration-

- Level 0 (9 hrs.) Course of Fundamentals of Program and Project Management: **623**
- Certification for 90 Minute e-learning course of "Introduction: Basics of Project Management": **1178**

2. November Registration-

- Certification for 90 Minute e-learning course of "Introduction: Basics of Project Management"- **2521**



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Elevating Quality in Healthcare Across Nation

**NABH is ISQua approved and accepted internationally,
at par with the best in the world.**

Health

Digital Health initiatives Outcomes

In line with our Hon'ble Prime Minister's dream of making our country digitally empowered, NABH has announced digital health initiatives with the intent of strengthening digital health infrastructure of the country & bringing quality in the digital health systems. Under this initiative NABH has entered into an MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) and has offered to support Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) launched by Government of India in year 2021. NABH is committed to create awareness about components of ABDM amongst accredited/certified partner healthcare organizations.

NABH has also conducted assessments of 12 healthcare solutions for certifying ABDM compliant health solutions upon receiving request from ABDM – NHA. NABH is in the process of developing certification scheme for healthcare solutions including Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), Laboratory Management Information System (LMIS) and clinics.

New and revised standards of various NABH programs

Outcomes

NABH launched 3rd edition accreditation standards for SHCO to provide framework for quality of care for patients and quality improvement for small healthcare organizations. These revised standards help build a quality culture at all level and across all the functions of SHCO.

NABH launched the 3rd edition of NABH Dental Health Service Providers accreditation standards and the 1st edition of NABH Entry Level Certification standards for Dental Facilities (upto 8 chairs). The entry level dental standards is a small but a sure step for quality dental services in the rural and tier-3,4 cities to accomplish the mission of taking quality healthcare to the last in the line.

In collaboration with CII, the accreditation standards for Care Homes have been developed and the pilot assessments as per the draft standards have been completed. The standards shall be released very soon.

Standards for Standalone Dialysis Centers in collaboration with NATHealth, standards for Standalone Dermatology and Cosmetology Centers in collaboration with Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) and standards for Stroke care centers in collaboration with World Stroke Organization (WSO) have also been prepared.

Certification of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Health Solutions

Outcomes

In consultation with NHA, NABH has conducted pilot assessments for ABDM compliant healthcare solutions. Development of certification scheme for HMIS, LMIS & Clinics is underway and will soon be announced by NABH.

Number of Accredited / Certified Healthcare organisations by NABH

Outcomes

Accreditation Programs: 3800+

Certification Programs: 11000+

Empanelment Programs: 4400+

NABH-International: 10+

Total: 19000+

Inspection of National Commission of Homoeopathy (NCH)

Outcomes

Inspections of 3 Homoeopathic colleges & hospitals as per the requirements provided by NCH have been completed by NABH on pilot basis. The reports have been submitted to NCH. NCH has shown keen interest in extending this activity to all existing 247 Homoeopathic colleges in the country.



NABH since 2017 has been a proud partner of IPC in disseminating knowledge, conducting joint trainings, capacity building and motivating our accredited and certified partners



NABH is proud to announce the renewal of MoU with Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)

Heal in India - Role of NABH in Medical Value Travel

Outcomes

The Indian Healthcare Ecosystem is delivering world-class medical care/ treatment across the healthcare spectrum ranging from Modern Medicine, Ayurveda, Yoga, and other Traditional Systems of Healthcare.

NABH is working with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for the promotion of Medical tourism in India. NABH already has a well curated Empanelment program with a validity of two years for all the Medical Value travel facilitators (MVTf) since 2016.

The empanelment criteria provide framework for quality of care for patients and quality improvement for medical value travel facilitators. It helps build a quality culture at all level and across all the functions of Medical Value Travel Facilitator. A full day one-of-its kind in India, technical training program for the Empanelment criteria has also been created for ease of the MVTF.

NABH at ISQua Conference 2023 at Seoul, South Korea

Outcomes

The 39th Annual Conference of ISQua held at Seoul, South Korea from 28th to 30th August, 2023 was an opportunity for Team NABH to imbibe & share knowledge, participate in various committee meetings, showcase India's efforts towards patient safety and healthcare quality, network and seek collaborations from like minded friends, gather ideas and more.

NABH Quality Connect Grants 2023

Outcomes

This program is for healthcare quality professionals who are keen to establish new initiatives with innovative thinking and changemaking in the field of healthcare quality and patient safety. Grants ranging from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/- shall be provided by NABH to 25 selected projects which are selected for the program.

NABH Best Practices Club

Outcomes

This is a platform for the accredited/ certified/ applicant hospitals to pitch, showcase and present the best practices

and innovative ideas/ initiatives/ interventions on healthcare quality and patient safety in their respective healthcare organization through creative videos/power point presentations.

NABH International (NABH-I)

Outcomes

NABH-I is providing accreditation to Hospitals, Small Healthcare Organization (SHCO), Eye Clinic Organization (ECO) and AYUSH hospitals. NABH- international has applicants from SAARC regions and countries from other regions too.

Currently there are 13 applicants in NABH-I accreditation programme at various stages. Out of 13 applicants, 8 hospitals are accredited: 4 hospitals from Oman, 2 each from Nepal & Bangladesh. 4 applicants from Oman, Afghanistan, Bangladesh & Bhutan are in in-process stage. One applicant is in new category from Maldives.

NABH Patient Safety Conference 2023

Outcomes

NABH organized a one-day National Patient Safety Conference on 17th September 2023 on the occasion of "World Patient Safety Day" with a theme- "Engaging Patients for Patients Safety" at New Delhi.

The event marked the gathering of more than 500 global leaders, industry experts and healthcare practitioners sharing their experiences.



Shri. Jaxay Shah, Chairman QCI and Team NABH met and interacted with Shri. Manoj Aggarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Gujarat and the Directors, Principals, and Senior Health officials of the Ministry of Health, Govt of Gujarat

NATIONAL BOARD FOR QUALITY PROMOTION

Harnessing the Power of Collaboration for Quality

NBQP is guided by a vision that consolidates all the efforts in the direction of enabling 'Quality of Life' for citizens of India by Educating all stakeholders; Engaging them in quality & related activities and Empowering them to take forward this cause in their respective domains.

Education

QCI Powered Sessions

Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)

Dr. A. Raj, CEO of NBQP, virtually addressed the audience during the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Second Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE) held from 26th to the 29th September. He shared valuable insights on "Building Bridges and Gateways to Strengthen Collaborative Frameworks in Quality Infrastructure" and highlighted the importance of building capabilities & capacities of SMEs in order to bridge the gap between the least and most advanced countries in the domains of standards development and quality infrastructure (QI).

Outcomes

Raised awareness among the audience regarding the significance of quality infrastructure.

37th ARSO monthly webinar on Sustainability in the Standardization Process, ARSO

27 September, 2023

At the 37th ARSO monthly webinar session on sustainability in standardization, Dr. Manish Pande, the Director and Head of the Project Analysis and Documentation Division, discussed on "Enhancing Sustainable Development Through Unified Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity Assessment Procedures for Trade: Insights from QCI's Journey." This session was co-hosted with Egypt/EOS.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/Divisions
- Insights into the challenges and opportunities in achieving compliance
- Practical strategies
- Exposure of QCI and PADD in an International Platform

CII Global MSME Business Summit, CII

November 23, 2023, New Delhi

Dr. A. Raj, CEO, NBQP shared his insights at the CII's 20th Global MSME Business Summit. He urged the audience to play their role in propagating the message of Quality in their respective domains and said that there is a need for a concerted focus on the service sector, especially hospitality MSMEs, which often get neglected. Emphasizing the need for a shift in mindset, he urged the MSMEs to also focus on the 'KNOW-WHY' apart from the "know-how", to enhance quality standards within MSME sectors globally.

