

# **6<sup>th</sup> State Food Safety Index**

**Creating competitive environment  
for safe food across States/UTs**

**2023-2024**

# Introduction

India's federal system of government works through the central authority and states for better administration on various subjects. Both the national government and the states have the power to make laws, and both have autonomy on certain subjects.

Food is one of the important subject on the concurrent list of the Indian federal system. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is entrusted with ensuring public health by promoting food safety. The Food Authority at the centre and the State Food Safety Authorities jointly share this responsibility as delineated by the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006. While Food Authority provides policy intervention, direction and coordination at national level, States/UTs conduct food safety enforcement at the field level. Since Food safety and compliance is a crucial matter and a shared responsibility, it is pertinent to ensure coordination of state authorities (FDA) with centre (Food Safety & Standards Authority) for creating a nationwide transformation of food system for safe, healthy and sustainable food.

To incentivize States and Union Territories (UTs) to enhance food safety within their regions, FSSAI announces the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) annually for each financial year since 2019

The SFSI is a unique, benchmarking model developed by India to evaluate the performance of states and union territories (UTs) on a set of well-defined criteria for food safety. Each criterion is further elaborated with detailed checkpoints. States and Union Territories are free to implement these criteria using methodologies best suited to their state.

The Index is based on performance of State/ UT on five significant parameters, namely, Human Resources and Institutional Data, Compliance, Food Testing-Infrastructure and Surveillance, Training & Capacity Building and Consumer Empowerment. The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

## Key Features

- Creates a common understanding on Food Safety implementation across the country and bring about a positive change in India's food safety ecosystem to ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all.
- Establishes a robust and transparent communication process between the central authority, states and all relevant stakeholders, helping them identify strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement and initiate new schemes and guidelines.

- Encourage a spirit of competitiveness among states to improve the practice on food safety. Additionally, to encourage the efforts of respective states, best practices from states are also recognised and shared in National forums organised by FSSAI at central level.

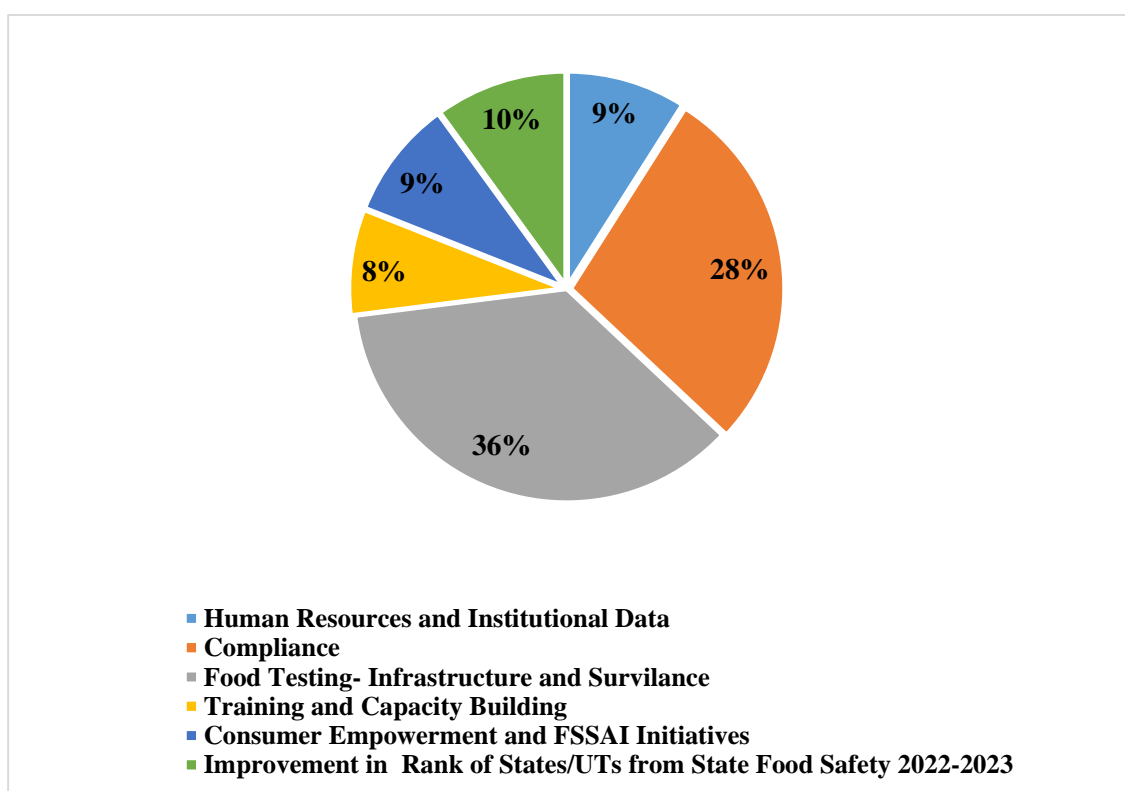
The first State Food Safety Index was released on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019, based on data provided by the States and UTs. Over time, FSSAI has successfully gathered and maintained food safety-related information through various in-house online platforms, including FoSCoS, FoSCoRIS, FoSTaC, INFoLNET. This data now serves as the basis for evaluating the performance of States and UTs, starting from the financial year 2022-2023. Till date, five editions of the State Food Safety Index have been released.

