Export Inspection Council (EIC)

Why in News?

Recently, the Export Inspection Council (EIC) has initiated an assessment on food testing infrastructure for exports.

- **EIC** – It is the apex advisory body to the Government.
- **Established** in – *1963*, under section 3 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963.
- **Nodal agency** – Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Vision** – To facilitate *worldwide access for Indian exports* to meet international norms.
- **Objectives** – To create an ***export inspection & certification infrastructure*** based on International Standards for Certification Authority in consonance with World Trade Organizations requirements.
- To instill confidence in importers as well as regulatory authorities of India's trading partners about quality and safety of products.
- **Role** – Notify commodities which will be subjected to quality control and/or inspection prior to export.
- Establish standards of quality for such notified commodities.
- Specify the type of quality control and/or inspection to be applied to such commodities.
- **Powers** – It exercises administrative control over the *5 Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs).*
    - EIAs are located at Chennai, Delhi, Kochi, Kolkata and Mumbai.
- Issue Certificates of origin to exporters under various preferential tariff schemes for export product
- **Certification types**
    - Consignment wise inspection
    - Certification of quality of food items for export through installation of Food safety Management System in the food processing units.
- **International Recognitions** – It is recognized by *European Union, United States, Australia, Turkey, Korea, Japan and among others*.
- **Initiatives** – It is set to launch a user-friendly online portal integrating traceability modules, a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and E-Health features.

References

1. The Indian Express| EIC & Its International Recognitions
2. EIC India| Export Inspection Council (EIC)



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