Outcomes

- Networking with members present, highlighting hospitality MSMEs, which often get neglected.



Dr. A. Raj, CEO, NBQP at CII's 20th Global MSME Business Summit in New Delhi

DMA MEDICON 2023: 64th Annual Delhi State Medical Conference, Delhi Medical Association

November 26, 2023, New Delhi

Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO-NABH attended the 64th Annual Conference, Medicon 2023, hosted by the Delhi Medical

Association. During his presentation, he elucidated the significance of the Quality Council of India and NABH in the healthcare industry. Providing insight into the theme of his session, titled "Quality beyond Accreditation,". Dr. Kochhar expounded on the accreditation procedures by NABH and highlighted how Quality serves as an ongoing enhancement process within the healthcare sector.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/Divisions
- Participants from diverse sectors and countries exchanged knowledge and best practices of healthcare sector

2nd FICCI Industry 4.0 Awards & Conference 2023, FICCI

December 1, 2023, New Delhi

Dr. Ramanand N Shukla, Senior Director & Head, ZED Division and Dr. Aradhana Chopra, Director & Head, Lean-MSME Division, NABET addressed the 2nd FICCI Industry Award & Conference 2023. Dr. Shukla highlighted the role of ZED Certification Scheme in enhancing Industry competitiveness and sustainability. Further, Dr. Aradhana Chopra discussed the MCLS Scheme, highlighting its importance in addressing the challenges faced by MSMEs, in day-to-day operations & emphasised the supportive role of the scheme to make MSMEs globally competitive.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/ Divisions
- Raised awareness among attendees, including MSME representatives, about the importance of quality standards and government programs like ZED and LEAN

IMA: National Health Summit, Indian Medical Association

December 3, 2023, New Delhi

Dr. Narrottam Puri, Principal Advisor- NABH, QCI and Dr. Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO- NABH addressed the theme "Violence Against Hospitals & Healthcare Professionals" at the National Health Summit 2023 organized by the Indian Medical Association. Dr. Puri emphasized cooperation as the antidote to epidemics, identifying 12 key factors contributing to violence. Dr. Kochhar, discussed preventive & mitigating

strategies and urged doctors to be transparent, empathetic, compassionate, and improve communication for a safer healthcare environment.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/Divisions
- The event facilitated networking and collaboration among healthcare stakeholders, including government officials, healthcare providers, and international organizations

CII EXCELLENCE SUMMIT 2023

December 3, 2023, Bengaluru

Dr. A. Raj, CEO-NBQP, Quality Council of India, deliberated on the path to a developed, competitive, and sustainable India at 2047, during the 31st CII-Excellence Summit.

While highlighting various initiatives of QCI, he emphasized on the need of crucial elements: A National Quality Policy, A Single National Accreditation System, A Robust Market Surveillance Policy for strengthening the Quality Ecosystem, the Made in India label and a defined ESG framework especially for MSMEs.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/Divisions
- Highlighting various initiatives of QCI

Maharashtra MSME Sammelan, ASSOCHAM

December 15, 2023, Mumbai

Dr. Ramanand N Shukla, Senior Director & Head, ZED Division; Mr. Rajendra Aphale, Lean Consultant, NABET; Mr. Honey Karun, Advisor PPID QCI participated in the Maharashtra MSME Sammelan organized for building competitiveness

for Global Value Chain by ASSOCHAM. Dr. Shukla focused his talk on the MSME schemes and certification whereas Mr. Aphale spoke about the Lean manufacturing competitiveness scheme and Mr. Karun spoke about some of the potential challenges for MSMEs on sustainability and ESG and what efforts are needed to address them.

Outcomes

- Promotion of QCI & its Board/Divisions
- Discussion on the MSME, LEAN and Manufacturing competitiveness schemes
- Building relationships with the association.

III International Convention on Sustainable Trade & Standards

November 2 & 3, 2023, New Delhi



International Cooperation: Declaration of Cooperation in Sustainability Standards Ecosystem with African Organisation for Standardisation

PADD organized the 3rd International Convention on Sustainable Trade & Standards (ICSTS) at Pullman Hotel, New Delhi. NBQP assisted PADD in organizing the event.

Outcomes

- PADD-QCI partners with ARSO for improving Sustainability Standards
- Participants gained insights into sustainable trade practices, standards, and innovations

Gunvatta Gurukul Inauguration, PPID

November 29, 2023, New Delhi

- Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT, inaugurated Gunvatta Gurukul at Hindi Bhawan, New Delhi. In his address as the Chief Guest, he highlighted how government structure and public policy play a crucial role in fostering a conducive environment for learning. Shri Jaxay Shah, Chairperson, QCI in his address at the inauguration of Gunvatta Gurukul, explained how the initiative aims to shape young professionals into architects of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Dr. Mahesh Verma, Chairperson of NABH, emphasised that Gunvatta Gurukul would foster the holistic development of young professionals by integrating academic knowledge with essential life skills.

Outcomes

- Empowerment of Women Sarpanchs
- Increased awareness of gender issues, and the implementation of strategies to address violence against women and girls in rural areas.

Quality Times

QCI has launched a quarterly video series to emphasize the importance of quality. It includes segments like quality trivia, interviews with quality experts, and highlights of quality-related topics.

The **second edition** of Quality Times was launched during the Assam Gunvatta Sankalp by Dr. Lakshmanan S, Secretary (Industries, Commerce & PE Department) to the Govt. of Assam and featured Shri R S Sarma and Shri Thampy Koshi, CEO-ONDC focusing on Digital Infrastructure.



National Training Program for Women Sarpanchs, Sarpanch Samvaad

December 2, 2023, New Delhi

The Sarpanch Samvaad team (PPID) organized a National Training Program for Women Sarpanchs with the assistance of NBQP. There were three trainers and Dr. Ramanand N Shukla, Sr Director and Head ZED facilitated the trainers as well as the Sarpanchs on the occasion.

The third edition of Quality Times was launched during the Andhra Pradesh Gunvatta Sankalp by Dr. Sekhar Babu Geddam (IFS) Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Andhra Pradesh State Seeds Development Corporation Limited. This edition featured **Ms. Chhavi Rajawat**, the first woman MBA sarpanch of India, focusing on rural development.

Outcomes

- Interviews with quality influencers inspire individuals and organizations to prioritize and excel in quality management.

Quality summer Fun Camp'2023

The Quality Summer Fun Camp aimed to promote the concept of quality, with a focus on children who are future decision-makers, to encourage them to recognize the importance of an overall quality focus in all their actions and activities, and to incorporate proven principles into daily life.

This year the theme was "Let's make quality a habit". Competitions, such as essay and article writing, drawing competitions, short video-making competition, and quiz competition were organized. Around 4700+ entries were received. Winners were recognized through a virtual award ceremony in various competitions.

Outcomes

- Nurturing a quality-conscious mindset amongst children of India
- The outcome is a sense of social responsibility and community engagement
- Active engagement of students across India
- First ever online competitions, for kids

- Engaging and enjoyable activities, such as waste sorting, a pledge, an interactive quiz, and a plantation drive, were organized.

Outcomes

- Raised awareness regarding quality, personal hygiene, waste management, and environmental protection
- Fostered positive habit development in areas such as hand-washing, waste segregation, and cleanliness to improve the quality of life

Empowered students to articulate their thoughts and seek clarification, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for personal and community well-being.



Awareness Session on Quality, Hygiene & Cleanliness

- A workshop focusing on quality, hygiene, and cleanliness, themed as "स्वच्छ जीवन, स्वस्थ जीवन" took place at N.P. Coed Sr. Sec. School (NDMC), New Delhi on December 12, 2023, catering to students from Nursery to V grade. This workshop aimed to instill positive habits in students, encouraging them to actively participate in creating a cleaner and more sustainable community.



