



# World Food Safety Day

## Why in News

The **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** virtually attended the [World Food Safety Day \(7<sup>th</sup> June\)](#) celebrations organized by [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#).

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#) jointly facilitate the observance of World Food Safety Day, in collaboration with Member States and other relevant organizations.
- It was **first celebrated in 2019**, to strengthen the commitment to scale up food safety made by the **Addis Ababa Conference** and the **Geneva Forum in 2019** under the umbrella of **"The Future of Food Safety"**.

### ▪ Aim:

- To **draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks**, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism and [sustainable development](#).

### ▪ 2021 Theme:

- Safe Food for a Healthy Tomorrow.

### ▪ Importance of Food Safety:

- Access to **sufficient amounts of safe food is key to sustaining life** and promoting good health.
  - Foodborne illnesses are **usually infectious or toxic in nature** and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.
  - An estimated **4,20,000 people around the world die every year after eating contaminated food** and children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 1,25,000 deaths every year.
- Food safety has a **critical role in assuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain** - from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.
  - **Food production** is responsible for up to **30% of global greenhouse-gas emissions** contributing to global warming.
  - **Global food waste accounts for 6.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, directly leading to climate change.

### ▪ Related Global Initiative:

- The [Codex Alimentarius](#), or "**Food Code**" is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the [Codex Alimentarius Commission](#).

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission is a **joint intergovernmental body** of the **Food and Agriculture Organization** and **World Health Organization**.

- Currently, it has 189 members and **India is a member**.

- **Indian Initiatives for Food Safety:**

- **State Food Safety Index :**

- **FSSAI** has developed the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) to measure the performance of States on five parameters** of food safety.
- The **parameters** include Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements, Compliance, Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.

- **Eat Right India Movement:**

- It is an **initiative of the Government of India and FSSAI** to transform the country's food system in order to ensure safe, healthy and sustainable food for all Indians.
- Eat Right India is aligned to the **National Health Policy 2017** with its focus on preventive and promotive healthcare and flagship programmes like [Ayushman Bharat](#), [POSHAN Abhiyaan](#), [Anemia Mukt Bharat](#) and [Swachh Bharat Mission](#).

- **Eat Right Awards:**

- FSSAI has instituted the **'Eat Right Awards'** to recognize the contribution of food companies and individuals to empower citizens to choose safe and healthy food options, which would help improve their health and well-being.

- [Eat Right Mela:](#)

- Organised by FSSAI, it is an outreach activity **for citizens to nudge them towards eating right**. It is organised to make citizens aware of the health and nutrition benefits of different types of food.

## **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**

- **About:**

- FSSAI is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act)**.
- It has its headquarter in Delhi and its administrative **Ministry is Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.

- **Functions:**

- **Framing of regulations** to lay down the standards and guidelines of food safety.
- **Granting FSSAI food safety license** and certification for food businesses.
- **Laying down procedure and guidelines** for laboratories in food businesses.
- To **provide suggestions** to the government in framing the policies.
- To **collect data regarding contaminants** in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of a rapid alert system.
- **Creating an information network** across the country about food safety.

[Source:PIB](#)

