

Crack Down on Food Adulteration

Why in News?

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister issued new directives to combat <u>food adulteration</u> in the state.

Key Points

Display of Proprietors' Names:

- All restaurants and eateries must prominently display the names and addresses of their operators, proprietors, managers, and other key staff.
- The move is aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability in food establishments.

Amendment to Food Safety Act:

- Amendments to the <u>Food Safety and Standards Act</u>, <u>2006</u> will be made to enforce compliance with the new display rules.
- A state-wide verification campaign will be conducted, involving the Food Safety and Drug Administration, Police, and Local Administration.

Mandatory CCTV Installation:

- All eateries, hotels, and dhabas must install <u>CCTV cameras</u> covering both dining areas and other sections of the establishment.
- Operators are responsible for securely storing CCTV footage and providing it to law enforcement upon request.

Public Health and Hygiene:

- The directives are part of the state's response to food adulteration cases where human waste and other contaminants were found in food.
- Strict hygiene practices will be enforced, including mandatory use of masks and gloves for all food preparation and serving staff.

FSSAI

- The Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), established in 2006, serves as India's primary legislation for regulating food safety. It sets standards for food products and oversees their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import. The Act aims to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for consumers.
- Key features of the FSSAI Act, 2006 :
 - Unified Food Laws: It consolidates multiple food laws into one unified system, establishing clear standards for food safety and quality.
 - Powers to State Governments: The Act allows state governments to frame rules and take measures to regulate food safety at the local level, such as conducting inspections, ensuring compliance, and initiating actions against violations.
 - Food Safety Authority: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
 was created under this Act to set food standards, conduct food safety audits, and promote
 safe food practices.
- The Act empowers both central and state authorities to maintain strict vigilance on food safety and take action in case of non-compliance, such as the recent directives issued by Uttar Pradesh to address food adulteration concerns.

