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Occasional News Wrap – #24/July-Sept, 2026



Judicial Push for Stronger FSSAI Enforcement and Consumer Health

July 01-September 30, 2026

The **Occasional News Wrap #24 (April-June 2026)** provides a comprehensive overview of the key policy, regulatory, and technological developments shaping India's food and nutrition Sector and enforcement initiatives of the food regulator if India which is the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The quarter also witnessed the nation-wide commemoration of the National Nutrition Month in September which saw thousands of awareness, training and capacity building events on foods and nutrition organised by both government and non-governmental organisations. FSSAI also strengthened its enforcement initiatives through close collaboration of the States and Union Territories.

During the reporting period, FSSAI introduced several amendments to food related standards and regulations in the interest of consumers. The Authority also received some directions for FSSAI from Supreme Court of India and various high courts etc. on several matters.One of the most pressing issues before the Supreme Court was 'Front of Pack Labels' and warning labels. Following repeated extensions sought by FSSAI for finalising the FoPL regulations, the Supreme Court adopted a stern approach and issued a final warning to the Authority.

S.N.	Article/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
1.	**Regulatory Overview: FSSAI Packaging Amendment Regulations, 2026** *Myfssinews* *September 11, 2026*	**FSSAI Rules for Pan Masala Packaging** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has updated its 2018 Packaging Regulations. Effective **August 10, 2026**, all Food Business Operators (FBOs) packaging or selling pan masala must follow these packaging requirements: **Key Action for FBOs:** 1. Stop using plastic pouches, multi-layer laminates, or foil wraps; 2. Switch strictly to plastic-free paper/cellulose products, tin jars, or glass containers; and 3. Ensure compliance with Clauses (f) and (i) of Rule 4(1) of the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
2.	**FSSAI e-commerce compliance requirements are becoming stricter for food businesses operating through online platforms** *Myfssainews* *September 08, 2026*	**FSSAI Food Safety & Compliance Requirements for E-Commerce FBOs** Following the FSSAI meeting held on June 25, 2026, e-commerce FBOs must comply with requirements relating to FSSAI licence display, FoSCoS facility mapping, online product information, traceability and food safety. The proposed requirements were expected to take effect from October 01, 2026, subject to final Food Authority approval. However, their formal implementation remains to be confirmed. **Conclusion:** For e-commerce FBOs, staying compliant requires more than simply displaying an FSSAI licence number. From accurate product information and expiry details to facility mapping, traceability, and timely delisting of non-compliant products, every aspect of the online food supply chain must be carefully managed. By preparing early and strengthening these controls, businesses can support food safety, build consumer trust, and stay prepared for evolving FSSAI requirements.

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3.	**FSSAI initiates penal action against key e-commerce, quick commerce platforms** *The Hindu Business Line* *September 04, 2026*	The FSSAI has initiated penal action against key e-commerce and quick commerce platforms for sale of products that were found to be non-compliant with regulations. The food safety regulator said there has been "a major crackdown on e-commerce platforms including Amazon, Swiggy Instamart, BigBasket, Flipkart India and Zepto over regulatory non-compliances." FSSAI said that "penal action" has been initiated for sale of products that were found to misbranded or making misleading claims as well as for sale and display of prohibited or poisonous food articles through their platforms. The regulator pointed out that Happilo Premium Date Bites (Zesty Orange) and three products of Milky Mist, being sold on the platforms, were found to be non-compliant due to misleading claims and non-compliant product information.
4.	**National Nutrition Week 2026: Date, History, Significance And Key Facts** *News18* *September 01, 2026*	National Nutrition Week 2026 will be observed in India from September 01-07, 2026 bringing attention to the role of food and nutrition in health, growth and overall well-being. The annual observance encourages people to understand the importance of balanced diets, adequate nutrients and healthier eating habits. Nutrition is particularly important across different stages of life, from childhood and adolescence to pregnancy and older age. For India, the week also provides an opportunity to discuss persistent challenges such as malnutrition, anaemia and nutrient deficiencies, alongside the growing concerns linked to unhealthy diets. National Nutrition Week serves as a reminder that better nutrition is central to healthier individuals and communities.

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5.	**India Signals Stricter Red Warning Labels in Setback for Big Food** *US News* *September 10, 2026*	India's government could introduce tougher red warning labels for food packaging in one go, rather than in stages as currently proposed, in a potential blow to the US$100bn food and drinks industry. The submission was made in India's Supreme Court after judges raised questions about the earlier proposal. The court has been hearing pleas from health activists for months and has repeatedly criticised the FSSAI for delays in implementing stricter labels in the world's most populous nation, where obesity rates are rising.
6.	**India's top court rebukes government over timeline for food Warning labels** *Reuters* *September 28, 2026*	India's Supreme Court questioned why the government wanted to "waste so much time" on fresh public and industry consultations before adopting warning labels on packaged items, in its latest push for swifter action on food labelling. In an unprecedented food safety crackdown, India has raided eateries and shut scores of restaurants and factories nationwide on grounds of hygiene lapses. It has unveiled tougher labelling measures, requiring red hexagon-shaped labels on packaged items to warn consumers of foods high in salt, sugar or fat, after years of lobbying by the US$100bn industry.
7.	**Indian FSSAI's Enforcement Wave — What Food and Beverage Advertisers Should Know** *Legla 500* *August 01, 2026*	August 2026 saw the FSSAI publicise a concentrated series of enforcement actions and compliance updates across the food and beverage sector. For advertisers and brand owners, the developments show that FSSAI is increasingly treating advertising copy, product naming, packaging, formulation and operational compliance as interconnected consumer-protection issues. FSSAI's scrutiny of absolute "100 percent" claims became a major issue in August 2026. The regulator directed Dabur India to stop selling

