



G20 Summit 2023: World Leaders Pledge to Promote One Health Approach, Improve Accessibility and Prioritise AMR **01 September–31 October, 2023**

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On an important note, in the G20 summit, the biggest highlight was that the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration was adopted and the members of the G20 arrived at a “100% consensus” on the opening day of the Summit. On the health front, after facing the burn of the disastrous COVID-19 pandemic, the declaration emphasises future pandemic preparedness and the improvement of essential health services and systems.

In an interesting move, the FSSAI, has taken action against Food Business Operators, which were found to be violating food safety law and it also in view of the upcoming festive season, convened a meeting with Indian Sweets manufacturers on September 25, 2023 to emphasise on the compliance to be followed to ensure safety and quality of edibles and raw materials. The meeting was attended by sweet manufacturers and associations across the country and it has also “strongly urged” consumers and food vendors across the country to stop using newspapers for packing, serving or and storing items. According to the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, use of newspapers or similar materials for storing and wrapping food is strictly prohibited.

On another note, the Custom authority does not need to send an imported food item for clearance to the FSSAI if it is meant for re-export or production of value-added items, which are only for exports, the authority has clarified. In continuation to some major steps taken, FSSAI has recommended the inclusion of QR code on food products for accessibility by visually impaired individuals stating that this will ensure access to safe food for all including individuals with special needs such as visually impaired individuals

With the Indian drugs failing quality checks in other countries, the government recently made Good Manufacturing Practices mandatory for micro, small and medium enterprises manufacturing drugs.

In this twelfth volume of Occasional News Wrap, various dimensions of health regulation issues have been captured, which appeared by way of op-eds, articles, news etc. during the month of September and October, 2023.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	<p>Alcohol Content in Drugs to be Regulated</p> <p><i>Livemint</i> Sept. 3, 2023 By Priyanka Sharma</p>	<p>The Union Health Ministry is considering a proposal to regulate alcohol content in drug preparations such as aromatic tincture in order to curb their illegal sale at pharmacies. They are most often used as ‘country liquor’ by economically weaker sections. As part of the proposal, the government plans to amend the Drug Rules, 1945 to bring alcohol-based drug formulations under Schedule H1 from existing Schedule K drugs.</p>
2.	<p>G20 Summit 2023: World Leaders Pledge to Promote One Health Approach, Improve Accessibility and Prioritise AMR</p> <p><i>The Financial Express</i> Sept. 10, 2023 By Sushmita Panda,</p>	<p>In the G20 summit, the biggest highlight was that the G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration was adopted and the members of the G20 arrived at a “100% consensus” on the opening day of the Summit. On the health front, after facing the burn of the disastrous COVID-19 pandemic, the declaration emphasises future pandemic preparedness and the improvement of essential health services and systems.</p>
3.	<p>WHO, WIPO, WTO Renew Commitment to Support Integrated Solutions to Global Health Challenges</p> <p><i>WTO</i> September 12, 2023</p>	<p>The Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the WTO agreed on future directions for trilateral cooperation. At their third meeting since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Directors-General of WHO, WIPO and the WTO agreed to shift the focus of trilateral cooperation from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic to increasing and broadening support for more effective and sustainable use of flexibilities in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to increase access to health technologies and to be better prepared for future pandemics.</p>
4.	<p>FSSAI Initiates Prosecution Against FBOs Found Violating Food Safety Laws</p> <p><i>ANI</i> Sept. 14, 2023</p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the country’s apex food regulator, has taken action against Food Business Operators (FBOs) found to be violating food safety laws. According to the records, 1,411 prosecution cases have been initiated against FBOs found violating the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 since April 1, 2023.</p>
5.	<p>New Licensing Policy to Boost Drug Safety</p> <p><i>Livemint</i> Sept. 14, 2023 Priyanka Sharma</p>	<p>The Union Health Ministry has proposed sweeping changes to its drug licensing programme, aiming for uniformity across India to boost drug safety, after cough syrups made in the country were allegedly linked to the deaths of children overseas, two people familiar with the development said.</p>

6.	<p>Good Manufacturing Norms May Be Mandatory for all Drug Firms <i>Livemint</i> <i>Sept. 17, 2023,</i> <i>Priyanka Sharma</i></p>	<p>With the Indian drugs failing quality checks in other countries, the government recently made GMP mandatory for micro, small and medium enterprises manufacturing drugs.</p>
7	<p>FSSAI Emphasises on Compliance of Safety and Quality of Edibles and Raw Materials Ahead of Festive Season <i>ETHospitalityWorld</i> <i>Sept. 26, 2023</i></p>	<p>In view of the upcoming festive season, FSSAI convened a meeting with Indian Sweets manufacturers on September 25, 2023 to emphasise on the compliance to be followed to ensure safety and quality of edibles and raw materials. The meeting was attended by sweet manufacturers and associations across the country. The meeting was focused on sensitising the ecosystem regarding the perishable high risk edibles to ensure safe food throughout the touch points including manufacturing, storage, distribution and point of sale to the consumer.</p>
8.	<p>FSSAI Urges Vendors, Consumers to Avoid Packing Food in Newspapers <i>Business Line,</i> <i>Sept. 27, 2023</i> <i>By Meenakshi Verma</i> <i>Ambwani</i></p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has “strongly urged” consumers and food vendors across the country to stop using newspapers for packing, serving or and storing items. According to the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, use of newspapers or similar materials for storing and wrapping food is strictly prohibited. It specifies that newspapers should not be used to wrap, cover or serve food nor to absorb excess oil from fried food.</p>
9.	<p>Possession of e-Cigarettes Violation of Law: Health Ministry <i>PTI</i> <i>Oct. 2, 2023</i></p>	<p>Possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices in any form, quantity or manner is in violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarette Act (PECA) 2019, the Union Health Ministry said in a clarification. The clarification was sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MCA) last month, official sources said, adding it will strengthen the enforcement of the ban.</p>
10.	<p>FSSAI Clarifies Addition of Protein Binders Not Permitted in Milk, Products <i>Business Standard</i> <i>Oct. 5 2023</i> <i>By Akshara Srivastava</i></p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India clarified that the addition of protein binders or any other additives was not permitted in milk and milk products.</p> <p>The regulatory body added that only additives, which are specified for milk and milk products in Appendix A of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, can be used for these products.</p>

