

## **IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2018**

### **1. New Initiatives:**

- a) A two-day 'National Conclave on Food Safety and Nutrition' was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. On 8<sup>th</sup> January, State Health Secretaries and Food Safety Commissioners reviewed at length the current status of food safety and nutrition in the country and deliberated on the way forward. Senior officials from Ministry of HRD, Health and Family Welfare and Women and Child Development, Industry Associations, World Bank, WHO and World Food Programme, Development Partners such as Tata Trusts, GAIN and PATH also participated. This was presided over by Smt. Preeti Sudan, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

On 9<sup>th</sup> January, a round table of State Health Ministers was held. This was presided over by the Union Health Minister, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. This was the first ever meet of State Health Ministers and State Health Secretaries that has huge implications for the health and wellbeing of citizens and is the key to preventive healthcare.

Five key decisions were taken in the State Health Ministers Roundtable:

- Recognizing that safe, hygienic and healthy diet is the key to preventive healthcare, the first pillar of National Health Policy, 2017, the State Health Ministers agreed to improve convergence between National Health Mission (NHM) and Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) campaigns initiated by FSSAI. This would include using funds from NHM for strengthening of food safety systems in the States, integration of emergency response system under NHM for emergency response to food poisoning and food borne illnesses and use of resource books, like 'Pink Book' for SNF@Home, the 'Yellow Book' for SNF@School, 'Orange Book' for SNF@Workplace etc. Further, they decided to launch sustained campaigns in cities, districts and States under the banner of Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) to develop city, district and state-wide ecosystems and declare them Smart Food State / District / City.
- The State Health Ministers agreed to use appropriate curriculum and content on food and nutrition in schools to promote healthy eating habits and build awareness amongst citizens particularly young citizens and encouraging them to use simple methods to test food adulteration and food spoilage through mobile food testing labs ('Food Safety on Wheels') and food labs in schools and colleges.
- The State Health Ministers decided to launch a campaign with a special focus on young citizens and school children for limiting energy intake from fat to less than 30% of the total daily calorie intake and eliminate trans-fats completely (i.e. bring down consumption of trans-fat to less than 1% of total calorie intake, reducing salt consumption to less than 5 gm per day and limiting intake of free (added) sugar to less than 10% of daily total calorie intake by 2022 (India@75).

- The State Health Ministers decided to promote and encourage supplies, distribution and retailing of fortified staples in the public distribution system as well as the open market and work towards fortification of all refined and packaged edible and all packaged milk by vitamin A and D to pave the way to make it mandatory in the near future.
- The State Health Ministers decided to promote organic food and dietary diversification by various measures to integrate local and regional cuisines. They decided that efforts should be made to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables to at least 450-500 gm/day and moderate the intake of refined carbohydrates.

During the Roundtable, the State Health Ministers adopted a **joint resolution** with a seven-point charter. This includes – 1) Supporting development of robust food standards and code of practices for safe food; 2) Creating a positive regulatory environment; 3) Establishing a credible and robust national food testing system; 4) Addressing micronutrient deficiencies and promoting healthy dietary habits; 5) Bringing about large-scale social and behavioral change in citizens on safe and nutritious food; 6) Building a culture of self compliance in food businesses; and 7) Developing effective institutions and institutional arrangements backed with competent human resources and adequate financial resources.

During the Roundtable, the Union Health Minister also released Guidelines for '**Clean Street Food Hubs**' and '**Safe and Hygienic Food Festivals**'. This will help in building capacities of street food vendors and will go a long way to inspire citizens' trust in unorganized street food vending.

The Minister also released FSSAI's '**Healthy India Food Calendar**'. First of its kind, this calendar covers India's main festivals, the food associated with them and their nutritional benefits. This calendar captures the wisdom behind traditional Indian dishes and popularizes them and integrates 12 of FSSAI's key initiatives by weaving a strong narrative around safe and nutritious food for all, touching the lives of all our citizens, wherever they are.

- b) FSSAI has entered into an agreement with FAO to conduct a review and analysis of food fraud and economically motivated adulteration in India. Codex division is actively engaged in this study and the same is expected to be completed by the end of May 2018.

## 2. Ongoing efforts in focus Areas:

- a) Provisional Recognition of Food Safety Auditing Agencies and Food Safety Audit of Central Higher Academic Institutions:

In accordance with the draft Food Safety and Standard (Food Safety Auditing) Regulation, 2017, FSSAI has provisionally recognised 15 food safety auditing agencies to create a pool of auditing agencies with FSSAI. These agencies have been granted a certificate of provisional recognition for a period of 6 months from the date of

provisional recognition or till they are recognized under the final regulation whichever is earlier. These include national and international food safety audit agencies like DNV, Bureau Veritas, Intertek, MS Certification, IRCLASS, SGS, BIS, TUV, Indocert among others.

FSSAI has organised special food safety audits of the canteens, cafeterias, hostel mess etc of 10 select large central institutes of higher education like IIT (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Roorkee, Kanpur and Guwahati), AIIMS (Delhi and Jodhpur), IIM (Ahmedabad and Kozhikode), IISc Bangalore and IISER Kolkata. These agencies have been given a time frame of one month to conduct the audit and submit the report to FSSAI. These reports will give an insight into the existing standards of food safety and hygiene of these canteens/ hostel mess etc and will help FSSAI to identify the gaps. The outcome of the audits, once compiled will also be used to prepare a 'Guidance Document on Food Safety of Higher Educational Institutes'. This document will be of help to all other higher educational institutes for maintaining food safety and hygiene in their premises.

- b) FSSAI organized a workshop on Project BHOG "Blissful Hygienic Offering to God" on 11.01.2018 in FDA Bhawan, New Delhi to encourage and engage Places of Worship to adopt and maintain food safety and hygiene practices in areas of *Prasad*/food preparation to ensure that safe *Prasad* is being consumed by the pilgrims. The workshop was attended by representatives from major Places of Worship pan India, State FDAs, Association of Food Scientists and Technologists, & Auditing agencies.

On this occasion, a guidance manual was released on "Maintaining Food Safety and Hygiene in Places of Worship" to facilitate the Places of Worship to implement BHOG in their premises. This manual provides useful tips, dos & don'ts, methods & practices that should be followed to ensure safe and hygienic *Prasad*.

The important action points that emerged from this workshop which are of relevance to the State/UTs are as under:

- To coordinate with and support the Places of Worship to adopt Project BHOG
  - To organize workshops and training programmes for food handlers, cooks and vendors on food safety
  - To encourage Places of Worship to display Safe and Nutritious messages at various places for the benefit of the devotees to inculcate healthy eating habits among people.
- c) FSSAI and NASVI (National Association of Street Vendors of India) jointly organized the National Street Food Festival from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The same was organised as part of the larger initiative to promote hygiene of street food as well as promotion of local and traditional foods as healthy and nutritious options for our citizens.

d) Participation in exhibitions/events:

FSSAI participated in following exhibitions/events for public awareness, consumer education, publicity of FSSAI's initiatives and to develop strong engagements with various stakeholders:

- "Indus Food"- a Global Food and Beverage RBSM organised by Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) and Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry during 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida.
- "India Food Forum" during 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> January at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai.