

IDA Patron Shri Ajay Kumar Khosla Honoured with Dr. N.N. Dastur Memorial Oration



IDA Patron and Former Vice President-IDA, Shri Ajay Kumar Khosla, was honoured with the Dr. N.N. Dastur Memorial Oration during the 22nd Convocation of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) for his outstanding contributions to India's dairy sector.

Presiding over the ceremony, Dr. Dheer Singh, Director and Vice Chancellor of ICAR-NDRI, welcomed Shri Khosla and described him as an illustrious alumnus of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal. He highlighted Shri Khosla's remarkable contributions to the Indian dairy and food sector during his tenure as COO of Mother Dairy and Executive Director of NDDB Dairy Services.

Dr. Singh further noted that Shri Khosla is a stalwart with nearly five decades of experience in the dairy industry. As COO of Mother Dairy, he transformed the organisation from a single-product entity into a multi-location enterprise, embedding manufacturing excellence and customer-centricity into its core values. His foresight led to the launch of iconic product lines, including Mother Dairy Polypack milk, Ice Creams and early-to-market probiotic products. His commitment to sustainability is reflected in the Bulk Vended Milk model, which prevents the use of nearly 700,000 kg of plastic annually.

A pioneer of modernization, Shri Khosla led Mother Dairy to become the first Indian dairy company to implement SAP and SCADA systems, setting a new digital benchmark for the industry. He played a key role in modernizing dairy operations, strengthening supply chain management, and expanding value-added dairy and food products, thereby enhancing market reach and consumer trust.

He was also instrumental in reinforcing farmer-centric milk procurement systems, improving milk quality

standards, and promoting operational efficiency through technology-driven interventions. Beyond corporate success, Shri Khosla's legacy is deeply rooted in grassroots empowerment. As Executive Director at NDDB Dairy Services, he played a pivotal role in establishing five large milk producer organizations – an initiative that has since expanded to 25 milk producing organization covering 12 states, 175 districts, 36,000 villages and 13 lakh farmer members supplying 55 lakh litres of milk daily.

His work in promoting farmer-owned organisations and establishing state-of-the-art frozen semen stations has provided a sustainable support system for smallholders and women farmers in rural India. As a member of the FSSAI Task Force, his expertise also contributed significantly to strengthening national standards for milk and milk products in line with global benchmarks.

Shri Khosla was honoured with the IDA Patron Award in 2024 during the 50th Dairy Industry Conference for his exemplary role in the development of the dairy industry and his numerous contributions to its progress.

Delivering the memorial oration on "**Institutional Excellence in India's Dairy Sector: Structures, Systems, and Sustainability**," Shri Khosla highlighted India's leadership in global milk production. He noted that the country produced 247.8 million tonnes of milk in 2024-25, accounting for about 25 per cent of global output, with per capita availability reaching 485 grams per day compared to the global average of 328 grams.



He also highlighted the collaboration between Mother Dairy and ICAR-NDRI, noting that the Model Dairy plant at the institute now processes around 2 lakh litres of milk daily while providing practical training to students in dairy technology. Emphasising the need for stronger institutional frameworks, he called for improved regulatory mechanisms, enhanced milk productivity, adoption of green practices, and greater focus on product innovation to help the sector achieve its 2047 development goals.

IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter Celebrates Women's Day 2026 with Virtual Programme

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Tamil Nadu Chapter, organized a special virtual programme on March 12, 2026, to commemorate International Women's Day, highlighting the vital role of women in strengthening India's dairy sector. The event brought together dairy professionals, farmers, academicians, and industry stakeholders to recognize and celebrate women's contributions across the dairy value chain.

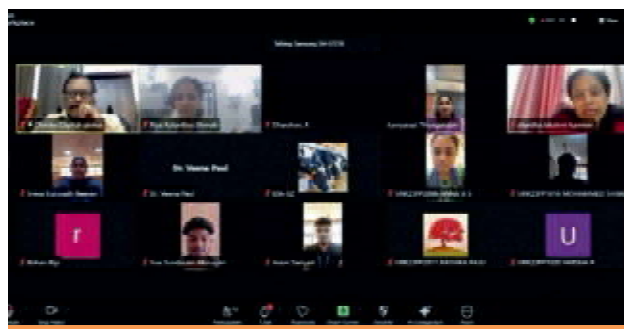
The programme featured eminent speakers from diverse segments of the dairy ecosystem. Mrs. Padmini Shanmugam, recipient of the Best Woman Dairy Farmer Award 2025, shared her inspiring journey and underscored how women at the grassroots level are transforming rural livelihoods through dairy farming.

