

# Telangana Today

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## Mobile food testing laboratory launched in Hyderabad

The multipurpose lab will also be used to conduct certification programme for supervisors in food business



Hyderabad: A first-of-its kind mobile food testing laboratory 'Food Safety on Wheels', with an ability to detect adulterated food through laboratory tests, was inaugurated at Institute of Preventive Medicine (IPM) on Monday.

## FSSAI IN NEWS

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'Food Safety on Wheels', which was launched by Health Minister Dr C Laxma Reddy, will enable food laboratory technicians to perform tests for common adulterants in milk, water, edible oil and other items of food of daily consumption.

An initiative of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), New Delhi, the mobile testing lab is fabricated with fixtures, fittings and equipment which cost around Rs 30 lakh. The FSSAI will also provide an annual recurring grant of Rs 5 lakh towards fuel and other consumables.

In addition to conducting tests, the multipurpose mobile laboratory will also be used to conduct training and certification programme for food handlers and supervisors in food business, particularly petty food business.

"We had requested the Ministry to provide us with two mobile laboratories for better regulation of eateries in Hyderabad and districts. Hopefully, we will get another mobile laboratory in the coming days. The lab will enable food inspectors to conduct spot analysis of food," said Dr Reddy during inauguration.

The mobile units would also be used for awareness building around food safety, hygiene and promoting healthy eating habits in citizens at large. In addition, the mobile food lab would help the field functionaries in the State to enhance their outreach and conduct surveillance activities even in far-flung areas.

The IPM staff deployed to look after the daily operations of the mobile laboratory has already undergone a series of training sessions. The mobile facility will be manned by a Technical Officer with a Master's Degree in Chemistry, qualified food technology analyst, assistants and drivers.