Engage

Quality Month Celebration'2023

Each year, the month of November is celebrated as 'Quality Month' worldwide. The purpose of Quality Month is to honour the commitment to continuous improvement systems, providing a vital platform to acknowledge individuals and organizations making noteworthy contributions to the advancement of quality across diverse sectors. NBQP also celebrated November 2023 as Quality Month by planning and implementing several online competitions. The theme for this year was "Quality Culture: Everyone's Responsibility."

Around 1000+ entries were received and assessment of applications is currently in progress.

Outcomes

- Quality Month actively encourages individuals dedicated to improving quality to share their knowledge, underscoring the intrinsic value of quality principles and fostering a culture of continuous improvement
- The celebration specifically highlights the achievements of those devoted to enhancing quality standards in businesses, communities, and institutions
- Empower them to take forward this cause in their respective domain

QUALITYSETU

QualitySetu is an online system for citizens to register queries, concerns, and appeals 24/7. It streamlines the process, categorizes issues, and ensures efficient resolution by forwarding them to relevant officers.

Through QualitySetu, citizens can register query, track status, and feedback.

Boards and divisions can view, resolve, and generate reports on received issues, thereby, promoting effective governance.

QualitySetu acts as a centralized information search system and a personalized interaction platform with government entities for users. Therefore, serving as a personalized single point system for end-user interaction with any of the Boards, Divisions & Cells, related to features like Queries, Concerns, feedback etc.

Activity Completed:

1. Website Revamp
2. Chatbot Integration on WhatsApp
3. Ticketing System & Integrated Feedback Mechanism
4. Revamp of Inner Website Pages
5. Real-Time Support to Board's SPOC: Provided real-time Enhanced Search Functionality on Quality Setu

Outcomes

- QualitySetu is a one-stop platform for queries and grievances, offering a seamless user experience

NIDHI+

National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI)

NIDHI is a technology-driven system, to facilitate digitalization and promote ease of doing business for the hospitality & tourism sector. NIDHI+ is built on a tech-powered Platform aligned with the vision of National Digital Tourism Mission and all its processes, right from registration, to showcasing, to onsite/remote assessments are end-to-end digitalized using mobile

applications and provision for API integration with stakeholders. The system is up & running and all Quality Certifications (like Star Classification, Sustainability Certification, various recognitions & approvals etc.) are being issued through this platform.

Concept Approval:

- Hon'ble Minister of Tourism has in-principle agreed to the concept of third-party assessment

Current Initiatives:

- Team is actively working on a detailed financial proposal

Proposal includes:

- Revision of MoT Guidelines
- Mechanism for third-party assessment in Star Classification & other approvals/ classifications

Closure of existing Work order & IT Management Extension:

1. It includes a personalized section for tracking engagements, chatbot-guided search, and centralized search capabilities across QCI boards, divisions, and cells. It covers all public information, enhancing visibility and user experience on both mobile and web interfaces
2. Quality Setu would help enhance QCI's visibility, cover all publicly available information about QCI, and improve the experience of end user

Outcomes

- Digitization and automation can lead to more efficient processes in the hospitality and tourism sector

Register, Resolve, and Reimagine a Better Tomorrow!

QualitySetu



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR TESTING AND CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

Becoming the Best Ever in Laboratory Accreditation

NABL is an accreditation body, with its accreditation system established in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011. "Conformity Assessment – Requirements for Accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies."

Quality Control Orders (QCOs), Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bhopal, Jaipur, Ranchi and Vishakhapatnam

Awareness program on Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the various ministries, Products covered under QCOs and Product-based accreditation

Outcomes

Participants were briefed about the importance of creating testing infrastructure in the country & benefits of laboratories for getting accreditation for the complete set of parameters related to the products.

Senior officials from NABL explained about the Quality Control Orders (QCOs), Product-based accreditation and business opportunities to the NABL accreditation laboratories.

Participants were sensitised about the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued by the various ministers, Products under QCOs, Product based accreditation & business opportunities to the laboratories.

Laboratories actively participated in the interaction & clarified their queries related to QCOs & Product based accreditation.



NABL Stakeholder's Meeting, Ahmedabad, Ranchi, Vishakhapatnam

Initiative taken for better outreach and connect with stakeholders

Participants were apprised on future/upcoming awareness programs at regional levels, development on portal improvements and grievance redressal and operations through our local office.

The stakeholders were also given an opportunity to share their feedback and suggestions about services offered by NABL.

NABL Awareness Program in Nadia district (West Bengal) and Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)

Awareness program in Nadia district in association with DIC Nadia and AP Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Vijayawada.



Outcomes

NABL conducted an awareness program for industries, entrepreneurs, exporters, and potential laboratories.

Senior Officials of NABL and the invited guests addressed the participants and emphasized the need to strengthen the quality infrastructure in their own fields, and the expectation from NABL through laboratory accreditation.

Innovative Technologies



Innovative Technologies in Pesticide Formulations and Quality Management System as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Outcomes

NABL stressed on the necessity for precise testing of pesticide for preventing spurious chemicals, meeting global quality standards, environmental safety, and the need for NABL accreditation as a measure of accuracy, integrity and trust. A detailed description about the benefits of implementing NABL accreditation system in pesticide testing laboratories was given to the participants of the program. A detailed overview of standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was given to the participants which brought further clarity in the minds of the participants about the accreditation process and requirements for getting NABL Accreditation.

Technical Training Program at CSIR-IITR, Lucknow, Gurugram and Patna

Technical Training Program on Analysis of Pesticide residues and contaminants in meat samples using GC-MS/MS

Outcomes

The objective of the program was to develop technical capabilities in the country for the analysis of pesticide residue and contaminants in meat samples using GC-MS/MS. Participants from different testing laboratories and research organizations benefitted from the program. Understanding on analysis of pesticide residue through theoretical lectures and practical hands-on experience on GC-MS/MS was gained during the program.

The objective of the program was to develop technical capabilities in the country for the testing of Photovoltaic Modules, Solar PV Converters and Solar PV Pumps.

NABL Officials explained about the role of NABL in the quality infrastructure of our country, global scenario of the accreditation system and the position of NABL in the global scenario.

Awareness Program

Andhra Legal Metrology Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Outcomes

Participants were informed about the initiative of the department to take up NABL accreditation for the secondary standard laboratories.

Food Testing Laboratories in Mangaluru in association with KCCI

Outcomes

Senior officials emphasized the need to go for NABL accreditation in order to remove technical barriers to conduct trade & facilitate international export.

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION BODIES

Setting the Standard for Certification Excellence

20+ years of operations & international equivalence in accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies. Member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC).

Industry

Second Indian Industry Bodies Meeting on Quality Infrastructure (QI)

Outcomes

- Deliberation on significance of standards, technical regulations, and accredited conformity assessment in various industry sectors.
- Discussion on the pivotal role of standards, technical regulations, accredited conformity assessment, and compliance mechanisms in facilitating international market access and reducing import dependencies.

Capacity Building

NABCB organized the Annual Assessors' Conclave

Outcomes

- Sharing of Assessment experiences among assessors.
- Harmonization of Assessment process

NABCB Assessors' Training Course on ISO/IEC 17020 & ISO/IEC 17029

Outcomes

- Expanding and enhancing the Assessor pool, while also providing training for its existing assessors and technical experts.

NABCB attended Regional Training on Product Certification based on the International Standards ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 17067



Second Indian Industry Bodies Meeting on Quality Infrastructure

Outcomes

- To enhance knowledge and comprehension of the various requirements of ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 17067 of personnel from SAARC nation Accreditation Bodies.

