

A circular collage of various colorful candies, including lollipops, heart-shaped candies, and assorted small sweets, framed by a pink border with a dashed line.

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ICMA Updates

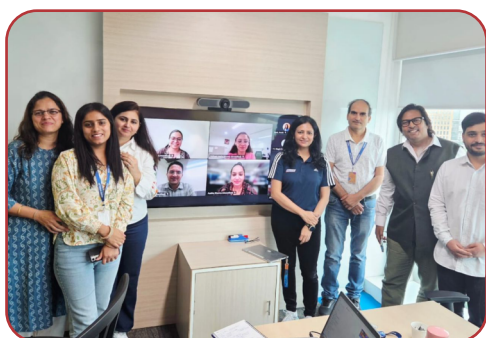
Highlights from the April Monthly Meeting:

- Ms Garima Rohilla, ICMA Secretariat, shared the ICMA updates, followed by Ms. Shipra Sehgal, Chairman Regulatory Committee discussed the FSSAI regulatory updates of April and updated members on stevia representation progress.
- Ms. Ranjeet Kaur, ICMA Vice-President, discussed key points of the National Stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Packaging for Food Business.
- Experts Ms Ipsita Roy and Mr Anirban discussed the Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 and EU Deforestation, respectively.



Highlights from the May Monthly Meeting:

- Ms. Shipra Sehgal discussed the key FSSAI regulatory updates and updated the members on the FSSAI stakeholder consultation meeting dated 16 May 2025, on the proposed new regulation, followed by Ms Garima Rohilla, ICMA Secretariat shared the ICMA updates.
- Harshita Sharma from Perfetti Van Melle discussed the Guidelines for acceptance of Recycled Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) as Food Contact Material (FCM-rPET).



Highlights from the June Monthly Meeting:

- ICMA members discussed the GST Rate Rationalisation, in which the members were informed that the GST rates 12% and 28% are going to be abolished, thus the goods that fall under 12% will be shifted by the government. The members in the meeting discussed and decided that ICMA will represent the government for sugar-boiled confectionery.
- Ms. Shipra Sehgal discussed the regulatory updates and draft proposal for 2.7.1 Sugar Boiled Confectionery



Highlights from the July Monthly Meeting:

- Ms. Shipra Sehgal discussed the regulatory updates from FSSAI.
- In the meeting, ICMA invited Dr. Anand NIFTEM to discuss the Proposal for the MOU between the CFRA NIFTEM Lab and ICMA.
- Discussed the developments on the ICMA submissions to the authorities with regards to GST Rate Rationalization.



Engagement and coordination with External Authorities

GST Rate Rationalisation

As per recent developments, the Government of India is working towards simplifying the GST rate structure, with plans to eliminate the 12% and 28% GST Rates. Products currently falling under this bracket, including confectionery, are expected to be shifted either to the 5% or 18% GST category.



For the confectionery industry, an upward revision to 18% would have a highly unfavorable impact. Candies and sweets, often priced at just Re. 1, could see an increase in cost, making them less accessible to consumers. This will not only affect manufacturers but also diminish the simple joys that confectionery brings from birthdays to weddings, graduations to baby showers. Confectionery has always been more than just a product; it is a symbol of happiness, celebration, and togetherness.

What is ICMA doing to protect the entire confectionery industry

Taking cognizance of the uncertainty regarding the shifting of the GST rate for confectionery. ICMA prepared and filed representation with the authority for enabling the transition of the GST Rate regarding the confectionery sector. With the members' expertise, technical knowledge, and strategic guidance, ICMA presented a unified voice on behalf of the entire confectionery industry to shift the confectionery sector to the slab, which safeguards the sustenance and growth of this sector.



For the Inclusion of Stevia Glycoside in confectionery Products

The Indian food industry is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by evolving health, nutrition, and lifestyle requirements in line with the country's growing economy and changing consumer trends. Innovation serves as the cornerstone of this transition, necessitating regulatory frameworks that are responsive to emerging needs. The proposed inclusion of stevia glycosides in confectionery products as a sugar substitute will play a pivotal role in supporting reformulation efforts, enabling the development of healthier alternatives, and fostering both innovation and consumer well-being.

On 23 April 2025 and 14 July 2025, the ICMA team met with authorities with the request to include the stevia glycoside in the confectionery product, and also requested to update the confectionery standard.



Quarterly submission of data on rejected and expired food items

Regarding FSSAI Advisory dated 16 Dec 2024, regarding Quarterly submission of data on Expiry and Rejected Food Items. On 09-07-2025, ICMA met with authorities and submitted the comments of ICMA members with regard to the advisory,



For GST Rate Rationalisation

ICMA had submitted the representation concerning the GST Rate to the Fitment Committee, the Group of Ministers, to urge the policymakers to balance the GST Rate of sugar-boiled confectionery. A higher GST rate can affect the FBOs adversely.



Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016 (as amended)

ICMA has submitted the following representation to the authorities:

- Comments on Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) 2025.
- Request for clarification regarding categorization of metallized plastic packaging and Challenges around capacity crunch in Category-III recycling & EPR credits.
- Request for Clarification on Use of Recycled Content Target Under PWM Rules



Key Regulatory Updates



Mandatory Submission of Closure Report on expiry of FSSAI License/Registration

Food Business Operators (FBOs) whose FSSAI License/Registration expires in FY 2024-25 must submit a Closure Report via the FoSCoS portal, confirming that no business activity is carried out on the expired license or stating reasons for non-renewal. Running a food business on an expired license violates Section 31 of the FSS Act, 2006 and may attract penalties up to Rs. 10 lakhs under Section 63. FBOs must also keep their email IDs updated on FoSCoS to receive official notices.

Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has issued a draft notification may be known as the Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, on June 3, 2025. The draft includes Statutory Requirements, Technical Requirements, Food-Grade Packaging, UreP Credit Procurement etc. .For non-drinking water rigid plastic containers above 4.9L, the draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, propose revised reuse targets of 10% for FY 2025–26 and 2026–27, rising to 15% from FY 2027–28 onward. Exemptions may be granted by CPCB in cases of statutory or technical limitations, and brand owners will be allowed to carry forward their FY 2025–26 obligations for three years, in addition to future targets.



Scrutiny of Annual Returns submitted by FBOs by Concerned Licensing Authorities

Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an order based on the recommendation made by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) regarding 'PAN' as a business identity PAN has been mandatory for applying new license/ Registration or its renewal or modification, with effect from 22 October 2024.

E-Commerce Platform Compliance: Hygiene & Transparency

On 8 July 2025, FSSAI issued directives to major e-commerce platforms to enhance food safety across the digital supply chain.

Must display FSSAI license/reg number and Food Safety Connect App info on consumer documents. Require all linked warehouses/storage to be registered/licensed, and photos uploaded to FoSCoS. All food handlers must complete FoSTaC hygiene training; platforms must share training schedules with FSSAI



Discontinuation of term "100%" on Food Product Labels and Related Promotional Materials

FSSAI has issued an advisory on the Discontinuation of the term "100%" on Food Product Labels and Related Promotional Materials. According to FSSAI, the term 100% on food product labels is ambiguous, misleading within the current regulatory framework, and is prone to misinterpretation.

Validity of FSSAI recognised Food Testing Laboratories

FSSAI recognised laboratories along with the validity of their NABL accreditation as on 1 August 2025 and contact details is enclosed herewith for the purpose of carrying out the analysis of food samples taken under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made there under.



QR to download
Food Safety Connect Mobile App

FSSAI Display of Food Safety Connect Mobile App QR Code/Download Link at Food Premises

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has issued an advisory with regard to the display of the Food Safety Connect Mobile App QR Code/Download Link at Food Premises. FSSAI has made the QR code of the Food Safety Connect App available on the front page of the FSSAI Licence and Registration. All Food Business Operators (FBOs), including Restaurants, Dhabas, Cafes, Eateries, and other food service establishments.

International Regulatory Updates



Saudi Food and Drug Authority's new food Rule

The Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) has announced the implementation of new technical regulations for food, effective from July 1. These regulations are designed to enhance food transparency and provide consumers with comprehensive information when dining out, empowering them to make informed nutritional decisions. SFDA noted that starting July 1, 2025, food establishments will be mandated to display detailed nutritional information on their menus

FDA Gives Green Light to Gardenia-Derived Blue Coloring for Food and Beverages

FDA approves a natural blue (Gardenia / genipin) for use in candy – Final rule mid-July 2025.

Impact: New natural color option for hard & soft candy, icing, and confectionery coatings; check spec/purity and label claims.



UK: Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025

The Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025 is an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that regulates units of measurement and quantities of goods marketed. Among various measures, the act gives regulators the power to investigate compliance measures and allows the secretary of state, by regulations, to set "product requirements" for the marketing or use of products in the UK, which corresponds to, or is similar to a provision of "relevant EU law" for the purpose of reducing or mitigating the environmental impact of products.

EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) – Effective December 2025

The EU's landmark EUDR, targeting commodities like cocoa and palm oil, has been postponed to take effect in December 2025. Confectionery manufacturers must ensure their supply chains are deforestation-free, with traceability systems in place and due diligence declarations required. The EUDR will come into force in December 2025, following a 12-month delay.



ICMA Members Achievement

Gurbani Group



Gurbani Group is one of the most supportive members of ICMA. The Gurbani Group is approved for Exports to Japan with stringent quality norms. The company has received the International Quality Award and also received the 5000 Best MSME Award in Quality Excellence, 2024. Proud to announce that the company has received the International Quality Award in New York, USA, 2012, and has been declared as the Winner for the Year 2024 out of a survey of 5000 Best MSMEs in Quality Excellence

Swan Sweets

ICMA member Swan Sweets has been consistently recognized for its excellence and contributions, receiving the Monde Selection Award in 1988, the National Awards for Quality Products (2005) and Entrepreneurship in MSME (2008), and the Smart Success Story and Great Place to Work awards in 2019. More recently, ICMA honored the company in 2020 for its long-term association and again in 2024 for being an integral part of the association.



UPCOMING EVENTS

World Food India 2025

25th - 28th September 2025

Venue & Date: Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India

World Food India 2025 will bring together key partners, including central ministries, state governments, industry associations, leading corporates, and international organizations. This collaboration ensures a unified platform to promote investment, technology, and sustainable growth in the sector.



Khadhya Khurak 2025

June, 5th - 7th 2024

Venue- Venue- Helipad Exhibition Center, Gandhinagar

Khadhya Khurak 2025, taking place from December 15-18, 2025, is a prestigious Food and Hospitality event at Helipad Exhibition Center, Gandhinagar. The exhibition showcases 5000+ brands and highlights the latest trends and technological advancements in India's food processing industry.



Horeca Business Trade Show 2025

Date- 30 Oct - 01 Nov 2025

Venue- Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, India

The Horeca Business Trade Show, organized by Hospitality First India Pvt Ltd, has established itself as a premier event in the culinary and hospitality sectors. Set within the luxurious confines of the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, this trade show brings together over 170 exhibitors and attracts around 10,000 visitors,



World Confectionery Conference 2025

Date- September 11, Friday

Venue- Marriott Hotel, Brussels, Belgium

The conference features keynote speakers providing overviews in their field of expertise. There are also presentations of the latest trends and developments from the global industry suppliers. Plus a tabletop exhibition, valuable time for informal networking and discussion followed by closing reception drinks with industry awards.



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