



## Govt to train street food vendors

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The food lovers of the city on Monday relished on variety of street food that was served on their platter as part of the three-day street food festival organised by Jamshedpur Notified Area Committee (JNAC).

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, State Urban Development Minister CP Singh said the urban development department will soon issue a directive to start training to all street food vendors across State. In first phase training will be imparted in Ranchi, Dhanbad and Jamshedpur to the vendors during the street festival and soon similar training will be undertaken at different urban local bodies.

Director Municipal Administration , Ashish Singhmar said that directive has been issued to all the 44 urban local bodies (ULBs) for providing training on food hygiene to the street food vendors.

“On the sidelines of the festival training is being imparted in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Deogarh and Dhanbad. However, in those civic bodies does not hosting street food festival, training on food hygiene will be provided by the ULBs to the vendors with help from district health department,” said Singhmar.

The urban development minister also said that government plans to provide identity cards to street vendors, around 16,000 identity cards have already been distributed. Plan is to accommodate the vendors in market complex in all the urban local bodies to avoid traffic congestion and provide a decent place for the vendors to eke out a living and avoid being harassed by administration over street encroachment.

The street food festival inaugural function was also addressed by state food and civil supplies minister and Jamshedpur West MLA Saryu Roy who spoke on benefits of Government housing schemes.

The food festival witnessed 74 stalls – 40 food vendors, 20 exhibits by women self help groups and 14 exhibits by skill training institutions.

On the occasion of the inauguration Amit Kumar, Deputy Commissioner, East Singhbhum, said that the basic concept of the festival is multi-dimensional. People living in cities can get better basic facilities. Through this forum, the idea is to promote the art, culture of the region and also to promote street vendors .

The event was held at a greater scale last year with the Food and Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Ministry of Tourism co-organising it. Started with a mere two-three States, it has grown over 26 States and 500 regional cuisines.

The food festival had visitors from all age groups, especially youngsters. There were several vendors who made their debut, while some had participated earlier as well.