



World Food Safety Day

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The **first-ever World Food Safety Day** is being celebrated on **June 7**.

- It was adopted by the **United Nations General Assembly in December 2018** in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The **theme** for 2019 is '**Food safety, everyone's business**'.
- The day aims to create awareness about the importance of maintaining safe food standards and also reduce the burden of deaths due to foodborne diseases.
- The United Nations has designated **two of its agencies** — the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)** — to lead efforts in promoting food safety around the world.
- The UN has developed a guide to discuss why food safety is necessary and how it could be achieved. The guide has **five key points**:
 - **Governments must ensure** safe and nutritious food for all.
 - **Agriculture and food producers** need to adopt good practices.
 - **Business operators** must make sure food is safe.
 - **All consumers** have a right to safe, healthy and nutritious food.
 - Food safety is a **shared responsibility**.
- Safe, nutritious and sufficient food is a key to **promoting health** and **ending hunger**, which are **two of the main aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Government Initiatives

- FSSAI has developed the **first State Food Safety Index (SFSI)** to measure the performance of States on **five parameters** of food safety.

The categories include Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements, Compliance, Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment.
- A new-age, hand-held battery operated device called '**Raman 1.0**' to perform rapid detection (in less than 1 minute) of economically driven adulteration in edible oils, fats and ghee.

- An innovative solution to take food safety to schools, called the '**Food Safety Magic Box**'. This do-it-yourself food testing kit comprises a manual and equipment to check for food adulterants, which schoolchildren can use in their classroom laboratories.
- 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.