

**IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS
DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2020**

ONGOING EFFORTS IN FOCUS AREAS:

Imports:

- FSSAI has mapped 1515 ITC—HS Codes related to Food articles with Food Safety and Standards Regulations and Food Code System (FCS) for further implementation in INFoLNET. A public notice dated 06.03.2020 has been issued for comments from all stakeholders on the mapping carried out by FSSAI.
- Food Import Clearance has been notified as essential service during lockdown due to Covid-19. All, FSSAI Food Import Offices are open and functioning on every working day from 9:30 AM to 6:00 P.M during the lockdown period.

Quality Assurance:

1) Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs:

a) Up-gradation/setting up of State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs):

Total grant of Rs. 38.87 Crore has been sanctioned/released for the up-gradation/setting up of SFTLs as per details below-

- (i) A grant of Rs. 6.00 Crore to Tripura and grant of Rs. 2.45 Crore each to Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand have been released for the upgradation with High End Equipments (HEEs).
- (ii) A grant of Rs. 60.00 lakhs each to Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat (2), Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K (2), Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala (Kozhikode), Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu (Guindy), Telangana, tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal towards procurement of consumables @ Rs. 10 lakhs/year for 3 years and towards meeting contingencies @ Rs. 10 lakhs/year for 3 years have been released.
- (iii) A grant of Rs. 50,90,234 has been released to Punjab towards procurement of consumables and meeting the contingencies.
- (iv) A grant of Rs. 1.00 crore each to Tamilnadu (Madurai), Kerala (Trivendrum), Kerala (Ernakulaum), Rajasthan (Jodhpur), Rajasthan (Udaipur), Gujarat (Rajkot), Uttarpradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya pradesh and a grant of Rs. 50 lakhs each to Kerala (Kozikode), Rajasthan (Jaipur), Meghalaya, Delhi, West Bengal and a grant of Rs. 87,86,999 to Punjab has been released for setting up/upgradation of microbiology laboratory.

b)(i) Food Safety on Wheels

Two additional Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) have been sanctioned and delivered to Madhya Pradesh. This has raised the total number of FSWs delivered from 58 to 60. The project is now complete.

(ii) Modified Food Safety on Wheels

Five modified FSW has been sanctioned to each Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, Four modified FSW to Rajasthan and one modified FSW each to Manipur and Mizoram. This has raised the total number of modified FSW from 14 to 30.

c) Capacity Building

Three-days training program was conducted on Method of analysis of fortificants (Iron & Iodine) in Double Fortified Salt at Fare Labs Pvt. Ltd, Gurugram, Haryana from 03rd - 05th March 2020.

Social and Behavioral Change Division

FSSAI participated in AAHAR –The Food & Hospitality Fair 2020 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi held during 3rd to 7th March 2020 organized by ITPO.

Regulatory Compliance:

- To overcome with emerging challenges like sale of counterfeit food products, non-standardised/non-approved food products, FSSAI has advised Commissioner of Food Safety of States/UTs and all Central Licensing Authorities and Authorised Officer to conduct regular market surveillance especially with regard to counterfeit food products and non-standardised/non-approved food products. Details available <https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e68d768c5a52Letter Ensuring Food Safety 11 03 2020.pdf>
- Direction under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 27th March 2020 has been issued regarding operationalization of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations, 2020.

In exercise of power vested under Section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006), FSSAI has framed the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Amendment Regulations, 2018 and the same were approved by the Food Authority in its meeting held on 6th November, 2019.

These draft regulations are in the process of being notified and the final regulations are likely to take some more time before being notified and enforced. Meanwhile, keeping in mind the public health interest and to ensure food safety and fair practices in food businesses operations, it has been decided to operationalise provisions of these regulations with immediate effect. Details of this direction is available at

[https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e7f45376a88aDirection Operational License Regulation 27 03 2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e7f45376a88aDirection%20Operational%20License%20Regulation%2027%2003%202020.pdf)

- Direction under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 27th March 2020 has been issued regarding Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) for issuance of offline Licenses / Registration in case of Exceptional situations. Details of this direction is available at [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e7ec430ceb8aDirection SOP Issue License 28 03 2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e7ec430ceb8aDirection%20SOP%20Issue%20License%2028%2003%202020.pdf)
- FSSAI has issued Order dated 31st March 2020 related to Processing of FSSAI License / Registration Applications during the lockdown situations by the way of e-inspections. Details of this order is available at [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e82dc926ebb6Order License Registration EInspection 31 03 2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e82dc926ebb6Order%20License%20Registration%20EInspection%2031%2003%202020.pdf)
- To ensure uninterrupted food services/supply during lockdown in the country due to COVID-19 pandemic, FSSAI has issued order / eirection under Section 16 (5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 dated 31st March 2020 regarding allowing FBOs to temporarily operate their food business on basis of application for license / registration during the period of lockdown. Details of this order/direction is available at [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e82d8c9ea24cOrder Direction License Registration Lockdown 31 03 2020.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/advisories/2020/03/5e82d8c9ea24cOrder%20Direction%20License%20Registration%20Lockdown%2031%2003%202020.pdf)

0-0-0-0