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		several food products carrying claims such as "100% Pure", "100% Natural", "100% Purity Guaranteed" and "100% Organic".
8.	**War in the Middle East creates problems for Indian feed sector: Need regulatory changes** *foodstrategy.com* *August 01, 2026*	The Strait of Hormuz closure, surging energy costs and fertiliser supply disruptions are putting pressure on one of the world's fastest-growing feed industries, even as India's long-term demand trajectory and foreign investment signal continued growth potential. The Indian animal feed sector faces significant headwinds in 2026 as the ongoing military conflict in the Middle East puts pressure on production costs for domestic feed manufacturers. According to the Indian government's latest economic report, shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and surging energy costs stemming from the Iran war are threatening to undermine one of the world's largest economies.
9.	**Beyond Street Food: The Changing Regulatory Gaze on Food Safety** *Outlook* *August 17, 2026*	Recent food-safety violations at luxury hotels, branded chains, hospitals and quick-commerce warehouses expose the limits of India's clean-versus-unclean food divide. Food safety concerns and adulteration have been in the news for some time now. But what has happened since late July 2026 has exceeded even the most paranoid person's worst imagination. The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suspended several licenses, which includes a school meal supplier, two IIT Bombay hostel messes, and three Bombay High Court canteens. The situation was further escalated in Bengaluru, where 30 food safety teams inspected 26 three- and five-star hotels. In these high-end hotels, expired milk, rotten or poorly stored meat, fungal growth on vegetables, expired bakery products, and unhygienic storage were found.

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10.	**Global Food Safety Crackdown: Regulators Suspend Licences and Seize Goods** *Adhoc news* *August 02, 2026*	Food safety authorities across multiple countries intensified enforcement on August 01, 2026, suspending manufacturing licences, seizing thousands of kilograms of substandard goods, and closing several processing facilities. The coordinated actions targeted prominent bakery brands, oil manufacturers, and snack producers following reports of hygiene violations and chemical contamination — a reminder to UK food businesses of the strict standards regulators expect. The FSSAI suspended the manufacturing licence of Switz Foods Private Limited, a Kolkata-based bakery operating since 1991. Inspectors found serious non-compliance, including pest infestations involving flies and mosquitoes, rusted equipment, and inadequate sanitation.
11.	**FSSAI Tightens Food Safety Net; States Drive Enforcement Push in FY 2025-26** *DD News* *August 08, 2026*	FSSAI, in close coordination with State Food Safety Authorities, significantly ramped up enforcement and compliance efforts in FY 2025-26, reinforcing the country's food safety architecture and strengthening consumer protection. At the core of this nationwide push is a clear delineation of roles: while FSSAI sets standards and regulatory principles, the on-ground responsibility for licensing, inspections, and enforcement rests predominantly with states. Notably, nearly 98 percent of Food Business Operators (FBOs) fall under state licencing regimes, underscoring that food safety enforcement is largely a state-driven function. In a decisive consumer protection measure, 945 food recalls were initiated during the year, preventing unsafe products from reaching the public.

12.	**FSSAI's crackdown: Why food brands and liquor firms are under scanner** *Business Standard* *August 05,2026*	The FSSAI, has significantly widened its enforcement drive in recent months, moving well beyond routine food safety inspections. From prohibiting "100 percent" claims on products, such as honey, ghee and edible oils to cracking down on alcoholic beverages, the regulator has adopted a much stricter approach towards consumer protection and regulatory compliance. Here are the actions the food regulator has taken so far in 2026. In June, the regulator issued notices to more than a dozen food and beverage companies over product descriptions and branding. Companies including Emami Healthy & Tasty, Neuherbs, Troovy, Plan B, Healthy Master, Healthy Choice, The Health Factory, Organic Wisdom, Storia and Two Brothers Organic Farms were asked to explain the use of terms such as "healthy", "organic" and "zero maida".
13.	**Food Safety vs. Industry Interests: Supreme Court Questions FSSAI's Stand on Warning Labels for High-Fat, Sugar & Salt Foods** *Prime Legal* *August 14, 2026*	Should India dilute international food-safety standards because its cuisine is traditionally richer in salt, sugar and fat? The answer was an emphatic no when, on August 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of India slammed the FSSAI for failing to implement warnings on packages of processed food products. These cases have emanated from a public interest litigation petition filed by 3S and Our Health Society for mandatory front-of-packaging labelling (FOPL) in order to alert consumers about the packaging of foods that contain excessive amounts of sugar, salt, or saturated fats. In April 2025, the Court had disposed of the case on a direction that the constituted expert committee by FSSAI should finalise their recommendations. In the second week of February 2026, dissatisfied with the affidavit of compliance filed by the regulator, the Court had directed FSSAI to consider such warning

