GURGAON: Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Nestle India inaugurated the first Nestle Food Safety Institute (NFSI) in India on Wednesday in Manesar. NFSI will work closely with the Nestle R&D Centre India and Nestle Research Center in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The institute is aimed at building and sharing knowledge through collaborative partnerships for strengthening the food safety environment in India. "NFSI India will conduct training programs on Food Safety Management Systems, Testing Methods, and Regulatory Standards. We hope this institute will help meet India's growing demand for safe and healthy food.,” said Pawan Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

He added that Indian still at nascent age as far food safety and security is concerned and the biggest challenge is to create a demand for safe and hygienic food through awareness so that private organisations start delivering on the safety standards.
Talking about the role of private organisations in food safety and security, he said, "When it comes to food safety and hygiene, business motives must be kept aside." Nestle India officials also pressed on the same point saying that the institute is not a part for the Nestle India commercial unit but a local interface of Nestle R&D Centre India.

"The food safety environment in India is changing dynamically and so are the consumers. There is an increasing consciousness among them on the quality of food consumed," said Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestle India.

He added that food has a significant influence on our health and there should be collaborative efforts between regulatory bodies and industry for catering to the health and safety of consumers."

The NFSI India laboratory is equipped with high-end analytical technology and is an integral part of the global network of food safety experts at Nestle.

Nestle Research and Development Center India was founded in the year 2012 and is a part of Nestle’s global R&D network. Nestle has about 40 R&D and Product Technology Centres worldwide.