

Government of Telangana
ABSTRACT

HM&FW Department – Establishment of a TGSAFE (Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs) through merger of the Food Safety and the Drugs Control Department – Orders – Issued.

HEALTH, MEDICAL & FAMILY WELFARE (G) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 67

Dated:04.08.2026

ORDER:

1. Preamble

- 1.1 With the increasing volume of licensed food business operators in Telangana State, there is a need to strengthen compliance and enforcement under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, to prevent unsafe, spurious and substandard food and drugs and protect public health.
- 1.2 The Food Safety Department, functioning under the Commissioner Food Safety, and the Drugs Control Department, functioning independently since 1981, regulate food, drugs and cosmetics through licensing, inspection, sampling, testing and enforcement.
- 1.3 A single-line administrative integration of Food and Drug Department augmenting statutory roles and improving coordination, surveillance, and regulatory outcomes has already been successfully adopted in several states across the country.
- 1.4 The Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department share common objectives relating to public health, consumer safety, quality assurance and effective regulatory enforcement. A unified administrative framework is required to improve surveillance, intelligence, enforcement, legal support and regulatory outcomes.
- 1.5 Government, after careful examination, now decides to establish a unified administrative structure for the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department.

2. Merger of the Food Safety and Drugs Control Departments

- 2.1 The Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department shall be merged under a unified administration hereby known as the "**TG SAFE** (Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs)".
- 2.2 The unified administration shall preserve the statutory provisions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The respective statutory authorities and officers shall continue to exercise their powers independently in accordance with the relevant enactments.

3. Functional Structure of TG SAFE (Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs)

- 3.1 The Commissioner, TG SAFE (Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs) shall function as unified administrative control for Food Safety and Drug Control Departments.

(PTO)

3.2 The following Wings shall function under the Administration:

1. **Drug Administration Wing:** This Wing will deal with statutory duties related to licensing, inspection, sampling, testing, investigation and regulatory functions under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the rules made thereunder. The existing structure, sanctioned posts, powers and responsibilities shall continue until modified by competent authority.
2. **Food Safety Wing:** The statutory wing will handle licensing, registration, inspection, sampling, testing and enforcement functions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. The existing statutory powers and responsibilities of designated officers and Food Safety Officers shall remain unaffected.
3. **Enforcement Wing:** The Wing shall function in coordination with the statutory wings of drug administration and food safety, to augment their functioning through intelligence gathering, risk-based inspections, prosecution support etc initially attached from the Police Department.
4. **Legal and Prosecution Wing:** The Wing shall provide legal advice and prosecution support to the statutory wings of drug administration and food safety.
5. **Laboratory Wing:** The Laboratory Wing shall comprise both the Food Safety Laboratory and the Drug Testing Laboratory. The existing laboratories, along with their sanctioned regular and outsourcing staff, shall be brought under this Wing.
6. **Administrative Wing:** The Administrative Wing shall deal with human resource management, budget, accounts, stores and other administrative matters.

4. Implementation in the CURE Region

- 4.1 In order to operationalize the newly formed TG SAFE, the Commissioner shall commence the unified operations within CURE Region prioritizing the area due to the high concentration of food business operators and drug establishments therein, while duly preserving the statutory provisions under the respective Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 enactments.
- 4.2 In order to ensure effective enforcement, the Director General of Police, Telangana shall attach adequate police personnel to TG SAFE for enforcement activities.
- 4.3 The initial implementation shall ensure the coordinated functioning of the Food Safety Department and the Drugs Control Department through common administrative, enforcement, legal, laboratory, intelligence and data-analysis mechanisms, in consultation with stakeholder departments for standard operational procedures, organogram, staff deployment and reporting mechanism for implementation in the CURE region.
- 4.4 The necessary budgetary provisions shall be made for the implementation of TG SAFE, along with permission to fill all vacant sanctioned posts through deputation, contract or outsourcing services, in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The required logistical and support services shall be engaged duly following all norms and guidelines prescribed.

5. State-level Committee on modernization of Food Safety and Drug Control Administration

- 5.1 Considering the emerging diversity in food businesses and drug establishments, there is a need for modernization without enforcement gap. To review existing mechanisms for implementing the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, a State Level Committee shall be constituted.
- 5.2 The terms of reference shall be a comprehensive assessment of unified authority, focusing on systemic modernization, harmonization of service rules and fixing optimal cadre strength for statutory duties, effective enforcement with testing and legal support, intelligence and data-analysis systems, and infrastructural upgrade for both field units and laboratory services, thus setting up a qualitative and technology-enabled regulatory framework aligned with national and global best practices.

6. Review and Further Action

- 6.1 The State level Committee while submitting its recommendations on the terms of reference, shall also focus on the outcomes and gains arising from the implementation of TG SAFE in the CURE Region. The final recommendation for a unified Food and Drug Department across the State shall be submitted within the timelines prescribed.
7. These orders shall come into force with effect from 15.8.2026
8. The Commissioner, Telangana SAFE (Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs) shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF TELANGANA)

**Dr. CHRISTINA Z. CHONGTHU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

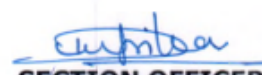
To

The Commissioner, Telangana SAFE
(Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential drugs)

Copy to:

PS to Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister.
OSD to Minister (HM&FW).
PS to Chief Secretary to Government
PS to Principal Secretary to Government (HM&FW).
Sf/Sc.

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //


SECTION OFFICER

PRESS NOTE

Sri Avinash Mohanty, IPS, has taken charge today, i.e., **17.08.2026**, as the **Commissioner, Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE)**.

The TG SAFE has been established with the objective of strengthening the regulatory framework relating to **food and drugs**, ensuring quality, safety and compliance with the prescribed standards in the State of Telangana.


17/8/2026
JOINT DIRECTOR (DRUGS)
TG SAFE

Date: 17/08/2026