



Chapter 13

Blissful and Hygienic BHOG

Some things are sacred. Prasad is definitely one of those. Prasad signifies an intimate part of our beliefs, our culture, our traditions... it showcases who we are and keeps us rooted to our spiritual being. We feel a sense of connect and completion when we eat traditional food/ prasad offered at religious places. That's why no one says no to prasad, ever.

Pilgrim centres are a very important part of Indian society and food served in Places of worship is regarded as pure and sacred. Hence, ensuring food safety in these places is a major component and helps to aid in the health of thousands of the devotees who are visiting these places of worship. FSSAI has implemented BHOG(BlissfulHygienic OfferingtoGod), a unique initiative under the umbrella of eat right initiative to encourage Place of worship (PoW) to adopt and maintain food safety and hygiene while preparing and distribution of prasad or other food preparation along with training to food handlers. FSSAI has specific guidelines for implementation of food safety and hygiene in such places of worship.

Eat right at place of worship

Under the BHOG initiative, places of worship where prasad or meals is cooked or handled are identified , audit is conducted for identifying gaps in process, followed by basic training of food handlers.

Those places of worship which complies and meets required audit score for certification are certified under BHOG. The PoW are also encouraged to display safe and nutritious food messages at various places to benefit the devotees and to inculcate healthy habits among them.

The FSSAI also encourages PoW to use fortified edible salt, wheat, rice, milk and oil in their Prasad.



The Good Work!

Many places of worships are certified in state of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Chattisgarh like Ujjain Mahakal, Khajrana temple, ShriSomnath Temple, Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Shri Ram mandir etc.

Trainings under BHOG have been successfully conducted for places of worship located in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh etc.

In TamilNadu 150 food handlers from 20 major PoWs have been trained under Project BHOG by FSSAI. Maharashtra has covered 63 places and 236 temples under Project BHOG including training of 3500 food handlers. Sensitization workshops have been conducted in Delhi, Bengaluru, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Assam etc.

The traditional prasad/offering at places of worship will be safe and hygienic with BHOG . A win-win for every- one!



