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CRCL Recognized as Regional Customs Laboratory

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Why in News

Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), New Delhi, under the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs** has been recognized as a **Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL)** of the **World Customs Organisation (WCO)** for Asia-Pacific Region.

With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea.

Key Points

- **About Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL):**
 - **Established:** 1939.
 - With the introduction of instrument based testing, Revenue Laboratories are **facilitating faster clearances**, without compromising on law enforcement, and thereby playing a vital role in **trade facilitation**.
- **Regional Customs Laboratory:**
 - Their traditional work is the **chemical analysis** to determine tariff classification and the level of duties and other taxes.
 - Their role has evolved over time with changes in trade patterns and technical evolution.
 - Modern customs laboratories now play an important part in environmental protection (e.g., controlling the trade of **ozone depleting substances**), **endangered species protection**, control of dangerous goods such as pesticides, **persistent organic pollutants**, **chemical weapons**, as well as narcotics and drug precursors, etc.

- **World Customs Organisation:**

- The World Customs Organization (WCO), established in 1952 as the Customs Co-operation Council (CCC) is **an independent intergovernmental body** whose mission is to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.
- At present, it **represents 183 Customs administrations** across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.
- **India had become the vice-chair (regional head) of the Asia Pacific region** of the WCO for a period of two years to June, 2020.
- It is the **only international organization with competence in Customs matters** and which can rightly call itself the voice of the international Customs community.
- It has its **headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.**
- Some **Important Conventions/Mechanism** under WCO:
 - The **SAFE Framework** of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade.
 - The International **Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System** (HS Convention).
 - The International **Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures** (revised Kyoto Convention or RKC).

Source: PIB