

# Coronavirus outbreak: Non vegetarians take note! FSSAI to start hygiene ratings of meat and fish shops

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The coronavirus outbreak triggered global concerns over the hygiene standards that are followed in meat markets. (Reuters)

**Coronavirus outbreak:** Non-vegetarians, take note! The FSSAI will soon start hygiene rating of the country's fish and meat shops! Not just that the FSSAI CEO has raised concerns that the hygiene in the country's meat and fish markets is "not good", he said while speaking to reporters. However, he expressed confidence that the situation will improve in the coming years.

For the last six months, India's food regulator stepped up efforts to ensure sanitation and hygiene across the country's fish and meat markets. However, given the deadly coronavirus outbreak which has been linked to Wuhan's meat market, it is only logical that the FSSAI wants to speed up the audit processes that are now underway.

The FSSAI has also planned to set up two new food laboratories at Chennai and Mumbai JNPT, with built-up space being taken on long-term lease from JNPT Mumbai and Chennai port authorities. authorities.

Ms. Rita Teatia, Chairperson, FSSAI, & [@ceo\\_fssai](#) inaugurated FSSAI's Northern Regional Office today at NFL, Ghaziabad. FSSAI has decided to set up six branch offices, four import offices and two food labs in the country.



In addition, the FSSAI will also have four national food laboratories. These will be located in Chennai, Ghaziabad (Delhi NCR) and Mumbai JNPT. Two food laboratories will be functioning on the Indo-Nepal border.

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For the last six months, the FSSAI has been auditing slaughterhouse, following which a third party sample audit comprising of more than five thousand slaughterhouses is underway.

As of now, out of this, a total of sixty have been audited.

Speaking to reporters, FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal made it clear that these ongoing efforts are not due to the coronavirus outbreak. However, the outbreak has made everyone more

aware about the importance of maintaining hygiene and improving sanitation at local markets.

With its recent upgradation of the food laboratory at Ghaziabad, FSSAI's upgradation of Kolkata food laboratory is now in an advanced stage and will soon be completed. Following this, FSSAI is set to strengthen its laboratory extension centres at Raxaul and Sanauli on the Indo-Nepal border to function as full-fledged food labs.