



## **Ninth edition of National Street Food Festival concludes in New Delhi**

Wednesday, 17 January, 2018, 08 : 00 AM [IST]

### **Our Bureau, New Delhi**

The ninth edition of the National Street Food Festival concluded at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium recently. It was organised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI).

The festival, which began as an advocacy event for street food vendors, has now grown into a nationwide street food movement. It offered a common platform to bring together various recipes from different parts of the country to serve the taste buds of Delhiites.

The National Street Food Festival 2018, at which authentic flavours from the streets of India were on offer, was one of the signature events in the capital. Over 300 regional cuisines of different states in India were sampled.

The event was organised as a part of the larger initiative to promote hygienic street food as well as the local and traditional foods as healthy and nutritious options for the citizens of India.

About 500 of the best street food vendors from across the country travelled to Delhi and put up stalls, which were thronged by food enthusiasts, experts and chefs from across the country.

An attempt to create a replicable model for such festivals across the country with appropriate benchmarks for food safety, hygiene and nutrition, the festival was a part of FSSAI's broader mandate to promote safe and wholesome food.

This helped to build the confidence of the citizens of the country in the food they got, especially that which was available on the streets across the country.

The increased focus on improving the nutritional value of traditional Indian cuisines and promoting dietary diversification through fortified staples further enriched the eating experiences for domestic and international tourists alike and paved the way for better economic growth, promotion of tourism and culture in the country.

FSSAI recently released a framework for clean street food hubs and safe and hygienic food festivals during the state ministers' health conference in New Delhi.

These two frameworks were expected to set benchmarks for the unorganised street food vending as well as help in building capacities of street food vendors. This effort would go a long way to inspire citizens' to trust the safety and hygiene of street food.

Going forward, the framework will help vendors recognise their skills and play an inspirational role in creating a culture of safe food on streets across the country.

With an expected footfall of over 70,000 people, the three-day long event was a one-stop destination to bring together the promoters of local and traditional foods.

This year's attractions included the following:

- Festival Foods of India - Which showcased a plethora of festive cuisines prepared all over the country
- Showcasing legendary offerings of India's most famous places of worship
- Organic Food Bazaar – Where organic farmers and companies displayed their products
- Flavours of India – Which showcased modern packaged foods customised to the Indian palette
- A segment titled where 20 famous food vendors from different cities put up their stalls

The purpose of the festival was to bring street food vendors in the mainstream food scene, so that they got their deserved space in the cities and respect by people.