## Parameters and weightage

Every year, based on the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) during the previous financial year, FSSAI evaluates them on specific food safety parameters. These parameters are set by FSSAI and, while they can be adjusted annually to incorporate the latest activities, initiatives, or emerging issues, the core parameters remain consistent.

The validated data collected from States and UTs is utilized to rank them based on these scoring parameters. The food safety parameters used for the evaluation are broadly categorized under key factors, each assigned a separate weightage in terms of marks. These factors serve as the foundation for assessing and ranking the overall performance of States and UTs in maintaining food safety standards.

The detailed information is available at <https://www.fssai.gov.in/cms/foodsafetyindex.php>



## Index Rankings:

To ensure a fair comparison and improve the accuracy of rankings under the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2023-24, States and Union Territories (UTs) evaluated and assessed, with a minimum 60% overall marks criterion.

The marking for the Index has been based on data available from various FSSAI online portals, such as FoSCoS, FoSCoRIS, FoSTaC, INFoLNET, ERI Initiative and state portals. This approach has been adopted to eliminate subjectivity in the assessment and to rely on an objective, transparent and real-time database.

Several unique challenges are faced by the North Eastern Hilly States such as geographical, socio-economic and infrastructural conditions which lead to shortages of manpower, transportation and connectivity issues as well as infrastructural deficits.

Recognizing these constraints, it has been decided to acknowledge the efforts made by the best performing state among them. This adjustment provides a more realistic benchmark for North Eastern hilly states, encouraging continued progress while considering their specific regional challenges.

## Release of 6<sup>th</sup> State Food Safety Index:

Based on the above mentioned criteria on Index Rankings, the top performers of the Index are:

Categories	States/UTs
States & UTs	1. Kerala
	2. Tamil Nadu
	3. Jammu & Kashmir
	4. Gujarat (Special Mention)
<b>Special Acknowledgement:</b>	
North Eastern Hilly State	Nagaland

Based on the established scoring parameters and assigned weightage, the detailed score sheet of the States and Union Territories is as follows:

S. No.	States/UTs	Human Resources and Institutional Data (9 Marks)	Compliance (28 Marks)	Food Testing-Infrastructure and Surveillance (36 Marks)	Training and Capacity Building (8 Marks)	Consumer Empowerment (9 Marks)	Improvement in SFSI Rank (10 Marks)	Total (100 Marks)
1	Kerala	6.25	17	31	4	7.5	8	73.75
2	Tamil Nadu	7	17	26	5	7	5	67
3	Jammu & Kashmir	6.25	16	20	8	6	8	64.25
4	Gujarat	5.75	16	27	2	9	2	61.75
5	Punjab	6.75	15	21	5	9	0	56.75
6	Rajasthan	7.75	13	24	2	6	2	54.75
7	West Bengal	5.75	17	18	4	8	2	54.75
8	Goa	5.75	6	20	6	7	8	52.75
9	Madhya Pradesh	5.25	11	25	3	7	0	51.25
10	Himachal Pradesh	4.5	15	18	4	5	2	48.5
11	Orissa	3.5	12	21	4	4.5	2	47
12	Maharashtra	5.5	13	15	5	6.5	0	45
13	Nagaland	2.25	12	18	4	6	2	44.25
14	Uttar Pradesh	6.25	8	21	2.5	6.5	0	44.25
15	Chandigarh	4.75	15	9	4	6	5	43.75
16	Haryana	2.25	17	15	3	1.5	0	38.75
17	Karnataka	3.25	9	15	4	7.5	0	38.75
18	Uttarakhand	4.75	12	15	4	3	0	38.75
19	Assam	2.5	6	21	5	2	2	38.5
20	Delhi	3	12	17	3	2.5	0	37.5
21	Bihar	1.5	11	16	3.5	2.5	2	36.5
22	Tripura	3	7	17	4	3	2	36
23	Telangana	3.75	11	18	1	2	0	35.75
24	Meghalaya	2.5	6	19	5	0.5	0	33
25	Chhattisgarh	2.75	7	17	3.5	0.5	0	30.75

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26	Sikkim	4.5	14	7	4	1	0	30.5
27	Arunachal Pradesh	2	17	3	2	1	2	27
28	Andhra Pradesh	3	15	4	2.5	2.5	0	27
29	Jharkhand	2.5	4	16	3	1	0	26.5
30	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	4.5	8	7	4	0.5	2	26
31	Manipur	3	3	11	1	3	0	21
32	Ladakh	3.25	2	6	2	7	0	20.25
33	Dadra NH & DD	2.5	8	7	1	0.5	0	19
34	Puducherry	2	5	5	0	0.5	0	12.5
35	Mizoram	1.5	5	2	1	1.5	0	11
36	Lakshadweep	1	7	1	0	0.5	0	9.5

