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# World Food Safety Day 2026 and India's New Vegan Food Logo

7 June 2026

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# World Food Safety Day 2026 and India's New Vegan Food Logo

7 June 2026 · 3 min read · ·

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## WHY IN NEWS

**World Food Safety Day (WFSB)** is observed on **June 7, 2026**, with the theme “**From burden to solutions: safe food everywhere.**” The day, jointly led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, this year emphasises the role of data in shaping food-safety policy, with the WHO releasing an updated edition of its **Foodborne Disease Estimates**. In India, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has introduced a standardised **vegan logo** to bring transparency to food labelling.

## WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

ATTRIBUTE	DETAIL
Date	June 7 (annual)
First observed	2019 (instituted by the UN General Assembly)
Led by	WHO and FAO jointly
2026 theme	“From burden to solutions: safe food everywhere”
2026 focus	The role of data; release of WHO Foodborne Disease Estimates

The WHO estimates that unsafe food causes roughly **600 million illnesses and over 400,000 deaths globally each year** (figures the 2026 estimates update), a burden that falls hardest on children and low-income populations. International food standards are set by the **Codex Alimentarius Commission**, a joint WHO-FAO body.

## INDIA'S NEW VEGAN LOGO

The FSSAI's standardised green "vegan" logo lets consumers easily identify products free of animal-derived ingredients, supporting informed and ethical food choices.

ASPECT	DETAIL
Issued by	FSSAI
Purpose	Clear, standardised labelling of vegan products
Benefit	Consumer transparency; supports sustainable and ethical diets
Compliance	To become mandatory for vegan-labelled products from July 1, 2027

## THE INSTITUTIONAL BACKBONE: FSSAI

ASPECT	DETAIL
Full name	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
Nature	Statutory body
Legal basis	Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
Parent ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Mandate	Lays down science-based standards for food and regulates manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import

The FSSAI runs initiatives such as **Eat Right India**, food-fortification, and hygiene-rating schemes, linking food safety to public health, consumer rights and trade competitiveness.

## WHY FOOD SAFETY MATTERS FOR UPSC

Food safety connects multiple syllabus areas:

- **Public health (GS2):** unsafe food is a major, preventable disease burden.
- **Consumer rights (GS2):** transparent labelling empowers informed choice.
- **Food processing and trade (GS3):** meeting Codex standards is essential for exports.
- **SDGs:** links to SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 3 (good health).

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### Prelims

- World Food Safety Day: **June 7**; first observed **2019**; led by **WHO and FAO**
- 2026 theme: **“From burden to solutions: safe food everywhere”**
- International food standards: **Codex Alimentarius Commission** (joint WHO-FAO)
- **FSSAI**: statutory body under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**; under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- FSSAI vegan logo: mandatory from **July 1, 2027**

### Mains Angles

- 1 **GS2 Public Health:** Examine food safety as a public-health and consumer-rights issue, and assess the FSSAI’s effectiveness.
- 2 **GS3 Food Processing and Trade:** Discuss how food-safety standards (Codex compliance) affect India’s food exports and competitiveness.
- 3 **GS2 Governance:** Evaluate transparent labelling, such as the vegan logo, as a tool for consumer empowerment, alongside the challenge of MSME compliance.

## FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
World Food Safety Day	June 7 (annual); first observed 2019
Led by	WHO and FAO
2026 theme	“From burden to solutions: safe food everywhere”
International standards body	Codex Alimentarius Commission (WHO-FAO)
FSSAI	Statutory body under FSS Act, 2006
FSSAI parent ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Vegan logo	Standardised FSSAI logo; mandatory from July 1, 2027
FSSAI flagship	Eat Right India

Sources: WHO, FAO, FSSAI

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