FSSAI to organise special festive drive to prevent food adulteration

New Delhi, Feb 23 (Agency)

Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has announced special festive drive to ensure food safety and prevention of adulteration of food during the Holi festival. Taking into account the seasonal rise in demand for food ingredients like milk and milk products, edible oil, ghee, etc., which are critical ingredients in the making of sweets, snacks and savouries including namkeen, pappad, fryums, etc, the food regulator feels it would create economic incentives for adulteration leading to circulation of adulterated and sub-standard products in the market.

The FSSAI has announced a special drive – Holi: Anti-adulteration drive 2026, by which the authority has asked food safety officers and food inspectors to conduct increased inspections, sampling and testing in hotspots. The Authority has also asked the officials to deploy food safety on wheels (FSWs) strategically in prominent market places to enhance monitoring, testing of samples. The Food regulator has also instructed to update the sampling outcomes on FoSCoS and FoSCoRIS platforms by March 31, 2026.

MCCI Curtain Raiser Ceremony of 125 Years Anniversary

Kolkata, Feb 23 (Representative)

Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a Curtain Raiser Ceremony of MCCI's 125th Year Anniversary Celebration on 'India@2047: Economic Vision for the Amrit Kaal'. The Chief Guest was Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble Former President of India and the Guest of Honour was Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal. The Session was held TODAY (Monday, 23 February 2026) at 4 pm at Crystal Hall, Taj Bengal, Kolkata. Shri Ram Nath Kovind said that India is an inspiring story, 25 cr. people have come out poverty in last one decade. India has doubled its economy in last few years. India is an exporter of defence equipment to 80 Nations. Hon'ble Former President mentioned that Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas Programme is appropriate for India. History teaches us that progress is continuous journey not a destination. He suggested that greater investment is needed in research and innovation. Government has already invested in AI innovation. Now India should focus on development of circular economy.

Strength of Viksit Bharat will also depend on enterprise of small businesses, artisans and entrepreneurs across towns and villages. He emphasised that MSMEs must move from being small suppliers to becoming globally competitive and export oriented. He added that India must be a digital leader and not merely an adopter. India should a global hub for data, AI and next generation technologies. Speaking at the 'Curtain raiser ceremony of 125th anniversary', India@2047: Economic Vision for the Amrit Kaal' of MCCI on Monday, Kovind said that India's strength also lay in small enterprises. "India has given importance to the MSMEs to get greater market access and simplified regulations." Kovind said India is also poised to become the global hub of AI. "The government is investing in the core data centre ecosystem. India will also acquire true digital sovereignty which will lay

in developing computer chips. India is solidifying its position in AI which has become evident from the recent concluded AI Summit attended by several global leaders".

According to Kovind, 'Amrit Kaal' also include sustainability. He said environmental and economic progress do not oppose each other but be complementary. Strength of India will not only rest on economic parameters, but also on skill development, increased participation by women workforce. The country will also have to ensure progress and prosperity reach every household of the country. "Building a developed India is a collective responsibility. The private sector must lead this endeavour by driving investments and creating employment opportunities", Kovind said. He also lauded MCCI for making the first woman president of the chamber in its 125 years of existence since 1901. Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose said that the theme—India @ 2047: Economic Vision for the Amrit Kaal—invites us to look ahead with courage and clarity. He congratulated MCCI on selected a lady President, the first in its 125 year history and he wished that with her leadership qualities, the Chamber will be highly benefited and it will thrive in future. He added that this is a moment of pride and a significant milestone reflecting progressive thought and respect for womanhood. Dr. Bose said that when women are honoured the Gods rejoice. Earlier Smt. Priti A. Sureka, President, MCCI in her Welcome Address said that the journey to 2047 demands a lot.

First, we must champion entrepreneurship at every level. Second, we must strengthen India's manufacturing and trade ecosystem. Third, sustainability must move from compliance to conviction. Fourth, digital transformation is not optional — it is essential. Fifth and most importantly, inclusive growth. The true measure of economic progress is not just GDP, but the dignity and prosperity of every citizen. The Session ended with a hearty Vote of thanks proposed by Shri Munish Jhajharia, Senior Vice President, MCCI and he said that the idea of Amrit Kaal, articulated by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, represents the 25-year journey from the 75th year of independence to the centenary of a free India in 2047. It is a call to action — to build a developed, inclusive, innovative and globally respected India.

Olectra to supply 1,085 e-buses for Hyderabad under PM E-DRIVE

Hyderabad, Feb 23
(FN Representative)

Olectra Greentech Limited, India's largest electric commercial vehicle manufacturer, has secured a Letter of Intent for the supply of 1,085 electric buses to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) for deployment in Hyderabad. The LOI was issued through Evey Trans Private Limited, under the PM E-DRIVE initiative, led by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), aimed at accelerating the adoption of electric public transport across Indian cities. The induction of these buses is expected to significantly strengthen Hyderabad's clean and sustainable urban transport network.

The 12-metre low-floor electric buses will be supplied in both air-conditioned and non-AC variants, featuring advanced air suspension systems, high-capacity lithium-ion batteries with a range of over 250 km per charge, fast opportunity charging, and wheelchair accessibility. Olectra Managing Director Mahesh Babu said the order marks a key milestone in the company's journey and reflects confidence in its indigenously developed electric mobility solutions. He added that the company looks forward to working closely with TGSRTC to provide efficient, comfortable and eco-friendly public transportation in Hyderabad, according to a company statement on Monday.

