

**Two-Day Food Festival held in Belonia**  
**State Government Providing Various Skill**  
**Development Programs for Youth: Cooperation Minister**

A two-day food festival started yesterday at Sachin Debbarman Auditorium Complex in Belonia it was organized by the South Tripura District Administration with support from the Directorate of Skill Development. Inaugurating the festival, Cooperation Minister Sukla charan Noatia stated that India currently holds the fourth position in the global economy, thanks to the relentless efforts of the Prime Minister. He highlighted that the government is providing easy loans and training opportunities to self-help groups, thereby strengthening the rural economy. He emphasized the significant role of rural development in the country's overall economic progress. The minister also mentioned that the state government is taking initiatives to equip the youth with different skills to make them self-reliant. He expressed hope that such food festivals would inspire many young individuals to become self-dependent and stressed the importance of organizing similar events at the block and subdivision levels. MLA Swapna Majumder and South Tripura Zilla Parishad Sabhadhipati Dipak Datta also addressed the gathering, thanking the district administration for organizing such a festival and encouraging the public to take full advantage of the opportunity.

Other speakers included South Tripura District SP Maurya Krishna C and Director of Skill Development Department Pradip K. Also present were MLA Mailafu Mog, Additional District Magistrate Hemanta Debbarma, and others. The event was presided over by Belonia Municipal Council Chairperson Nikhil Chandra Majumder. The welcome address was delivered by DM and Collector Mohammad Sajjad P. The food festival features a total of 20 food stalls offering North Indian, South Indian, Chinese, and traditional Tripuri cuisines, along with 9 departmental stalls. Notably, under the joint initiative of the district administration and the Directorate of Skill Development, 60 men and women were given one-month training on food preparation under the Chief Minister's Skill Development Program. These trainees are now selling a variety of delicious dishes at the fair at affordable prices. In addition to food, the festival also includes entertainment and cultural programs. The fair will be open daily from 3 PM to 10 PM.