

# Initiative to ensure safe street food started

## Modern food stall at Vyttila handed over to vendor; scheme to rehabilitate street vendors

Staff Reporter



**KOCHI:** A modern street food vending stall, supported by the Kochi Corporation, was inaugurated by Kochi Mayor Mercy Williams on Thursday. The food stall was set up with the support of the Union Ministry for Food Processing and the Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project (KSUDP).

The scheme aims at rehabilitating the street food vendors and making safe food available in the city. The first cart was handed over to a vendor at the function held at Vyttila.

Deputy Mayor C.K. Manisankar presided over the function. Health Standing Committee chairman N.A. Mani, Tax Appeals Standing Committee chairman K.V. Manoj, corporation councillors Jain teacher and K.K. Sivan, Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India Kochi president Najeeb Sakharia and director of the Clean City movement Kabeer B. Harun attended.

Additional secretary of the Kochi Corporation, Baby Antony, welcomed the gathering and Corporation Secretary Ajith Patil proposed a vote of thanks.

The civic authorities have identified 12 vendors for running the units. The units are being launched using the Rs.25 lakh-fund from the Poverty Social Fund of the KSUDP.

According to the corporation authorities, quality of water used for cooking and food served from the vending units would be regularly monitored. The food cart has a metal body frame and a stainless steel sink.

The stainless steel hand cart has been designed by city-based agency with facilities to stock potable drinking water as well as a waste management system, with a waste collecting bin attached to the cart. A wash basin has also been provided. The vendor needs to invest Rs.2 lakh for starting the venture. Men in uniforms, complete with shoes, caps and gloves, would serve food at the units.

**FOR QUALITY FOOD:** Mayor Mercy Williams inaugurating a modern street food vending stall at Vyttila on Friday. —PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT