

## In a first, Bapu rides a bicycle and it's for a cause

*At the World Food Safety Day event, an innovative solution to take food safety to schools, called the 'Food Safety Magic Box' was also launched.*

ADVERTISEMENT

Nayanika Singhal

June 8, 2019



Statue of Mahatma Gandhi on a bicycle was unveiled by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Friday to mark a special occasion.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Friday unveiled Mahatma Gandhi statue in Delhi
- The statue was unveiled on the the first-ever World Food Safety Day
- At the occasion, highest ranking states in food safety index were also recognised

There are thousands of statues of Mahatma Gandhi across the country and each statue tells its own story, but for the very first time a statue of Mahatma Gandhi on a bicycle was unveiled by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan to mark a special occasion.

The statue was unveiled on the the first-ever World Food Safety Day, which kicked-off in Delhi at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Friday.

The World Food Safety Day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018.

At the occasion, highest ranking states in food safety index were also recognised. Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu were the top performing states in terms of keeping the food safety standards high. While Chandigarh beat Delhi to become the only union territory in top seven states.

Other states such as Bihar, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh followed close behind.

Amritsar's Golden Temple Street in Punjab was recognised as a Clean Street Food Hub'.

The rankings are categories considering the Human Resources and Institutional Arrangements, Compliance, Food Testing- Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training and Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment in each state and UT.

FSSAI has also declared seven campuses as Eat Right Campus'. Based on a five star-rating by compliance to a set of well-defined benchmarks on food safety and hygiene, food waste management, healthy diets, promotion of local/seasonal food and awareness generation, the campuses of IIT Gandhinagar, IIT Roorkee, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Unilever Bengaluru, Wipro Bengaluru, HCL Noida and Genpact, Gurugram were recognised for their exemplary food safety standards.

At the World Food Safety Day event, an innovative solution to take food safety to schools, called the Food Safety Magic Box' was also launched.

This do-it-yourself food box comprises of a manual and equipment to check for food adulterants, which school children can use in their classroom laboratories. This kit is also useful for frontline health workers.

A new-age, hand-held battery operated device called Raman 1.0' from Oak Analytics, India was also launched.

This device performs rapid detection (in less than 1 minute) of economically driven adulteration in edible oils, fats and ghee.

The equipment tests more than 250 samples per battery charge, collects and stores data on the cloud using a smart device.

While laying emphasis on these innovations Union health secretary Preeti Sudan, said, The online resource material, training modules and Eat Right Tool kit have actualised our vision to enable our ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers, the generals in the field to take the message of safe and healthy diets to each and every family at the village level.

This is the first of 19 such equipment and methods that have been provisionally approved by FSSAI for strengthening the food testing infrastructure in the country.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan said, I appeal to all people to adopt Gandhiji's messages of eating less, safe, healthy, simply, local and sustainabe by reducing food waste and sharing surplus food."