

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Meeting to discuss FSSAI rules on religious offerings

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KOCHI: The district administration will hold a meeting with authorities in places of worship and leaders of charity institutions to discuss about the norms of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regarding distribution of edible offerings in Ernakulam. The meeting is scheduled on Tuesday.

As per the norms, the places of worship with a turnover of more than Rs 12 lakh should take licence from food safety assistant commissioner. Authorities of the institutions with a turnover below Rs 12 lakh should register with FSSAI by paying Rs 500 for a period of maximum five years.

"We have already started receiving calls from religious institutions raising queries on how to register with the authority. We will issue notices to authorities of all institutions, including Cochin Devaswom Board, requesting to attend the meeting," a food safety official said.

The person needing licence/registration has to upload his photo and ID card in the FSSAI website besides details of food items being offered and quantity of preparing it.

"The move is to make a person responsible to ensure hygiene food items are served as offering. It has been planned though there is already rule for registration. The food safety commissionerate has decided to strictly implement it," the food safety official said.

The registration is done under Blissful Hygiene Offering to God (BHOG), the initiative of FSSAI.

The registration should be done under section 23 of the Food Safety and Standard's Act.

The move of the commissionerate is following the death of people in Karnataka after consuming an offering in a religious place.