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E-Paper

NOW, FOOD SAFETY VAN TO TEST ADULTERATION

Don't trust the milk you get or the cooking oil you bought from the market? Fret not as another food safety laboratory van was launched on Wednesday as part of the state government's 'Food Safety on Wheels' endeavour.

Launching the van, Deputy CM Nitin Patel said that it will have facility to test milk samples in 2 minutes for presence of 5 chemicals or sugar content.

It will also examine hardness of drinking water for presence of dissolved calcium, magnesium and other minerals for free. The vans will test oil, packaged water, frying oil, sherbets, fresh juices and other food items for food safety to stem adulterated and contaminated food and their sale.

HG Koshia, commissioner, Food & Drug Control Authority-Gujarat said, "One can take food samples to the safety vans moving across the state and get them tested in short time. The samples can then be scrutinised by food safety inspectors. One will know if the food they are consuming is safe and then take punitive action under the Food Safety & Standard Act. With the first van we tested more than 4,000 milk samples across the state, resulting in the scrutiny and penalty in over 50 cases."

He added that a new amendment in the FSSAI Act mandates that the total polarised compound (TPC) value in edible oil must be less than 25% which will come into effect from July 1 and the safety vans will aid people in getting educated about the same.

Koshia said, "These vans will be mobile across all 33 districts of the state and in this case the laboratory will in fact go to the sample. Initially the vans will move at spiritual melas and events in the state that see high footfall. Gujarat is among the three states to have bagged the second van as part of the centrally sponsored scheme apart from Maharashtra and Karnataka. We may plan to have more such vans to cover all the districts in future."