		messages as "High Sugar Level" or "High Saturated Fat Level." Instead, FSSAI's latest affidavit proposed a different approach: displaying daily recommended consumption limits for sugar, salt and saturated fat in pictorial form, based on the 2024 ICMR–NIN Dietary Guidelines, rather than an interpretive warning symbol.
14.	**FSSAI Issues Public Notice on Declaration of Non-Food Grade Items in Bills of Entry** Myfssainews August 12, 2026	The FSSAI issued a Public Notice on August 10, 2026. The notice covers Non Food Grade Items in Bills of Entry. FSSAI has identified a routing issue with these imports. Many Bills of Entry for non-food grade items reach FSSAI for clearance. This issue mainly affects items with both food and non-food uses under the same HSN code. FSSAI has now provided a specific declaration for such items. Importers and Customs Brokers may declare the "NFG" qualifier in ICEGATE. The qualifier indicates non-food end use.
15.	**Food inflation composition shifts as protein-rich items, processed foods drive price pressures** *The Economic Times* *August 31, 2026*	India's food inflation is undergoing a shift in its composition, with protein-rich items, processed foods and edible oils emerging as major contributors to price pressures, even as the persistence of El Nino conditions raises risks for crop yields and food prices, noted the Monthly Economic Report of August 2026 released by the Finance Ministry. The report said, "The protein-rich items (including fish) and processed food (including sugar, confectionery and beverages) have emerged as the key contributors to food & beverages inflation in July."
16.	**FSSAI cancels licence of Park Plaza Hotel over food safety violations** *The Print* *July 28, 2026*	FSSAI has suspended the licence of Delhi-based Park Plaza, which is part of Mahagun Hotels, for several violations, including use of degraded cooking oils and bad food quality. The FSSAI has suspended "the licence of M/s Park Plaza based in Shahdara, Delhi, with immediate effect." These actions are based on consumer complaints, *suo-motto* cognizance and also

		regular enforcement activities of food safety officers.
17.	**FSSAI gives 90 days to beverage firms to remove 'energy drink' label** *PSU Watch* *July 27, 2026*	FSSAI has provided 90 days to beverage companies, including PepsiCo and Reliance Retail, to comply with its order to remove the misleading 'energy drinks' claim from their products, according to sources. On July 01, the FSSAI had issued notices to six beverage firms that sell energy drinks for misbranding and misleading claims. The regulator has not framed any standard for the energy drink category. The six brands are: Red Bull Energy Drink, PepsiCo's Adrenaline Rush Energy Drink, Reliance Consumer Products' 'Campa Energy Drink- Gold Boost', Sting Energy Drink, Hell Energy and Coca-Cola-backed Monster Energy.
18.	**FSSAI Approves India's First Plant Based Vitamin D3 for Health Supplements and Fortified Foods** *Myfssainews* *July 15, 2026*	India has taken a major step towards expanding plant-based nutrition options. The FSSAI has approved the country's first Plant Based Vitamin D3 for use in health supplements, nutraceuticals, fortified foods, and beverages. The approval gives manufacturers a fresh opportunities for product innovation. Fermenta Biotech developed the approved ingredient under the brand name VITADEE Green. The company produces this plant-based Vitamin D3 from phytosterols obtained during soy oil processing. Conventional Vitamin D3 usually comes from lanolin, which manufacturers extract from sheep's wool. Although both ingredients have different sources, they produce the same form of Vitamin D3 with similar biological functions.

19.	**Over 40,000 food samples failed safety tests in FY26, govt tells Parliament** The Tribune July 24, 2026	Nearly one in every five food samples tested across the country during 2025-26 failed to meet food safety standards, with 40,023 samples found "non-conforming" out of 2,23,808 analysed, as the government also stepped-up enforcement with a record 5.2 lakh inspections of food businesses during the year. The figures were disclosed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in separate written replies to unstarred questions in the Lok Sabha on food adulteration. The Ministry said the FSSAI, along with State and Union Territory food safety authorities, conducted 5,20,566 inspections during 2025-26, up from 4,01,391 in 2024-25 and 3,57,072 in 2023-24, indicating a significant expansion of enforcement efforts. It added that "the data for the year 2025-26 is provisional."
20.	**India Is Delaying Front-of-Pack Food Labels – and Consumers Are Paying the Price** The Wire, July 24, 2026	The FSSAI has gone back on its own plans to introduce regulation around this – and that proposed regulation too was seen as going easy on the packaged food industry. A front-of-pack label – FOPL in short – is similar to the nutrition information panel on the back of many packaged products sold in India, but it is located at the front, making it clearly visible. It also makes the nutritional quality of products more immediately legible. There are various approaches to this, including bold warnings where the products exceed recommended intakes in sugar or fat, a star rating with more stars when the products are healthier, or "traffic lights" where red means the product is unhealthy.