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**News:** QR Codes for Food Labels

- Recently, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recommended the inclusion of QR codes on food products for accessibility by visually impaired individuals stating that this will ensure Access to Safe Food for all.

## **Quick Response (QR) Code**

- A Quick Response (QR) code is a type of two-dimensional matrix barcode that can store various types of data, such as alphanumeric text, website URLs, contact information, and more.
- It was invented in 1994 by the Japanese company Denso Wave, primarily for the purpose of tracking and labeling automobile parts.
- QR codes are characterized by their distinctive square shape and a pattern of black squares on a white background, which can be scanned and interpreted using a QR code reader or a smartphone camera.

# Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

## (FSSAI)

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is constituted under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** under the aegis of **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India.
- FSSAI is responsible for **protecting and promoting public health** through the **regulation and supervision of food safety**.
- The FSSAI has its headquarters at **New Delhi**. The authority also has **6 regional** offices located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai.
- **14 referral laboratories** notified by FSSAI, **72 State/UT laboratories** located throughout India and 112 laboratories are NABL accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.
- FSSAI has also launched the **State Food Safety Index**.