

2 more clean street food hubs likely

By Brendan Dabhi, Ahmedabad Mirror | Nov 20, 2018



Food Junction with 21 eateries is near Rajpath Club

After Kankaria Lake was declared India's first Clean Street Food Hub by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), two more street food hubs in the city are likely to join its rank following an audit by food safety inspectors on Monday.

Urban Chowk, a cluster of 24 street food shops near Zybus crossroads and Food Junction with about 21 shops near Rajpath Club, both on Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway, are two of the four street food clusters chosen from Gujarat in the national audit of 144 street food hubs in India to inspect them for cleanliness and hygiene.

Apart from Urban Chowk and Food Junction from Ahmedabad, the Ratri Khanipini Bazaar in Vadodara and Gopi Talav in Surat will also be inspected in the audit by third-party auditor under the aegis of Food and Drugs Control Authority (FDCA) officials. The one in Vadodara will be inspected on November 20 and in Surat the next day.

Once cleared by the inspectors, they will be certified FSSAI-approved Clean Street Food Hub.

Speaking to Mirror, Kartik Rajput, owner of Urban Chowk said, "We are looking forward to the audit and are quite sure of making it to the list because we have maintained clean kitchens, have dustbins at all points, have dedicated cleaning staff and make sure that all raw materials used in food are of top-notch quality. Also, all our vendors have either got certificates from FSSAI or have applied for the same."

Dr Hemant Koshia, Food Safety Commissioner of Gujarat said, "In my opinion, there

shouldn't be much problem getting these four hubs approved as they already have the basic infrastructure to keep conditions hygienic. Similarly, we will be working towards setting up of 10 more clean street food clusters in Gujarat." Asked if any cities were being given priority in this programme, Parmar said, "We will first be looking at all eight municipal corporation regions of Gujarat to develop more clean street food clusters because more number of people visit these places in big cities. However, our attention is on all cities and towns of Gujarat." MBA student Devanshi Thakar said that Urban Chowk is a good place to hang out and splurge on various delicacies.

In terms of cleanliness and hygiene it is fantastic, he said.

Pratik Chirania who is into digital marketing said the Chowk is organised in terms of space, but did not enjoy much at Food Junction as the services are not up to the mark.



Urban Chowk with 24 street food shops is near Zydus crossroads on SG Highway; Pics: JIGNESH VORA

First Kankaria and now other street food clusters on way to being recognised by FSSAI. More people will become aware of the importance of hygienic street food

Punamchand C Parmar, ACS, Health & Family Welfare

Urban Chowk is a good place in terms of hygiene and the place is kept very clean and their restaurants are germ-free for sure

Hitarth Shah, 24, company secretary