Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Assess the role of regulatory institutions such as FSSAI in ensuring food safety in India. What measures are required to strengthen enforcement across the food supply chain?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

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Answer Hint

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, FSSAI, public health, food adulteration, misbranding, licensing and registration, inspection and testing infrastructure, state-level enforcement, informal food sector, consumer awareness, risk-based regulation, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Food safety is a critical public health concern in India, where a large and diverse food supply chain increases the risk of adulteration, contamination and misbranding. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, provides the national regulatory framework.

Role of Regulatory Institutions

- **Standard-setting:** Prescribes science-based standards for food products, additives and contaminants.
- **Licensing and registration:** Regulates food business operators to ensure minimum safety and hygiene requirements.
- **Inspection and enforcement:** State authorities conduct inspections, seize non-compliant products and take action against violations.

- **Testing and surveillance:** Laboratory analysis helps identify substandard, adulterated and misbranded food.
- **Consumer protection:** Labelling requirements and awareness initiatives promote informed choices.

Challenges in Enforcement

Inadequate laboratory capacity, shortage of trained inspectors, fragmented supply chains and widespread informal food businesses weaken regulatory oversight. Uneven enforcement across states further complicates compliance.

Way Forward

India needs stronger food-testing laboratories, regular risk-based inspections, digital traceability, trained enforcement personnel and stricter action against repeat offenders. Small food businesses should receive compliance guidance alongside proportionate enforcement. Consumer grievance mechanisms and public awareness must also be strengthened.

Conclusion

Effective food safety governance requires coordination between central and state institutions, scientific monitoring and accountable food businesses. A preventive, transparent and well-enforced regulatory system is essential to protect public health.

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