International Meetings

NABCB Attended IAF/ILAC Joint Annual Meetings

Outcomes

- Engagement in a diverse array of activities, including involvement in technical committees, working groups, IAF DMC, and task force meetings.
- Harmonization of Accreditation practices among Accreditation Bodies.

Aerospace

NABCB & InAQG hosted an Informative Webinar on ICOP Scheme

Outcomes

- To disseminate about InAQG & its role in the Indian Aerospace Supply Chain Improvement initiatives

Food

Webinar on FSSC 24000 & FSSC 22000 Version 6

Outcomes

- Provide insights into the diverse requirements of FSSC 24000 and specifications of FSSC 22000 V6



NABCB organized the Annual Assessors' Conclave



NACCB at IAF/ILAC Joint Annual Meetings



NACCB Assessors' Training Course on ISO/IEC 17020 & ISO/IEC 17029



NACCB attended Regional Training on Product Certification based on the International Standards ISO/IEC 17065 and ISO/IEC 17067



QCI'S DIVISIONS/ CELLS





Project Planning and Implementation Division (PPID)

UPDATES



Assessment of technological readiness of all Smart cities

Maturity Assessment of ICCCs in 100 Smart Cities

The Maturity Assessment of Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) is a project led by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs as part of the Smart Cities Mission. This initiative aims to assist and assess cities in their endeavours

to enhance the effectiveness and administration of their ICCC activities.

- It will provide a comprehensive analysis of gaps present in each ICCC through a City-wise finding report thereby presenting the ground-level situation of each ICCC.
- It will provide a comparative analysis of ICCCs across the pillars provided under the IMAF 2.0, thereby providing an opportunity for each ICCCs to learn from their peers. It will give a boost to the spirit of competitiveness among the ICCCs and realise their full potential.

- It will identify and enlist best practices followed by each ICCCs. This will create a model for other ICCCs to adopt new or improve upon their existing practices.
- It will provide an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of each ICCCs in the form of a comprehensive report. This will aid every ICCCs in designing their future course of action which would push them toward excellence.
- It will provide key insights into the gaps present within each ICCCs at the pillars level. This will pinpoint the shortfalls present within each ICCCs and redirect their energy towards correcting the same.
- The objective was to assess the level of adulteration in milk and milk products and monitor their compliance w.r.t quality and safety parameters given in FSSR based on which course correction would be taken at ground level.



Surveillance of Milk and Milk Products 2023

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to conduct a robust, credible, independent and transparent market survey of the overall quality and safety landscape of milk and milk products in India.
- The survey was conducted across 640 districts/cities in India. In total, 8 products with 8572 samples from organized and unorganized sectors were analyzed on six parameters namely, the General Parameters, Adulterants, Aflatoxin M1, Melamine, and in some cases, testing for Antibiotic and Microbiology.



PMU-Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY)

- VBSY aims to increase the coverage of various government social schemes by organising events (such as Health Camp, Ujwala Registration, Facilitation ceremonies etc.) under the umbrella of Government of India under the drive launch on 15th November to 25th January.
- The initiative aims to cover all the Gram Panchayats (~ 2.6 Lakhs) of India.

QCI's PMU team aims to:

- Ensure better coordination with various stakeholder for organising events in each Gram Panchayat under VBSY.
- Design and develop reporting structure for the initiative for better implementation.
- Analysis of the data for better and timely decision-making for increasing the coverage of the initiative



Video Surveillance System (VSS) for CWC

- Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) has nominated QCI as PMC/ PMU for implementing the Modern Video Surveillance System (VSS) for the Corporation.
- The project aims to improve security and surveillance of CWC's 249 food grain warehouses across the country, along with monitoring adherence of warehouse SOPs, through CCTV cameras and IoT sensors.
- QCI is responsible for end-to-end monitoring and execution of the project which includes designing the solution and monitoring its implementation till the final handover to CWC.

The following tasks have been undertaken till now:

- Designing of the VSS solution architecture to meet CWC's requirements
- Approval from the CWC Project Team on various aspects of the design solution and implementation plan of the project
- Approval from CWC's Board of Directors on the design solution (Dec 5, 2023)
- Creation of RFP for onboarding a system integrator. The RFP was published by CWC on GeM (Dec 18, 2023)
- Through tender, a System Integrator will be onboarded to implement the VSS. QCI will undertake quality checks at all 249 warehouses to monitoring the implementation process.

Atal Bhujal Yojana

QCI has been selected as the Third-Party Government Verification Agency (TPGVA) by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR), Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI. The following are the tasks undertaken by QCI to implement the verification of the DLIs (Disbursement Linked Indicators):

- Formulation of project methodology along with various stakeholders viz. NPMUs, SPMUs and DPMUs.
- Creation of the project plan along with timelines, selection of platforms to conduct field assessment and desktop verification.
- Updation and structuring of project protocols in accordance with exigencies at the time.
- Training and selection of QCI empanelled assessors for third party field assessment.
- Mobilization and execution of the project which includes data sampling, surveys, community interviews and data analysis.
- Establishing the baseline and verifying the results against the five DLIs in-built in the scheme.
- Compilation of results and preparation of reports based on field observations and desktop assessments.



PROJECT UPDATES

- Till now, QCI as a TPGVA has conducted 6 verification rounds. Under these verification rounds QCI has completed verification of DLI#2, where it has assessed 20% of total WSPs submitted by the states. Four rounds of verification of DLI#1 and two rounds each of DLI#3 and DLI#4 has been completed by the TPGVA.
- We have also finished setting up of the baseline data for DLI#4 and DLI#5 to understand the trend analysis.
- During the citizen interaction QCI has interviewed more than 15,000 respondents to assess the impact of Atal Bhujal Yojana and Ground Water Conditions.
- Till date more than 1000 observation well have been assessed by QCI to assess the Water Level and Water Quality conditions at the Gram Panchayat Level.
- Pilot study for DLI#5 has been conducted by QCI to assess the rate of declining of groundwater level.
- QCI conducted a meeting with all the 7 states to make them aware about the fundamentals of the assessment process.
- QCI, along with World Bank and Jal Shakti Ministry has been a part of 5th National Level Steering Committee (NLSC) for implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana.
- We are currently working on 7th Round of the Verification Cycle for Disbursement Linked Indicators 1,3,4 and 5, where QCI is physically verifying the newly constructed observation wells, State claims for the Water-Saving Interventions done on-ground through the convergence of funds from existing schemes and interviewing citizens to understand the level of scheme awareness.

Project Analysis & Documentation (PAD) Division

UPDATES



Healthcare

AYUSH Mark Scheme

Outcomes

- 5435 products of 73 manufacturers certified under AYUSH Mark Scheme designed for AYUSH products to enhance consumer confidence.
- 2- Invest India invited QCI for presenting the AYUSH scheme for sensitizing AYUSH startups to highlight quality standards in the global supply chains.

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCS-TCHP)

Outcomes

- Training of evaluators in Jamshedpur and witness assessment at Chaibasa done in the month of December 2023.
- 1443 TCHPs certified till date across the country.
- Greater outreach with key players like Piramal Swasthya for a wider intervention in tribal districts.
- Technical Committee meeting held on 18 Oct 2023 under the chairmanship of Dr Brindavanam in Bangalore to discuss expansion of the scope of common ailments and introduction to new streams.

- QCI has been nominated at Hub Governing Body of TiHAN, IIT Hyderabad; as a member in BOO for military worthiness of drones in DGQA, MoD.
- First government body National Test House got provisional approval as CB. 2 CB got NABCB accreditation for CSUAS scope.



