

**INDIA
STREET
VENDOR
FORUM**

STREET VENDING AT CROSSROADS

26 27 September 2024

Constitution Club of India

INDIA STREET VENDOR FORUM 2024 (ISVF)

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Street Vending has come a long way from the time the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) was formed 26 years before on 26th September 1998. Beginning as a network of few organizations, NASVI went on to organize the Street Vendors at the National level giving voice and visibility to a large section of urban poor who were present all across Indian cities but absent in Government Policies and Programs. NASVI went on to organize street vendors across India developing leaders and organizations at the city and state levels.

Responding to the advocacy efforts, Govt of India organized a National Workshop of Street Vending in the year 2000 which led to the setting up of a Task Force and a Drafting Committee and ultimately a National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in 2004. The Policy had mixed responses but the numerous communication between the Govt of India and State Govts in the making and implementation of the Policy sensitised the State Govts and to some extent Municipal Bodies. Implementation led to many experimentations and soon NASVI began demanding for a law which could incorporate the lessons from implementation and experimentations. Some states began enacting law by themselves but finally, after many ups and downs The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 was enacted by Parliament. The National Urban Livelihood Mission too was launched where implementation of the law became an integral part.

The Food Safety Act was enacted in 2007. Many thought it was a Capitalist gameplan to drive away small food operators like food vendors. NASVI began organizing Street Food Festivals from 2009 and demanding and facilitating the registration of Street Food Vendors. Soon FSSAI began supporting the Street Food Festivals and training the street food vendors developing a training module. Nationwide training of street food vendors started under FOSTAC along with EAT RIGHT MELA. However, as Street Food gained in popularity Big Retail Chains are began grabbing it as their business to the extent that NASVI has launched a campaign #Streetfood by vendors.

COVID and the closure of markets led Govt of India to announce the PMSVANIDHI scheme which came as a big booster to the Street Vending Act. States quickly framed the rules and schemes. Municipal Corporations began issuing Certificates of Vending. Town Vending Committees were

constituted. PMSVANIDHI Mahotsava was organised by many Municipal Bodies .The number of PMSVANIDI beneficiaries have crossed 65 lakhs and street vendors have caught the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and other Ministries. Schemes like SVANIDHI SE SAMRIDHI were launched and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched awards to encourage Municipal Bodies. Those availing Rs 50,000 can also graduate to the Mudra Loan which is for Entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship of Street Vendors are now catching the attention of the Govt

However despite all these the Street Vendors feel they are at a crossroads. What does this cross road mean for the street vendors .This India Street Vendor Forum is all about this . What have been the achievements and what have been the hindrances? How have the Federal and the City Govts responded? How have their own organizations, leaders and vendors have responded? What is the next big thing to happen? How can street vendors take a leap ? What are the challenges?

To be organized on 26th and 27th of September at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, the India Street Vendors Forum will bring together community leaders of street vendors across the country. The event will begin with participants presenting highlights from their cities followed by the plenary session. The Plenary session shall follow the broad directions of government policies and their impact on the ground Thereafter the event in divided into simultaneous various sessions so that participants go into smaller numbers for more interactive sessions. The sessions are a) 2024 ki Patri ki Kahaani, Vendors ki Zubaani b) Preliminary Session c) Climate Change Impact on Street Vendors' Livelihoods d) Engaging Street Food Vendors in Food Safety and Nutritional Campaigns e) Legal Quiz f) Urban Planning, local Governance & TVC: Challenges and Opportunities for Street Vendors g) Swach Bazaar, Safal Rozgaar h) Entrepreneurial Skills for Street Vendors: Fostering Business Growth and Sustainability with a focus on Women Vendors i) Digital & Financial Literacy and Street Vendors: Bridging the Technological Divide

The second day will recapitulate the activities and events of the previous year so that an Annual Action Plan followed by a resolution is adopted by the Forum. The forum will adopt an action plan and also pass a resolution to strengthen the street vendors' livelihood across the country.