Shri Pranab Mukherjee, The Hon’ble President of India, inaugurated the National Seminar on ‘Food Safety - Role of Standards’ organized by the Bureau of Indian Standards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 12 December 2012.

The Hon’ble President said that the challenge of meeting the ever growing food requirement of our population calls for major investments and innovation in our agriculture, agri-business and food processing sectors. While up-gradation of suitable technology is essential, safe farming practices, modern breeding techniques should go hand in hand with food related research, duly concentrating on how food safety should be regulated under Indian climatic and other relevant physical and cultural conditions. The Bureau of Indian Standards has an increasingly important role in this effort, he said.

The Hon’ble President also received the first copy of IS 16066: 2012, Indian Standard on ‘Street Food Vendors - Food Safety Requirements’ from Prof. K. V. Thomas, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on the occasion.

Earlier, Prof. K. V. Thomas, in his presidential address hoped that the standard will act as a bridge between the street food vendors and the consumer of street food.

Padma Vibhushan Prof M.S. Swaminathan, Member of Parliament, Shri Pankaj Agrawala, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs and Shri Afzal Amanullah, Director General, Bureau of India Standards were also present on the occasion.