German Companies Express Confidence in Investing in UP: Maurya

Germany/Lucknow, Feb 23 (FN Reporter)

While Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was exploring investment opportunities in Singapore, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, leading a state delegation, met a German delegation in Frankfurt on Monday and invited them to invest in Uttar Pradesh. Maurya held discussions with Silke Sickter of ZVEI Global Affairs and Economics, Indo-Pacific and China Affairs, and Markus Schyboll, CEO of EA Elektro-Automatik GmbH. Both representatives expressed confidence in investing in Uttar Pradesh. The Deputy Chief Minister briefed the German delegation on the state's strengthening economy. He said Uttar Pradesh offers a vast market of 25 crore consumers and, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has emerged as a key contributor to India's rapidly growing economy.

He said the state is fast emerging as a global investment destination. During the meeting, both sides emphasised the need to strengthen India-Germany partnerships in semiconductor and electronics manufacturing. The German delegation noted that leading companies such as Siemens and NXP are already investing in India. They highlighted India's large consumer base and acknowledged the cooperation extended by Indian authorities, along with the advantages of operating in a vast market. The delegation assured Maurya of long-term cooperation and potential investment in Uttar Pradesh.

Star Health targets Rs.20,000 cr premium in FY26

Chennai, Feb 23 (Reporter)

Standalone health insurer Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd is targeting a premium income of Rs. 20,000 crore for FY26, said a top company official. He also said that, post the scrapping of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on health insurance policies, there has been an increase in the average sum insured. "Our premium income as of January 2026 stands at about Rs. 17,800 crore. We are confident of achieving the target of Rs.20,000 crore as the coming months will be busy," Anand Roy, MD & CEO, said.

Roy said after the scrapping of the GST on health insurance premiums, the average sum insured has gone up to Rs 11 lakh from Rs 9 lakh. He said policyholders are now willing to increase the sum insured in their policies with the additional money available post the scrapping of the GST on health insurance premiums. Roy said the company is absorbing the non-availability of input tax credit after the GST change. Meanwhile, the company launched 32 Arogya Seva Kendra or health clinics across nine states under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. According to Roy, the company's CSR budget is about Rs. 15 crore and that sum is being expended on the Arogya Seva Kendra programme. He said the programme is implemented in partnership with Piramal Swasthya, part of Piramal Foundation. The clinics will provide its services-doctor consultation, medicine,s pneumococcal vaccine and diagnostic tests free of cost. The initiative targets districts with 20-40% hypertension prevalence and diabetes burden reaching up to 29%.

USD 70 billion India bet: Amazon opens mega Bengaluru campus

Bengaluru, Feb 23 (FN Representative)

With a cumulative investment commitment of nearly USD 70 billion in India, Amazon on Monday opened its second-largest office campus in Asia in Bengaluru, underscoring the country's growing role in its global technology and business operations. The company said it has already invested over USD 40 billion in India and has committed an additional USD 35 billion by 2030, taking its total planned investment to about USD 75 billion as part of its long-term expansion strategy. The newly inaugurated 1.1 million square feet, 12-storey campus has been built on a five-acre site around 15 kilometres from Kempegowda International Airport. The facility will house more than 7,000 employees working across e-commerce, operations, payments, technology and seller services.

The campus was inaugurated by MB Patil, Karnataka Minister for Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, who said Amazon's continued investments reflect India's emergence as a global technology and innovation hub. He noted that such large-scale projects create high-quality jobs, strengthen the local ecosystem and accelerate the digital economy. Amazon India Country Manager Samir Kumar said India remains a long-term priority for the company and Bengaluru has been central to its India journey. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Karnataka for its continued support and said Amazon would continue to invest in infrastructure, technology and talent to serve customers in India and globally. Designed to foster collaboration, flexibility and employee wellbeing, the campus features adaptable workspaces organised into self-sustaining neighbourhoods with meeting rooms, huddle spaces, breakout areas and event spaces capable of hosting more than 200 people. Employees will also have access to recreation facilities including basketball and pickleball courts, an amphitheatre, landscaped lawns and outdoor community spaces.

Cafeterias across two floors will offer a range of global cuisines. Amazon said the new campus aligns with its Climate Pledge commitment to achieve net-zero carbon by 2040, incorporating responsible material sourcing, reuse of office assets and high-efficiency systems aimed at reducing embodied and operational carbon. In Karnataka, Amazon operates ten corporate offices, seven fulfilment centres, three sort centres and over 130 last-mile delivery stations, besides a network of micro-fulfilment centres for Amazon Now in Bengaluru. More than 80,000 sellers from the state are currently selling on Amazon.in.

Elite Matrimony launches first Elite Experience Centre in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Feb 23 (Representative)

Elite Matrimony, the premium matchmaking service from Matrimony.com, on Monday launched its first-ever Elite Experience Centre at Jubilee Hills here, marking a new milestone in personalised matrimonial services for high-net-worth individuals. The Centre was inaugurated by Murugavel Janakiraman, Founder and CEO of Matrimony.com, popularly known for BharatMatrimony. Speaking on the occasion, he said Elite Matrimony was launched nearly 18 years ago to cater exclusively to Indian elites across the globe and has since helped thousands of members find suitable life partners. He said the Hyderabad Experience Centre has been designed to offer a private, personalised and confidential matchmaking experience.

Unlike online platforms, Elite Matrimony operates through a highly curated and verified database accessible only to dedicated relationship managers. Each member is assigned a personal relationship manager who handles profile search, shortlisting and introductions based on individual preferences. The service also includes setting up meetings with prospective matches, ensuring a discreet and end-to-end assisted process. Janakiraman said Elite Matrimony currently has a database of over two lakh elite members and has emerged as a preferred destination for elite individuals seeking serious and genuine matrimonial alliances. He added that stringent validation processes are followed to ensure authenticity and seriousness of profiles. ''With the launch of our first Elite Experience Centre, we look forward to helping many more elite members find their life partners through a trusted and curated service," he added.