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FSSAI launches integrated Food Regulatory Portal for India on the eve of World Food India

Food Safety & Standards Authority of India, country’s apex food regulator, has launched an integrated digital Food Regulatory Portal as a single interface for food businesses to cater to both domestic operations and food imports on the eve of the World Food India, which will kick start in New Delhi from tomorrow till November 5.

The portal was launched formally by Amitabh Kant, CEO of Niti Aayog at a Conclave on One Nation, One Food Law organized by FSSAI in Delhi today.

Launching the Manual for Food Safety, Importers Manual and the Food Regulatory Portal, Kant said that India is bigger than the size of 24 European countries put together, and therefore it required quite badly transparent, consistent and predictable food law which is interpreted and implemented in the same way across the length and breadth of the country. Uniform implementation of food laws was a big issue in India because of the legacy issues. While previous food laws looked issues from the preview of adulteration, the new law is quite holistic in its focus and would help in eliminating the legacy issues and the mindset related issues of implementing agencies at the grassroots, he said.

Earlier addressing the conclave, Ashish Bahuguna, Chairman, FSSAI, said that by launching the integrated portal on the eve of World Food India, the FSSAI and the government will be able to communicate to the global industry the laws of the country better. Food industry is a dynamic industry and standards have to be framed in tune with the dynamic nature of the industry, he said.

Pawan Agarwal, CEO of FSSAI said that even after nine different regulatory systems have been brought together under FSSA, the legacy practices of PFA continued in many states. Therefore, it was important to bring together all stakeholders under one platform, and best way to do that was through a digital mechanism. The creation of the unified portal is the culmination of a long effort
to accomplish ‘One nation, One food law’, he said. He said that the objective is to contribute to the larger goal of achieving ‘Ease of Doing Business’ in the country.

Agarwal said that the digital portal will resolve all the six concerns related to food regulatory framework, which include food standards, enforcement, food imports, food testing, codified food safety practices, and capacity building.