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RIGHT TO INFORMATION

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PART II EXTRAORDINARY

No.539 AMARAVATI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026 **G.957**

NOTIFICATIONS BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, Etc.

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COMMISSIONER OF FOOD SAFETY

NOTIFICATION NO. 344/FSSA/AP/2026 **dated: 21-09-2026**

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS ACT, 2006 - IMPOSITION OF PROHIBITION UNDER SECTION 30(2)(a) ON MANUFACTURE, PROCESSING, PACKING, STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND USE IN FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS OF NON-STANDARDIZED DAIRY ANALOGUES.

Ref:

1.The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

2.The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, particularly Regulation 2.1.16 relating to the identity and standard of Paneer.

3.The Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

ORDER:

Whereas, Regulation 2.1.16 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 prescribes the identity and standard of Paneer as a product derived from milk/milk solids using permitted acidulants;

And whereas, products in which milk, milk fat or milk solids are partly or wholly replaced by vegetable fat, vegetable oil or other non-dairy ingredients cannot be treated or represented as genuine Paneer merely because they resemble Paneer in appearance, texture or use;

And whereas, the manufacture, sale, supply and use of non-standardized dairy analogues, particularly where such products are represented or served to consumers as "Paneer" or as genuine dairy products, may result in consumer deception, unfair trade practices and substitution of a standardized dairy product with a non-dairy analogue;

And whereas, it is considered necessary, as a precautionary and preventive measure and in the interest of public health, consumer protection and fair practices in food trade, to prohibit the manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution, sale and use in food service establishments of such non-standardized dairy analogues which imitate Paneer, cream, butter or other dairy products, or create an impression that they are genuine dairy products;

Now, therefore,

In exercise of the powers conferred under clause (a) of sub-section (2) of Section 30 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, read with Section 18 of the said Act, and in the interest of public health, the Commissioner of Food Safety, Andhra Pradesh State, hereby prohibits throughout the State of Andhra Pradesh, for a period of one year with effect from 21-09-2026 , the:

I. manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of non-standardized "Analogue Paneer" / non-dairy or artificial paneer, in any form, which imitates or is represented as genuine Paneer;
II. manufacture, processing, packing, storage, transportation, distribution and sale of any other non-standardized dairy analogue which imitates Paneer, cream, butter or other dairy products (excluding standardized products such as Frozen Desserts, Processed Cheese and Mixed Fat Spreads) or which, by its labelling, packaging, presentation, advertising, description or method of sale, creates an impression that it is a genuine dairy product; and
III. use, supply or serving of such non-standardized dairy analogues in hotels, restaurants, caterers, cloud kitchens, institutions, eateries and other food service establishments in a manner in which they are represented or served to consumers as the corresponding genuine dairy product.

For the purpose of this Order, the expression "non-standardized dairy analogue" includes a product which is not a standardized dairy product under the regulations made under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and in which milk, milk fat or milk solids are wholly or partly replaced by vegetable fat, vegetable oil or other non-dairy ingredients, particularly where such product is represented or likely to be perceived as a genuine dairy product.

All Food Business Operators shall ensure that products represented, sold or served as Paneer conform to the applicable FSSAI standards and shall not misrepresent or serve a non-dairy analogue as genuine Paneer.

This prohibition shall remain in force throughout the entire State of Andhra Pradesh for the aforesaid period of one year, unless modified, revoked or superseded earlier by the competent authority or by applicable regulatory standards/orders.

G.VEERAPANDIAN,
Commissioner of Food Safety,
Andhra Pradesh.

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