### **Outstanding Achievement of Top Performers**

S. No.	States/UTs	Area of Achievement
1	Kerala	The State has organized special drives/camps in effective manner, which helped in increase in number of new license and registration. The State has also achieved more than 100% of inspection target of Financial Year (FY) 2023-24. Improvement in Food Testing Infrastructure is observed during the year 2023-24 with notification and recognition of State Food Testing Laboratory (SFTL) by FSSAI. The SFTLs are also accredited by NABL and is being equipped with microbiology facilities and fully functional High End Equipment. Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) are made available with districts and being fully utilized for testing as well as conducting training and awareness program. SFTLs are being mapped and more than 100 reports per month with quality and safety parameters are being generated on InFoLNet. The State also engaged in Eat Right Challenges and out of six Eat Right Initiatives, the State has been certified at least for five initiatives. The State also organized considerable number of Eat Right Millet Mela as part of celebrating International Year of Millet.

2	Tamil Nadu	State has significant number of full time Designated and Food Safety Officers. Also, State Level Advisory Committee (SLAC) and District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) has been constituted and meeting conducted as per schedule. Increasing trend has been observed in issuance of new license and registration and in achieving inspection target. Food testing laboratory in State are recognized and notified by FSSAI and significant number of food categories are also NABL accredited. These laboratories are also equipped with microbiology facilities and High End Equipment. The available Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) are being used for testing, training and awareness. The State has also achieved FoSTaC training target and has been certified for around five Eat Right Initiatives.
3	Jammu & Kashmir	Efforts by the UT has been made in achieving the target of FoSTaC training, organizing Eat Right Initiative and capacity building. Maximum number of Food Safety Supervisors have been trained by the end of FY 2023-24 in connection with the number of registered and licensed FBOs and need based training has been conducted for Designated Officers and Food Safety Officers. Effective utilization of Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) is being done and laboratories are being accredited by NABL and recognized by FSSAI.
4	Gujarat (Special Mention)	State has been involved in organizing Eat Right Challenges, Eat Right Millet Mela and has been certified for five Eat Right Initiatives. A significant achievement has been noted through IEC activities namely awareness creation, media campaigns, translation, dubbing etc. Food Testing Infrastructure has been improved through recognition and accreditation of NABL for food categories, availability of basic and High End Equipment. There is a remarkable use of available Food Safety on Wheels in the districts and generation of reports through InFoLNet. Target has been achieved for FoSTaC training, inspection of FBOs.
<b>Special Acknowledgement for North Eastern Hilly States:</b>		
1	Nagaland	Despite the difficulty in availability of required manpower, transportation cost of samples, laboratory, substantial improvement is made in improving Food Testing Infrastructure. NABL accreditation, FSSAI notification of state laboratory having basic as well as high end equipment, effective utilization of Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs) is being done by the State. The State has excelled in achieving the target of enforcement sampling, FoSTaC training, Eat Right Initiative, Hygiene Rating, IEC activity during FY 2023-24 and showed a significant utilization of funds sanctioned in previous years. There is an overall progress is seen in improving food safety ecosystem than the previous year.

## **Learnings:**

Although substantial efforts to improve the overall food ecosystem has been made and paradigm changes have been made by FSSAI, several challenges and gaps require adequate actionable inputs through deliberation with both technical experts regulators and policy makers. Some of the current important challenges are listed below:

**Training and Capacity Building:** Training and capacity building for all stakeholders in the food supply chain, from farmers to food handlers and regulators, is essential. With overall impact on food safety standards & practices and quality the overall quality of the food supply can be improved.

**Enhancing Food Testing Capabilities:** Effective monitoring and enforcement of food safety standards. Creation of Advanced testing facilities for early detection of contaminants

**Modernization and integration:** of state-of-the-art infrastructure for food contaminant detection (rapid detection, sensors based online detection and others), mechanisms for rapid analysis and sharing of data, decision making, fool proof data transmission and others. These will have significant positive bearing on the ongoing national efforts on food system transformation.

**Strengthening infrastructure:** More investments in better infrastructure, modern storage facilities, efficient transportation networks, and robust cold chain systems especially for samples of perishable goods in State FDAs.

**Consumer Awareness and Education:** Educating consumers of proper food handling, storage, and preparation, is vital in addition of an informed choice.

## **Key Takeaway:**

Based on the above exercise, it can be inferred that significant progress has been made in food safety at national level. Though, this progress has multidimensional diversities across states in respective fields of food safety. SFSI, with this endeavour, tries to motivate all the states to improve individual and national level by providing in depth assessment in various fields of food safety administration.

It can be safely concluded that food safety is a continuous battle at state and national level to address the existing and the dynamic nature of potential challenges which demands persistent coordination between state and centre.

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*Please note that SFSI 2023-24 (Brochure) has been released based on above write up.*