



## World Food Safety Day

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### Why in News

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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

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- **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:**
  - **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**