Science & Technology · GS - III

Conflicting laboratory findings in food safety investigations highlight the importance of scientific credibility in regulatory enforcement. Examine.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/11/2026	GS - III	Science & Technology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Sampling integrity, laboratory accreditation, chain of custody, testing standards, regulatory accountability, consumer protection

Model Answer

The disagreement between FSSAI's laboratory findings and Bisleri's independently commissioned test results concerning West Bengal's packaged drinking water batch PB201 highlights the importance of reliable scientific evidence in food safety regulation.

Key concerns arising from conflicting results:

1. **Sampling reliability:** Improper or non-representative sampling may affect the accuracy of laboratory findings.
2. **Testing consistency:** Differences in methodologies, equipment and laboratory procedures can produce inconsistent results.
3. **Evidentiary credibility:** Weak documentation of sample collection and handling can complicate regulatory proceedings.
4. **Consumer confidence:** Disputes over safety findings may create uncertainty among consumers.

Measures to strengthen regulatory credibility:

- Follow standardised sampling and testing protocols.
- Maintain documented chain of custody for collected samples.

- Strengthen laboratory accreditation, proficiency testing and quality assurance.
- Provide transparent procedures for confirmatory testing and independent review.
- Ensure timely disclosure of verified findings and appropriate corrective action.

Conclusion: Effective food safety regulation requires both scientific accuracy and institutional accountability. Independent verification, transparent procedures and consistent enforcement can protect consumers while ensuring fairness to food businesses.

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