

## **From May 1, menus must state if cheese analogue used: FDA**

Maharashtra FDA mandates disclosure of cheese analogue on menus by April 30

Non-compliance from May 1 to attract action under Food Safety Act; move aims to improve consumer transparency

Food and Drugs Administration Maharashtra has directed restaurants, hotels, caterers and fast-food outlets to clearly disclose the use of cheese analogue on menu cards and electronic display boards by April 30. The directive, issued by Food Safety Commissioner Shridhar Dubey-Patil, will be enforced from May 1, with violations attracting action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The move follows consumer complaints about misleading practices, where outlets were using cheese analogue without proper disclosure. Authorities clarified that while paneer is derived purely from milk, cheese analogue is made using edible oils, starch and emulsifiers, making clear labelling essential for informed consumer choice.

The FDA emphasised that analogue products are not harmful but must be transparently identified. Consumers can report violations via the toll-free helpline 1800-222-365.

In a parallel directive, the FDA has also mandated the installation of CCTV cameras across retail and wholesale drug shops in Mumbai to curb the unauthorised sale of prescription drugs, particularly among minors, and strengthen monitoring mechanisms.

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