11.	<p>Price Controls Can Distort Market Competition, Rely On Competition to Achieve Health Policy Goals <i>ETHealthWorld</i> Oct. 10, 2023</p>	<p>Reflecting on the relevance of the theme 'Polycrisis', Bhubaneswar Kalita, Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on Health and Family Welfare, explored the available policy tools to attain health policy objectives. He expressed the view that price control is not a sustainable solution and advocated for prioritising market development and the promotion of rule-based competition as preferable policy instruments.</p>
12.	<p>HRAWI and FSSAI's Catering Training Aims to Enhance Food Safety <i>BW Online Bureau</i> Oct. 12, 2023</p>	<p>The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Western India (HRAWI) and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India completed the Food Safety Supervisor Training in Advance Catering programme (FoSTaC).</p>
13.	<p>India Slips Four Places in Global Hunger Index Rankings <i>Livemint</i> Oct. 12, 2023 <i>Anwasha Mitra</i></p>	<p>India with a score of 28.7 ranked 111th of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2023, according to a report released. The country's Ministry of Women and Child Development has said that the rankings are "flawed" and did not depict India's true position. The GHI ranked Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka at 102nd, 81st, 69th, and 60th, respectively. In 2022, India ranked 107th out of 121.</p>
14.	<p>No Bitter Finding Yet On Non-Sugar Sweeteners, Says Food Regulator FSSAI <i>Business Standard</i> Oct, 12, 2023 <i>By Sanjeeb Mukherjee</i></p>	<p>India's food regulator has said that more country-specific studies were needed to probe the impact of non-sugar sweeteners (NSS) or aspartame on metabolism as well their links with diseases as laid down by World Health Organization in a guideline released in May.</p>
15.	<p>Imported Food Item for Re-Export Doesn't Need Clearance, Says FSSAI <i>Business Standard</i> Oct. 17, 2023 <i>Sanjeeb Mukherjee</i></p>	<p>The Custom authority does not need to send an imported food item for clearance to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, if it is meant for re-export or production of value-added items, which are only for exports, the authority has clarified. The clarification came after several business groups and industry associations approached the regulator in the view of objections raised in some quarters.</p>
16.	<p>Drug Regulatory Reforms for Improving Quality <i>Business Standard</i> Oct. 19, 2023 <i>By Sudhansh Pant (Secy., MoHFW)</i></p>	<p>The Indian pharmaceutical sector has played a pivotal role in enhancing global health outcomes, as well as increasing global availability of cost-effective medication, thus garnering India the moniker of the "pharmacy of the world". Multiple initiatives have been taken in the recent past for strengthening the drug regulatory system to augment the quality of the drugs being manufactured in the country for the domestic market as well as for exports.</p>

17.	<p>Ingredient Labelled as Food Product Brings Health Supplements Under FSSAI Scanner</p> <p><i>News18.com Oct. 20, 2023 By Himani Chandna and Apoorva Misra</i></p>	<p>The supplements made using S-Adenosyl-L-Methionine (SAME) are known for potential health benefits in conditions like depression, liver health and arthritis. (Shutterstock). The food regulatory authority does not allow the use of ‘S-Adenosyl-L-Methionine’ under the food category as it has to be used in caution with several categories of medicines such as anti-Parkinson’s drugs, anti-depressants, painkillers and anti-migraine drugs</p>
18.	<p>Food Labels to Have QR Code to Help the Visually Disabled</p> <p><i>The Hindu Oct. 24, 2023 By Bindu Shajan Perappadan</i></p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has recommended the inclusion of QR code on food products for accessibility by visually impaired individuals stating that this will ensure access to safe food for all including individuals with special needs such as visually impaired individuals.</p>
19.	<p>7 Use Cases for Artificial Intelligence in Global Health</p> <p><i>By Guest Writer on Oct. 25, 2023</i></p>	<p>We’ve all read the warning stories about AI: sentient robots, deep fakes, disappearing jobs. If the risk-benefit calculation for use and regulation of AI focuses on existential risk of human annihilation vs. the trivial benefit of creating a computer-generated pop song or digital image, then the obvious action ought to be to minimize the influence of AI in our lives.</p>
20.	<p>FSSAI Asks Authorities to Ensure Safe Food for Students, Train Staff of Hostel Canteens</p> <p><i>PTI October 28, 2023</i></p>	<p>FSSAI held its 42nd Central Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting at Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on October 28, 2023. The key points from CEO, FSSAI address at the meeting in the given hyper link.</p>
21.	<p>Online Food Safety Licences at ₹1000, No Renewal Penalties: FSSAI</p> <p><i>The Hindu October 29, 2023</i></p>	<p>The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has introduced a new system to streamline the process of obtaining food safety licences. Applicants, who choose the online application route, would have to pay only ₹1,000. Once the online applications are verified and approved, the applicants can obtain the food safety licence online through the email address they have provided.</p>