PADD participated at IndiAirport Conference by PHDCCI at Delhi



Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)

Outcomes

- 44 Type Certificates issued till date (25 - agriculture drones; 17 - Survey drones; 2 - training drones). 16 TCs have been issued from Sept to Dec-2023.
- Collaborated with academia like IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad for sensitization on CSUAS



PADD shared its views on Strategic Role of UAVs in an international conference chaired by Senior Economic Advisor, MoCA at Delhi

Development of Conformity Assessment System and Resource for Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)

Outcomes

- Award of project for Development of Conformity Assessment System and Resource for Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure (CII).
- Personnel Certification Scheme for IT/ICS Cyber Security Professionals (CSPs) has been approved by Steering Committee.



Digital Readiness of MSME Retailers - ONDC (future intervention/in pipeline)

Outcome

- A portal cum assessment tool designed for ONDC ready for launch.

IndG.A.P. Certification Scheme | Benchmarking and Spices Project

Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme

Outcomes

- Successfully incorporated NABCB as the accreditation board and were able to have QCI nominated as one of the member of the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme Council.



Outcomes

- Benchmarking IndG.A.P. to GLOBALG.A.P. - Letter of recognition received from GLOBALG.A.P.
- Launch of IndG.A.P. portal in AP Gunvatta Sankalp
- NTWG GRASP document submitted for review to GLOBAL G.A.P



QCI inks MoUs with AP Govt. to drive the conformity assessment activities in Agri and Allied sectors 2



Medicinal Plants



VCSMPP GAP Training Workshop at Gagadi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan on 31 Oct 2023

Voluntary Certification Scheme for Medicinal Plant Produce (VCSMPP) | CB&S Project

Outcomes

- 89 trainings conducted pan-India attended by 5425 attendees till date under VCSMPP Capacity Building and Sensitisation (CB&S) project.
- 75 medicinal plants species Package of Practices (PoP) developed till date.
- Identified 30 demonstration plots, established 11 demo plot projects and certified.
- Future intervention: To make certified raw material as per VCSMPP as a pre-requisite for AYUSH Mark Certification Scheme.

Recognition of Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies (HRAA) | Aligned with Eat Right India initiatives of FSSAI

Outcomes

- Recognized 39 HRAAs till date that will verify compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures laid down by FSSAI.

दैनिक भास्कर
खंडवा, रविवार, 30 दिसंबर, 2023 14

औषधीय पादप उत्पाद के लिए दिया प्रशिक्षण



भास्कर संवाददाता | खंडवा

औषधि पादपों के उत्पादन के लिए शैक्षिक प्रमाण योजना के तहत दो दिनों प्रशिक्षण जसबाड़ी रोड क्षेत्र में दिया जा रहा है। आयोजिका मिशन द्वारा बनाई गई कृषि न्यायि आयोजिका फार्मर प्रोड्यूसर कंपनी के 79 सदस्यों और औषधीय खेती से जुड़े किसानों को प्रशिक्षण दिया गया। इसमें जिले में मिलने वाली विभिन्न प्रकार की औषधीय वनस्पतियों को वैधानिक नियम से वन विभाग से अनुमति लेकर संग्रहण, कटाई कर प्रसंस्करण और ड्रैडिंग करने की पद्धति से अवगत कराया।

स्टेट औषधि पादप बोर्ड आईआईएफएम भोपाल से आए

डॉ. मनीष मिश्रा और क्यूरोआई एसोसिएट मैनेजर जड़िया मंत्रालय ने प्रशिक्षार्थियों को औषधीय पादप क्षेत्र में रसोई के लिए किसानों द्वारा उपलब्ध जा रही कटाकर पद्धति की जानकारी दी। प्राकृतिक औषधियों को हो रहे नुकसान और विलुप्त हो रहे पादपों से भी अवगत कराया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि डीएफओ एकेला कुमार रामोरे, आयोजिका मिशन जिला परियोजना प्रबंधक आनंद स्वयंराव शर्मा, जिला प्रबंधक नीलिमा सिंह, अधिकृत जैन, धर्मेश सिंह भदोरिया, सुनील पंडोरे, पुष्पा कोणे, कल्पना कोचले, कला खामने, सुनीता पंखर, पूजा पटेल, भूपेंद्र सिंह फकर, मनीष कंठारे, धनपाल सिंह सोलंकी मौजूद थे।

VCSMPP - GFCP workshop in Khandwa MP

- Under the aegis of FSSAI, PADD has conducted training for food professionals for hygiene rating audits witnessing 149 participants.
- A total of 40,000 audits have been conducted PAN India by the recognized HRAAs.



United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Outcomes

- Accreditation to leverage regional trade which was accepted in the UNESCAP BBIN Connectivity Subregional Capacity Building Workshop 22-24 Nov 2023.



UNESCAP BBIN Connectivity Subregional Capacity Building Workshop 22-24 Nov 2023

United Nation Forum for Sustainability Standard (UNFSS)

Outcomes

- QCI under the aegis of United Nation Forum for Sustainability Standard (UNFSS) hosted an international event comprising of 6 UN agencies included 17 Sessions, 47 Speakers, 10 Sponsors and 400 participants.
- International Cooperation Declaration of Cooperation in Sustainability Standards Ecosystem with African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) on 2-3 Nov 2023 at New Delhi
- Launch of UNIDO White Paper 'Sustainable Supply Chains Solutions for step-by-step integration of industrializing countries into sustainable value chains' in 3rd ICSTS on 2-3 Nov 2023 at New Delhi
- Receiving of 'Benchmarking Recognition letter from GLOBALG.A.P.' on 2-3 Nov 2023 at New Delhi

APEDA Peanut

Outcomes

- APEDA has granted QCI the task of strengthening the food safety in the peanuts sector.
- Future Intervention: Will conduct the multiple trainings to empower the Indian Export

Archaeological Survey of India

Outcomes

- ASI is focused to make accessible spaces for visitors with special needs to the monuments of historical importance.
- Accessibility mapping conducted for 140+ monuments under ASI pan-India, aimed at promoting inclusive tourism and showcasing Indian heritage and culture accessible to all.
- Future intervention: The government will consider the recommendations of QCI for upgrading accessibility in all ASI ticketed monuments



Access Audit conducted at Chanderi under ASI Accessibility and Mapping



A Resounding Success Story

The III International
Convention on
Sustainable Trade and
Standards (ICSTS)

Advancing Sustainable Trade

Insights from the III
International Convention
on Sustainable Trade and
Standards

.....

The global adoption of sustainability standards in Value Chains poses challenges for developing nations, potentially excluding non-compliant exporters. India, aspiring to be a manufacturing leader, organized a convention under its G20 Presidency theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' showcasing its commitment to sustainable trade.

The Third International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards, held in New Delhi from 2 to 3 November 2023, marked a significant milestone in the global pursuit of sustainability in trade. Organized by the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), the event brought together more than 400 participants, including government officials, international organizations, businesses, and NGOs. The convention aimed to address challenges in adopting sustainability standards for global value chains, promoting inclusive dialogue and showcasing India's commitment to sustainable trade.



Key Themes and Discussions

Collaborative Approach to Sustainability

The convention highlighted the role of sustainability standards in advancing global sustainability goals and emphasized the need for a collaborative approach. The

Quality Council of India, as the First Chair of the National Platform and Initiative Cooperation Network

(NPIC), played a pivotal role in organizing the event. The India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards (INPPSS) is the first national platform launched on 18 March 2016 with the support of the UNFSS – a forum of 6 UN agencies: UNCTAD, ITC, UNIDO, FAO, UNEP & UNECE. INPPSS serves as a platform for dialogue between public and private stakeholders to address challenges in adopting voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) for market access.

