

Roadside eateries under the scanner

STAFF REPORTER

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Flash inspections in rural areas

Following complaints about the sale of unhygienic food at wayside eateries and restaurants, the Food Safety and Health Department squads have resumed flash inspections in rural areas of the district. Some grama panchayats too have sought stern action against eateries found violating safety norms.

In Thiruvambady panchayat, checking squads have already exposed several local traders who carried out food business without proper licences. During a recent inspection, contaminated food items were seized from a few outlets. Panchayat authorities said the traders were asked to obtain proper trade licences within a week to avoid further legal action.

With summer around the corner, the local administrators have noticed a spurt in the number of roadside juice shops, which are suspected of using impure water and utensils. Food Safety officials said they would carry out regular checks to cover maximum number of restaurants, juice parlours and wayside eateries. Vigil had been intensified across the district in the wake of some incidents of food poisoning, they added.

As part of tightening of rules in the sector, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licence has been made mandatory for all types of food supply.

The FSSAI registration will be required for those coordinating the supply of food as part of rituals in temples, mosques and churches. Food Safety Department officials said they had organised a registration camp for those who wanted to obtain FSSAI registration for supplying food in religious places.