



Simultaneous handling of food and currency notes or coins is unhealthy, create awareness: FSSAI to states



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New Delhi, Mar 29 (KNN) For the welfare and wellbeing of general public, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued a notification to all states/UTs commissioner of Food Safety to start a systematic campaign for creating awareness amongst all citizens to discourage the simultaneous handling of food and currency notes/coins.

The notification pointed that handling of currency with unclean and soiled hands, use of saliva during counting and storage under unhygienic conditions leads to its contamination with harmful micro-organism.

Further, cross contamination from currency risks human health and causes serious diseases like food poisoning, gastrointestinal infection, skin problems and many more. Especially children and pregnant women and with weak immune system person are more vulnerable to such infections.

In this direction, it has been advised that food handlers, food sellers and others should avoid handling currency and food simultaneously.

In Public Interest, FSSAI further recommended that gloves should be used to handle food and bare hands to handle currency, two should be separated physically and hand should be washed properly before touching food and vice versa. **(KNN/YV)**