MSME Challenges and Solutions

Acknowledging the challenges faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in adopting Private Sustainability Standards (PSS), discussions focused on addressing discrepancies, incorporating traditional knowledge, and capacity-building for sustainable growth.

Role of Standards in Trade Disputes

Keynote speaker Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh discussed the role of standards in resolving trade disputes and highlighted the challenges of potential misuse. The importance of dialogue and collaboration was emphasized to address concerns and align thinking processes with broader goals.

Global Value Chains and Developing Countries

Mr. Pedro Manuel Moreno, DSG, UNCTAD discussed the significance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) in global value chains, emphasizing the challenges faced by developing countries.

Fireside Chats on Collaborative Governance

Fireside Chats delved into strengthening global sustainability governance through Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) and collaborative governance. Practical solutions, collaboration, and innovative approaches were emphasized to address sustainability challenges.

Panel Discussions on Due Diligence Regulations and Technology in Sustainability

Panel discussions focused on Due Diligence Regulations, mainstreaming quality through Voluntary Sustainability Standards, and government-industry partnerships with a focus on technology in mainstreaming sustainability. Challenges, opportunities, and practical insights were shared, highlighting the importance of collaboration, technology, and inclusivity.

Recognitions and Achievements

The convention recognized notable achievements, including the launch of UNIDO's White Paper, benchmarking recognition from GLOBALG.A.P. for IndG.A.P., and a declaration of cooperation with the African Organisation for Standardisation. Dr. Manish Pande, as the Director and Head of the Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD) at the Quality Council of India (QCI), played a pivotal role in advancing sustainability and quality standards in Indian agriculture. One significant achievement was the successful benchmarking effort led by Dr. Pande and QCI, aligning the Indian Good Agricultural Practices (IndG.A.P.) with the GLOBALG.A.P. standard for fruit and vegetables. This accomplishment allows IndG.A.P. producers to receive GLOBALG.A.P. recognition without additional audits, streamlining the process for Indian farmers and fostering international market access.

Dr. Pande also highlighted QCI's holistic approach from policy formulation to grassroots-level implementation, focusing on providing financial mechanisms as a safety net and covering various aspects of agriculture and

Issuance of Benchmarking Recognition letter

.....



natural resource management.

His collaborative efforts with UNIDO were emphasized, showcasing initiatives that connect production units to global markets and contribute to understanding challenges faced by stakeholders. Dr. Pande's involvement in the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards underscores his commitment to sustainability, with a focus on engaging stakeholders from diverse sectors. He emphasized the need for capacity building, the reduction of duplication of standards. His contributions reflect a commitment to driving meaningful change through strategic partnerships, practical approaches, and actionable initiatives in addressing global sustainability challenges.

Closing Plenary and Future Framework

In the conclusive session of the International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards (ICSTS), the Closing Plenary served as a platform for eminent speakers to emphasize the criticality of standards, sustainability, and collaborative efforts in achieving overall business success. Dr. Harsha Vardhana Singh presented a forward looking perspective by proposing a comprehensive conceptual framework designed to measure and enforce sustainability practices. Dr. Ralf Peters, echoing the sentiment, underscored the significance of standardized metrics and advocated for cooperation, suggesting the

establishment of a dedicated global forum for voluntary sustainability standards. Mr. Ajit B. Chavan from GeM contributed to the discourse by articulating the Indian government's unwavering commitment to environmentally sustainable policies and shedding light on GeM's pivotal role in advancing sustainable public procurement practices.

In alignment with the momentum generated by the ICSTS, the Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PADD) at the Quality Council of India (QCI) has embarked on collaborative initiatives to further sustainability goals. In partnership with UNIDO, PADD, QCI is actively engaged in a project titled 'Navigating Sustainable Supply Chains Regulations.' This initiative seeks to bolster India's automotive sector by identifying specific needs through stakeholder engagement, awareness activities, and the utilization of the Supply Chain Regulations Mapping Tool. Additionally, PADD, QCI has forged collaboration with the European Union on a project aimed at enhancing the capacity of the agriculture and forestry value chain in India, aligning with global sustainability principles.

Building on the declaration of cooperation with the African Organisation for Standardisation, PADD, QCI is advancing efforts related to TCHP, AFRICAG.A.P., and AYUSH Mark. These endeavors signify a proactive approach to extend collaborative frameworks beyond the convention, with a commitment to realizing sustainable practices in diverse sectors. The outlined initiatives reflect a collective determination to translate discussions into actionable projects, fostering a tangible impact on sustainability across global supply chains.

Conclusion

The III International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards showcased global progress on Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) and underscored the importance of a collaborative and inclusive approach to address sustainability challenges. The rich insights and discussions emanating from the event not only showcased progress but also provided a comprehensive roadmap for businesses, governments, and organizations to seamlessly integrate sustainability into their strategies. This collective effort aims to foster environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically viable progress on a global scale.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the ICSTS, it is essential to recognize the collaborative spirit and high standards set by each team member. The positive feedback from participants underscores the collective excellence of the team and the inclusive atmosphere cultivated throughout the conference. The success achieved is not only a testament to individual contributions but also to the cohesive and harmonious efforts of the entire team. Moving forward, the Quality Council of India expresses sincere gratitude to every team member, including Ms. Arushi Lohani, for their invaluable contributions. The collaborative ethos exhibited by the team members promises continued success in future endeavors, and we eagerly anticipate further opportunities to work together towards shared goals.

.....
Dr. Manish Pande &
Arushi Lohani



The Ministry of MSME is in the process of re-launching the Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Scheme as “MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification” Scheme, with QCI to continue as the Implementing Agency.

Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme

UPDATES



MSME ZED Awareness Programs

ZED Certification Scheme has been made **free (100% Subsidy) for MSMEs owned by Women Entrepreneurs**

Awareness session conducted for the **100+ members of Ramnagar Industry Association, Varanasi** on October 15, 2023

A virtual awareness session conducted for the MSME members of Solapur Garment Manufacturers Association on September 05, 2023. 120+ members participated

Meetings conducted with various State Governments (**Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Assam and Maharashtra**) to scale-up the ZED Certifications

Awareness sessions conducted for the State Government Industry department officials of **Assam and Gujarat**. 150+ Officials participated

A virtual meeting conducted with Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneurs (FIWE), Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs (CWEI), Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of Andhra Pradesh (ALEAP), Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka (AWAKE), Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Women Entrepreneurs Welfare Association (WEWA) of Tamil Nadu, Bihar Mahila Udyog Sangh (BMUS), Madhya Pradesh Association of Woman Entrepreneurs (MAWE), Kalyani Sahasik Mahila Vikas Sangh (KSMVS) and Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE) on November 15, 2023 to **sensitize them on the additional benefits (100% Subsidy on ZED Certification for MSMEs owned by Women Entrepreneurs) of ZED Certification Scheme**

ZED Scheme presented in various NAMCABS/Town Hall meetings organized by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). **More than 200 MSMEs and 250+ Bankers participated**

ZED Scheme presented in **district level awareness sessions organized by State Government of Maharashtra**

ZED Certified MSMEs

65163

Participants

Bronze 64900

Silver 141

Gold 122

ZED Handholding/
Consultancy

284

Applications
received

MSMEs availed
Financial
Assistance on
System (Quality)/
Testing/Product
Certification

