





## Tirupati Laddu Lab Report

- The **purported lab report** also claimed the presence of "lard" (relating to pig fat) and fish oil in the samples. The **sample receipt date was July 9, 2024** and the lab report was dated July 16. However, there was **no official confirmation** on the lab report from either the Andhra Pradesh government or the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the famous Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple.



- The **laboratory--CALF (Centre for Analysis and learning in Livestock & Food)** is a multidisciplinary analytical laboratory at NDDB (National Dairy Development Board) based in Gujarat's Anand.
- Andhra Chief Minister and TDP supemo N Chandrababu Naidu had on Wednesday alleged the previous YSRCP government had used substandard ingredients and animal fat in making Tirupati laddu, a consecrated sweet.

- The **allegation has been vehemently denied** by the opposition YSR Congress Party. “This ghee contains fish oil, beef tallow and lard, which is a semi-solid white fat product obtained by rendering the fatty tissue of a pig. This has been confirmed after the alliance government has sent the samples to the NDDB’s CALF,” Ramana Reddy said.



## Why It's A Major Concern

- **Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams**, which runs the temple that hands out the laddu, prides itself on the long, arduous steps it undertakes to prepare and maintain the purity of the prasadam.
- Such is the **procedure that the laddu** also received the **GI tag from the Registrar of Patents, Trademarks and Geographical Indications**. The laddu handed out at the temple is over 300 years old, with the temple offering the laddu to the Lord and as prasadam to **devotees began in 1715**.





- To prepare the sweet is no easy task. It is made in a special kitchen by special laddu makers who belong to a particular sect. Moreover, the people preparing the sweet have to shave their heads and also wear a single clean cloth in the kitchen.



- Each day, nearly 400-500 kg of ghee, 750 kg of cashew nuts, 500 kg of raisins, and 200 kg of cardamom are used to prepare the laddus and other offerings to the Lord.
- However, the new claims that the ghee used in the laddus is adulterated, especially with tallow and lard has irked many Hindus — cows are considered sacred in the religion and many believe that consumption of cow or its fat is sacrilegious.