



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

Global Quality Infrastructure Index

Published On: 10-02-2023

Why is in news? India's accreditation system ranked 5th globally; overall quality infrastructure system in Top 10

India's national accreditation system under the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** has been ranked **5th in the world** in the recent Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) 2021.

The GQII ranks the 184 economies in the world on the basis of the **quality infrastructure (QI)**.

India's **overall QI system ranking** continues to be in the **Top 10** at the 10th position, with the standardization system (under BIS) at 9th and the metrology system (under NPL-CSIR) at 21st position in the world.

The GQII rankings are **published and presented post-facto for each year** based on the data collected till the end of that year.

The 2021 rankings are based on data till end of December 2021, collected and analyzed through 2022.

It is an initiative on metrology, standardisation, accreditation and related services, supported by **Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB)** and the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany**.

Quality Infrastructure is the **technical backbone for international trade**, with metrology, standardization, accreditation and conformity assessment services providing reliability and trust between trading partners.

In India, the National Physical Laboratory under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (NPL-CSIR) is the national metrology institute, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national standards body and the constituent national accreditation boards under Quality Council of India support are the custodians of the national accreditation system.

The GQII **measures the relative development of countries' Quality Infrastructure**.

A formula calculates a score for each country based on its position in the sub-rankings for metrology, standards and accreditation.

Geographically, the **top 25 QI systems are mainly located in Europe, North America, and Asia-Pacific**, with **some exceptions**, such as India (10th), Brazil (13th), Australia (14th), Turkey (16th), Mexico (18th) and South Africa (20th)

Accreditation helps establish the competence and credibility of conformity assessment bodies (CABs) which perform testing, certification, inspection, etc.

The **National Accreditation System** as per international standards in India is **established by the Quality Council of India (QCI)**, a body established **in 1997** jointly by the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and the Indian industry.

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It is operated through the constituent Boards of QCI, primarily the **National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies** (NABCB), which provides accreditation to the certification, inspection, and validation / verification bodies, and the **National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories** (NABL), which provides accreditation to the testing, calibration and medical laboratories.

Both, NABCB and NABL are signatories to the **Multilateral Recognition Arrangements** of the international bodies, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), which provides international equivalence and acceptance to reports and certificates issued under their accreditation.

The government, regulators, industry and conformity assessment bodies increasingly rely on the NABCB and NABL accreditation for conformity assessment in India.