

## **Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare declared results of the 03<sup>rd</sup> State Food Safety Index**

*Launched Eat Right Research Awards & Grants to promote innovative researches in the field of food safety & nutrition  
Flagged off 19 Food Safety on Wheels; unveiled new initiatives as well as Resources and Books*

### **Press Release**

**New Delhi, Sep 20, 2021:** In an effort to galvanize States to work towards ensuring safe food for citizens, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has declared the 03<sup>rd</sup> State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States across five parameters of food safety. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare felicitated nine leading States/UTs based on the ranking for the year 2020-21 for their impressive performance. This year, among the larger states, Gujarat was the top ranking state, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Among the smaller states, Goa stood first followed by Meghalaya and Manipur. Among UTs, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and New Delhi secured top ranks.

Dignitaries from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, senior officials from the State Food Safety departments, professionals in food and nutrition, development agencies, food businesses and various partners joined this event.

On his visit to FSSAI, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya flagged off 19 Mobile Food Testing Vans (Food Safety on Wheels) to supplement the food safety ecosystem across the country. These mobile food testing laboratories will not only help functionaries in the States/UTs to enhance their outreach and conduct surveillance activities even in the far-flung areas, but will also be utilized as an effective tool for training and awareness generation activities amongst citizens.

The Hon'ble Minister also released the results of PAN-India survey for identifying the presence of industrially produced trans fatty acid content in the selected foods. Samples of various packaged food items under six pre-defined food categories were collected from 419 cities/districts across 34 States/UTs. Overall, only 84 samples, i.e. 1.34%, have more than 3% industrially produced trans fats from the total of 6,245 samples. This shows that the industry is on the right track of becoming industrial trans fats free in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence.

The Hon'ble Minister also launched various innovative initiatives by FSSAI including the Eat Right Research Awards and Grants to encourage and recognize high-quality research in the area of food safety and nutrition in India; a logo for Vegan Foods for easy identification and distinction from non-vegan foods for empowering consumers to make informed food choices.

Further, the Hon'ble Minister also released various e-books that advocate and captures recipes around local seasonal food items, indigenous millets and plant-based sources of protein.

As part of the on-going efforts to engage industry on the issue of Plastic in food packaging, 24 food businesses signed a pledge on becoming "Plastic Waste Neutral" by collecting, processing and recycling of 100% post-consumer plastic waste from across the sources. Further, 21 companies came forward to reduce the levels of virgin plastic in the food and beverage sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya mentioned that health should be looked at in totality as it is a comprehensive analysis and an inter-generational component that passes from a mother to a child and hence, it is not just classified as a curative care but a preventive care. To create an ecosystem of safe and healthy food, the Hon'ble Minister further highlighted that it is a collective effort of every stakeholder including Government, industry and consumers where proper enforcement, self-compliance and awareness plays an important role. In addition, he suggested that a greater focus on consumer awareness is needed to ensure positive health outcomes. Lastly he concluded by saying, *"Healthy people will help in making a healthy society and ultimately a healthy nation which will build the foundation of New India"*.

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