

# Street food hub to come up near Fort Kochi beach

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*Fort Kochi beach*

KOCHI: The state food safety commissionerate has identified Fort Kochi beach as a potential spot to be declared as 'Clean Street Food Hub', an initiative of FSSAI, in the district.

In order to get the tag, the vendors, location and facilities should have to undergo a major makeover to ensure hygiene and proper waste disposal. Clean Street Food

Hub is a cluster of street shops where food items are sold in hygienic conditions. The declaration will have one-year validity and vendors should meet all the benchmark prescribed by the department to continue with the recognition.

The hub will be set up near the beach after identifying a suitable spot with adequate space for each shop. The cluster will have 25 to 60 street shops. Food Safety Training and Certification, training partner of FSSAI, will give training to vendors on safe food practices.

The funding partner will give aprons, chopping boards, ladders, hair nets, stainless steel kitchen utilities, gloves, ice cream scoops and glass jars to each vendor at the cluster. Cochin heritage zone conservation society will run the hub.

As per FSSAI guidelines, covered waste bins should be kept and it should be of a material which can be cleaned and washed. Facilities like toilet, hand wash area and dining arrangements should be set up in a manner to prevent food contamination. Sufficient areas for cleaning, washing and sanitization of kitchen utilities should be arranged. Only rust-resistant knives can be used at the shops.

"We have already held meeting with district collector regarding the setting up of the street food hub," said a food safety official.