658

Zero Defect Zero Effect Scheme

18 ZED Awareness
Programs conducted

1500+

Participants

02, 5-day Assessor
Trainings Conducted

59

Participants

04,5-day Consultant
Trainings Conducted

129

Participants

01, 5-day MSME Officials
Training Conducted

26

Participants

ZED Registrations

100087

Participants

Micro 87045

Small 11262

Medium 1780

Defence

System for Advance
Manufacturing
Assessment and Rating
(SAMAR) Certification

SAMAR Certification presented
at DMRL-Industry Interaction
Meet (D2IM-23), Hyderabad
held on October 18, 2023.
300+ delegates from various
industry sectors, scientists
from DMRL, and other DRDO
officials participated

47

Number of
registrations

10

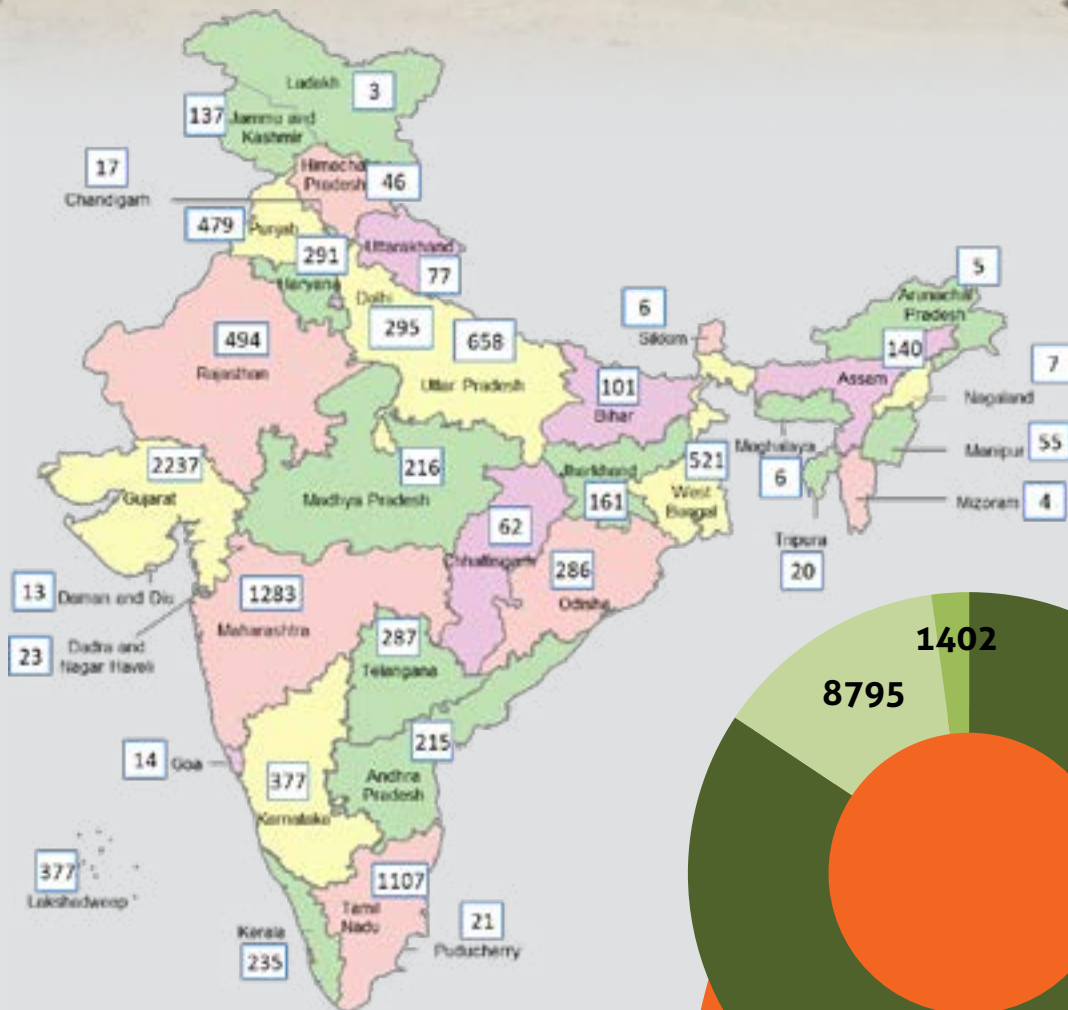
Number of
assessments
conducted

5

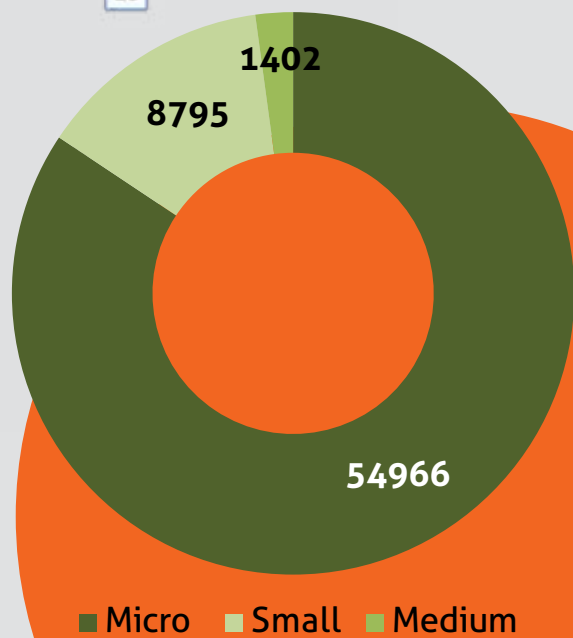
Number of
Certifications

QUALITY INDIA **75**

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



No. of ZED Certified MSMEs



Training and Capacity Building (TCB) Cell

UPDATES

Certification / Accreditation Standards/ General Management

Training for various Professionals and Students

Outcomes

- In the last four months, TCB conducted 54 training courses wherein 2080+ professionals have registered and benefitted from these instructor-led training. These include training on ISO/IEC 17065, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO 13485, ISO/IEC 17025, Risk Management, ISO 15189 etc., Yellow Belt Six Sigma and Digital Marketing.

- The trainings are conducted in real-time with highly interactive sessions

TCB's International Engagement- PTB Germany Sponsored training in Nepal

Outcomes

- 5- day PTB Germany Sponsored 'Laboratory Assessor Training as per international norms ILAC G-3' was conducted for the professionals of Nepal Bureau of Standards and

Metrology (NBSM), Department of Food Technology & Quality Control (DFTQC) and Department of Plant Resources (DPR). The trained professionals shall now become the part of assessor's pool of NBSM. TCB/QCI took Complete lead in designing, conducting the course and formal evaluation of the participants meeting the requirements of ILAC G3.



Administered a Gap Analysis of various centers of the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA), Uttar Pradesh

Outcomes

- Concluded the project on Gap Analysis of FSDA centers as third-party assessment where 6 centers viz. Lucknow, Agra, Meerut, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, and Jhansi were assessed. The final report was submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Food Safety, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- In addition to this, TCB conducted a 3-day training at Lucknow for the officials of 6 UP FSDA centers on FSSAI integrated assessment. The training intended to impart in-depth knowledge on FSSAI Integrated assessment and on the regulations of FSSAI.

Technical guidance and handholding of the upgradation of three facilities under the Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Haryana

Outcomes

- In the last four months, TCB/QCI conducted numerous meetings to support the facilities for monitoring the quality of Honey, vegetables and Fruits in the region.

- Administered training on the Validation of Methods for Residue Analysis for the three facilities.
- Moreover, technical guidance and handholding are being provided to their three centers from time to time.

