

# NATIONAL DAILY

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## #IFCoN2018 begins in Mysuru

More than 2,000 food scientists, technologists are attending the four-day conclave at CFTRI

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The 8th International Food Convention (#IFCoN2018) got off to a start here on Wednesday with over 2,000 food scientists and technologists from India and abroad participating in the mega conclave. This year's conference theme is "Holistic Approaches to Start-ups, Human Resource Training for Agriculture and Food Industry Gemination (#ASHTAG)".

The Association of Food Scientists and Technologists, India (AFSTI) has organised the convention in association with the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) and Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL). Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), New Delhi and the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries have supported the organisers.

### 'Mahakumbh'

Inaugurating the event, FSSAI CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal described #IFCoN2018 as 'Mahakumbh' of food and technology professionals and said that the Mysuru-based food research institutes - CFTRI and DFRL -



Pawan Kumar Agarwal, CEO, FSSAI, New Delhi, delivering the inaugural address of #IFCoN2018 in Mysuru on Wednesday. \*M.A. SHRAM

were doing a fantastic job in the area. FSSAI was keen to work closely with these institutions in future in its bid to realise its goals, he added.

Complimenting AFSTI for its continued support to FSSAI in realising its objectives, Mr. Agarwal said FSSAI was bringing in competence among the country's food vendors and handlers by launching the Food Safety Training and Certification Programme (FOSTEC).

So far, 150 training partners had been supporting the initiative, training around 65,000 food vendors on sa-

fety and hygiene practices under FOSTEC, he said, adding that there was still a long way to go with over 2.8 million food businesses operating in the country.

Mr. Agarwal said the FSSAI had developed food safety manuals that will be distributed among all verticals of food businesses. The guidance manuals had been kept ready, he added.

### Swasth Bharat Yatra

On the 100-day Swasth Bharat Yatra, the FSSAI CEO said the yatra had completed around 10,000 km in about

50 days and is expected to conclude in New Delhi on January 26, 2019. The yatra was flagged off simultaneously from Leh, Panjim, Thiruvananthapuram, Puducherry, Agartala and Ranchi on October 16 on the occasion of World Food Day. The cyclists participating in the yatra have so far met 2.25 lakh people en route, spreading awareness on safe and healthy foods. This campaign was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.

Ashitosh A. Inamdar, Honorary Secretary, AFSTI,

spoke about the conference while Prabodh S. Naide, President, spoke about the journey of the organisation.

DFRL Director Anil D. Senzoni released 'AFSTI 80 - a professional journey from 1957 to 2018', chronicling the contributions of the food scientists and technologists.

A special postal cover brought out for the occasion was released by B. Raghuramiah, Director, FIL, Chennai.

The #IFCoN2018 Food Expo was inaugurated by Anand Chordia, MD, Subana Pravin Masalewala, Pune, Edmond Rock, Research Director, Human Nutrition Unit, INRA, France launched the #IFCoN2018 logo.

CFTRI Director KIMS Raghavarao inaugurated the poster session and delivered the presidential address. He said the CFTRI has established an innovation centre on its campus for coming up with new technologies.

Suresh D. Sakthare, convenor, #IFCoN2018, was present. The annual AFSTI 80 awards were presented to persons from across the country by the dignitaries. They include the award instituted by FSSAI, New Delhi.