Prosecution against Bisleri over Unsafe Water

Prelims: *Current events of National and International Importance| Economy*

Why in News?

Recently, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sanctioned prosecution against Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. after a packaged drinking water sample was declared unsafe under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Sanctioning prosecution allows FSSAI to initiate court proceedings, though it is not a finding of guilt.

What Triggered the Action?

- **Initial Sample & Bromate-** FSSAI collected samples from Bisleri's Goa facility on September 30, 2025, under the "packaged drinking water (other than mineral water)" category.
- One sample recorded bromate at 12 micrograms per litre (µg/L), above the prescribed limit of 10 µg/L.
- **Appeal & PAHs Detection-** After Bisleri appealed in November 2025, a referral food laboratory retested the sample.
- While bromate was found within limits in the referral test, the lab detected polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)—which are not permitted at detectable levels under Indian standards—leading FSSAI to declare the sample unsafe.

Bisleri's Response and Regulatory Context

- **Company Stance -** Bisleri maintains its water is safe, noting that five of the six samples from the Goa batch met standards and that independent lab tests cleared the batch on bromate parameters.
- **Broader Checks-** In India, FSSAI has also launched nationwide packaged water quality checks amid ongoing scrutiny of bottled water compliance.

Reference

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