Training and Capacity Building for Local Food Entrepreneurs of Ladakh

- Conducted a 3-day training for SPMU Ladakh - PMFME Scheme, Department of Industries & Commerce. It was for the 50+ Local Entrepreneurs of Ladakh on 'Requirements of Packaging (FSSR, 2018) & Labelling (FSSR, 2020) - Food Commodities



Capacity building of State Water Quality Infrastructure

- QCI being empaneled as the KRC for National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM), for the financial year 2023- 24, assigned 30 trainings for Level-2 under the framework. In the last quarter, the training was administered in the cities of Lucknow, Bengaluru, Leh, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Kochi and Jammu.
- During each session, 50 participants actively engaged in comprehensive training covering two distinct topics related to water monitoring and drinking water standards. The training provided participants with a profound

understanding of terminology, bacterial requirements, virological requirements, biological requirements, and sampling techniques. The sessions were designed to be interactive, featuring doubt-clearance sessions that brought attention to prevailing malpractices within their water quality monitoring systems. The inclusion of exercises and workshops aimed to enhance interactivity and practical application, contributing to higher knowledge retention among the participants.

- A total of 525 professionals employed in water departments across diverse Indian states have developed extensive knowledge of water monitoring and the associated infrastructure for ensuring water quality.

Capacity Building activity for PHE Ladakh

- Organized a 12-day onsite training program focused on the practical demonstration of water testing and the effective implementation of laboratory systems for the officials from PHE Ladakh, held at NIFTEM, Sonipat. The training included hands-on sessions in the NIFTEM laboratory, providing lab officials with practical insights into water testing procedures.

Capacity Building activity PHED, West Bengal

- Organized a 3-day onsite training session on Microbiological Testing for Drinking Water for PHED in West Bengal. The training catered to Level 2 or Middle Management officials and featured a practical demonstration focusing on the microbiological parameters of water.



Capacity Building of Healthcare professionals, Doctors, Scientists etc.

- Conducted a series of onsite Training on Accreditation for Doctors, Scientists', Technical staff, Professors etc. for AIIMS Rishikesh, Gorakhpur, Jammu and 2 trainings at Bhubaneswar. The trainings were offered on accreditation standards for building healthcare's quality infrastructure.

Training for professors, Quality Managers, Senior Scientific Officers, Chief Operating Officer and students of the medical College

- 3-day training was conducted for the Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur on accreditation of medical laboratories. The Training offered an in-depth knowledge of general requirements, Structural and governance requirements, and management System requirements.



Preparation of Guidelines on a common approach for the implementation of Conformity Assessment Standards for member states of South African Developing Communities (SADC), Africa under the SADC Trade

Facilitation Programme (TFP) supported by the European Union (EU)

- In this SADC Project, the initial step in guideline preparation involved the successful development of a data collection tool, incorporating valuable insights garnered through discussions with field experts. The tool was effectively disseminated, leading to the collection of substantial datasets.
- Subsequently, a workshop took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 11-12th December 2023, where the insights from the responses were presented. These insights were reflective of the responses gathered through a comprehensive questionnaire distributed to various entities within the member states of SADC.

MoU Signing with Assam and Gujarat State government Departments

- During the Guvvatta Sankalp held at Guwahati, Assam, TCB/QCI signed an MoU with the Commissionerate of Food Safety, Assam. The purpose of this MoU is to jointly work for the design, development, and implementation of Quality Infrastructure to support and augment the food safety ecosystem in Assam.
- On the occasion of the inaugural of the Regional Office of QCI at Ahmedabad, TCB/QCI signed an MoU with the Gujarat Technological University (GTU), a State University with 486 affiliated colleges in its fold operating across the state of Gujarat through its six zones at Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Rajkot, Surat and Bhuj. Under this MoU, TCB jointly with GTU will work on training and capacity building activities to build a strong Quality Infrastructure in the region



Education & Skill Development

Workshop to educate school children on Quality hygiene, cleanliness, and environment

- TCB partnered with NBQP to organize a workshop on Quality Hygiene & Cleanliness, specifically tailored for school students. The workshop's objective was to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among young learners regarding personal hygiene, waste management, environmental protection, and positive habits. The event took place at NP Coed Sr. Sec School, Tilak Marg.



Training and capacity-building activities in Nepal and South Africa, with a specific focus on quality infrastructure.



Signing of MoU with the Commissionerate of Food Safety, Assam, and the Gujarat Technological University (GTU)



Under the framework of NJJM, 15 training programs were administered in the cities of Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Jammu, Kolkata, Kochi, Lucknow, and Leh

Training on Accreditation for the Doctors, Scientists; Technical staff, Professors etc. for regional centers of AIIMS viz (Jammu, Gorakhpur, Rishikesh and Bhubaneswar) and Geetanjali Hospital, Udaipur

Voices of Satisfaction

Testimonials from
Delighted Ex-Members

“

Working at QCI was truly rewarding. I led the national accessibility project for public buildings, collaborating with diverse stakeholders to make spaces inclusive for everyone. Researching best practices and developing training materials fueled my passion for sharing knowledge and driving change. The supportive team environment at QCI fostered my professional growth and made this a defining chapter in my career.

I wholeheartedly recommend QCI for anyone passionate about quality, inclusion, and making a positive impact.



Reeti Mahobe
Ex-Employee, QCI

“

When I decided to embark on my professional journey at QCI, my first job, I wanted to contribute to the development of our country through public policy research. Subsequent hustle followed.

PAD Division of QCI gave me an opportunity to work with various Ministries, Departments (Govt. of India) and UN bodies on strategy, research and development, management and monitoring projects. Through projects like Benchmarking of IndG.A.P. to GLOBALG.A.P., Certification of spices, SDG Mapping of standards and Impact Studies, QCI gave me a platform for early career development.

FGDs with the tea workers of Assam, interaction with farmer/producer groups, and then eventually getting the opportunity to conduct extensive research to strengthen the checklist for accessibility mapping of historical monuments, devise assessment framework for ONDC project on digital readiness of entities, to name a few, gave me hands-on learning experience that took me deep into the trenches of the issue. This played a critical role in helping strengthen and expand the contours and possibilities of collaboration for a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Working with the government system (and citizens) and taking ownership of the work builds a steep learning curve, along with a plethora of skills and perspectives. Overwhelming, to say the least, to gather the strength to step out of my comfort zone and expect growth, no matter what. Oddly gratifying. Enriching experiences, tons of learnings, valued friendships, and much more at QCI were invaluable for my personal and professional growth.

The leadership at QCI and my well-wishers guided me and encouraged me to outperform my capabilities. I got to work with a diligent team with an audacious goal - Quality, thereby powering the world of impact. As I'd like to put it, it was a rewarding journey for me as a young professional.



Aayushi Dhawan
Ex-Employee, QCI



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Other Informations

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COMMITTED TO QUALITY

QUALITY BHARAT PLEDGE

I/ We pledge to

Strive for quality in all facets of life, for a Viksit Bharat

Promote consciousness for a cleaner & greener Quality Bharat

Embrace and promote the 'Vocal for local' campaign and support indigenous products, fostering economic growth and self-reliance

Commit to encourage others to foster a culture of innovation, integrity, and continuous improvement

मैं/ हम प्रतिज्ञा करता हूँ/ करते हैं कि

विकसित भारत के निर्माण के लिए, जीवन के सभी आयामों में गुणवत्ता लाने हेतु भरपूर प्रयास करेंगे।

अधिक स्वच्छ और अधिक हरित, गुणवत्तापूर्ण भारत की चेतना को बढ़ावा देंगे।

'वोकल फॉर लोकल' अभियान को अपनाएंगे और उसे बढ़ावा देंगे तथा स्वदेशी उत्पादों का समर्थन करेंगे ताकि आर्थिक विकास एवं आत्म निर्भरता को पुष्ट किया जा सके।

नवाचार, सत्यनिष्ठा और निरंतर सुधार की संस्कृति को पुष्ट करने की दृष्टि से अन्य लोगों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध बनेंगे।

SCAN FOR DETAILS

