

Mumbai to get its own clean street food hubs at Girgaum & Juhu Chowpatty

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Khyati Das, Mumbai

Mumbai is all set to get two clean street food hubs with two of its iconic places - Girgaum Chowpatty and Juhu Chowpatty becoming the city's first "Clean Street Food Hubs - CSFHs." The beaches will be declared CSFHs by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Maharashtra in three weeks' time as the audit of these places is in final phase and shall be completed by end of February.

CSFH is a programme run by the apex food regulator to upgrade the street food vending system of the country by enabling the FBOs (Food Business Operators) through basic food safety management skills that include sanitation and hygiene. Besides these places would have more sitting area and clean environment with appropriate garbage disposal mechanism.

Girgaum and Juhu attract thousands of tourists every year and have been centres of attraction for visitors in Mumbai.

"The main reason for selecting both the places is that these places have high number of street food vendors, and attract huge number of visitors. FDA Maharashtra has moved forward to declare these as CSFH," informed Chandrakant Pawar, Joint Commissioner, FDA, Maharashtra.

In this regard, guidelines have been received by the authorities and an audit of the places has started, which is expected to be completed by February end.

The main plan for the project is to declare food clusters as CSFH to attract crowds and promote the place and local food cuisine such as pani puri, bhel puri, vada pav, pav bhaji that is made in clean and hygienic place, according to Shailesh Kumar Pralhad Adhao, assistant commissioner, FDA Maharashtra.

"First, we need to see if all the guidelines have been followed for both the places and in this regard last audit will take place on February 26-27. There will be detailed report made on the compliance and upon satisfactory remarks by the officials, the places would be declared as CSFHs," he said.