

It is always quality that matters most

Business Times Bureau

BANGALORE: In today's competitive world where consumers play a crucial role, companies are increasingly focussing on quality to satisfy their clients and more importantly to retain them.

Getting the ISO certification initially helps the company to a certain extent, but of late some of them are lax after having got this certification. World Quality Council (WQC) chairman-elect Madhav Mehra spoke to this newspaper about the importance of this aspect and what the WQC are planning to take quality to the roots of each and every company.

What is the status of quality consciousness in the country today?

There has been a lot of euphoria about quality culture in the country and nothing much is being done concretely about this. Currently the attitude towards quality is at its lowest ebb and we are planning to improve this sense in a big way.

What are the steps being taken by the WQC in this regard?

The best step to bring about quality consciousness is to bring in an element of competition in this aspect. We will be organising the seventh World Congress on Total Quality from February 13-22 in New Delhi at which the entire gamut of quality will be clinically discussed and strategy discussed for further improvement in this scenario.

CIJ outlines strategy to increase savings

Business Times Bureau

NEW DELHI: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CIJ) has called for increasing the savings rate for a sustained GDP growth rate of 8-9 per cent and evolved a multi-pronged strategy which includes raising the income tax exemption limit to Rs 1 lakh within the next five years.



Madhav Mehra

INTERVIEW

It will be a momentous opportunity for the Indian corporate family and this will certainly bring about a quality revolution in the country.

The companies who have given quality adequate focus will be judged by a panel of senior quality gurus and they will be awarded the Golden Peacock National Quality Award. This year nearly 175 companies have sent in their nominations for this award.

What is the response from the Government of India towards the quality consciousness?

Even after three years of us setting up the Quality Council, the government is yet to recognise this council.

We have been urging the authorities to recognise this as early as possible and we just hope they take this step as early as possible.

inhibits financial sector reforms, besides being the biggest impediment to lowering of costs of finance. The growth of capital markets is also limited by the rate of domestic savings."

For household savings, apart from suggesting the raising of exemption limit, it says that there

Russia's main nuclear submarine yard goes on strike

MOSCOW: Shipbuilders at Russia's largest nuclear submarine yard went on strike on Thursday, complaining that the government is months behind in salary payments.

The strike was supported by residents and the mayor of the northern city of Severodvinsk, a city about 1,000 km north of Moscow which is dependent on the naval yard for its livelihood, Russian news agencies reported.

Mayor Alexander Belyayev said the government has been unable to pay for \$177,000 in government contracts, including some shipyard work from 1995.

He told the interfax news agency that the situation is close to disastrous.

Instead of wages, shipbuilders have been given bread every day, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. The mayor told Interfax that pensioners haven't received benefits since November, and 15,000 public workers were paid their September salaries only at the end of January.

FROM:

Sheela AM
Bangalore

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