Addressing the audience, Mrs. Kaviyarasi, HR Head at Tamil Milk, G.K. Dairy, emphasized the importance of inclusive leadership and effective human resource development. She highlighted the need for organizations to create enabling environments that empower women professionals to grow and take on leadership roles within the dairy industry.

Providing an academic perspective, Dr. K.S. Gnanalakshmi, Professor and Head at the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, stressed the importance of education, research, and skill development in enhancing women's participation in modern dairy value chains. She particularly noted opportunities in dairy technology, product development, and quality management.

The webinar witnessed active participation from 25 women farmers of the Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., reflecting strong grassroots engagement. In his concluding remarks, Shri C.P. Charles, Central Executive Committee Member of IDA (HQ), emphasized that women entrepreneurs are not just participants but key drivers of transformation in the dairy sector, contributing significantly to quality enhancement and sustainable, community-based business models.

The session served as a vibrant platform for discussions on women's empowerment, sustainable dairy



development, and leadership opportunities. Participants appreciated the diverse perspectives shared, reflecting the growing influence of women across farm-level operations, industry, and academia.

The programme was coordinated by Er. Dayanand Peter, Head of the Department of Food Processing Technology at the Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences and Executive Committee Member (RE), IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter. The initiative reaffirmed the Chapter's commitment to promoting knowledge exchange, gender inclusivity, and professional networking within the dairy sector.

IDA (West Zone) Holds Dairy Leaders Roundtable Workshop in Mumbai

The Indian Dairy Association (West Zone) organised a Dairy Leaders Roundtable Workshop on March 18, 2026, at Hotel Kohinoor, Andheri (East), Mumbai. More than 50 Chief Operating Officers and senior representatives from private, cooperative and corporate dairy organisations, as well as equipment and ingredient companies, participated in the three-hour session.

The workshop was moderated by Ms Richie Agrawal and Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (West Zone). In his opening remarks, **Dr J.B. Prajapati**, Chairman, IDA (West Zone), called upon members to contribute actionable suggestions for shaping the future



of the dairy industry.

Dr. Amit Vyas, Managing Director, Amul Dairy, emphasised the importance of entrepreneurship development and the use of artificial intelligence in the dairy sector. **Shri Rahul Kumar Srivastava**, COO, Parag Milk Foods Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the need for better communication of the nutritional value of dairy products on packaging to improve public awareness.

The deliberations covered a wide range of issues, including farm productivity and farmer viability, milk quality and food safety, dairy analogues and consumer awareness, traceability and digitisation, sustainability and circularity, and the need for future-ready dairy entrepreneurship. Participants observed that the continued progress of the Indian dairy sector would depend not only on scale, but also on stronger systems for quality, productivity, sustainability, consumer trust and effective implementation at the ground level.

The roundtable also identified several areas requiring policy attention, particularly productivity enhancement, quality systems, traceability, sustainability and clearer differentiation of dairy products in the marketplace. The discussions further underlined the role that IDA can play through knowledge-sharing, stakeholder engagement, awareness-building and facilitating dialogue on issues of strategic importance to the sector.

Shri Arun Patil, Vice-President, IDA, summarised the deliberations and called for greater collaboration with the Association for the holistic development of the Indian dairy sector, with benefits for both producers and consumers.

The detailed proceedings of the workshop will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Indian Dairyman*.

Dr. Amit M. Patel Appointed Principal of G N Patel College of Dairy Science



Dr. Amit M. Patel has been selected as the Principal of G N Patel College of Dairy Science, Sardarkrushinagar, under Kamdhenu University, with effect from 18 March 2026.

This appointment marks a significant milestone in Dr. Patel's distinguished academic and administrative career. With 19 years of experience in teaching, institutional development and academic leadership, he has made notable contributions in various roles and has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to

academic excellence, innovation and student success.

Dr. Patel is also serving as Honorary Secretary of the Indian Dairy Association, Gujarat State Chapter.

Dr. Satishkumar Parmar Takes Over as Principal of SMC College of Dairy Science



Dr. Satishkumar Parmar has taken over as the Principal of SMC College of Dairy Science, Kamdhenu University, Anand.

Dr. Parmar is a graduate in Dairy Technology from Anand and holds a Master's degree in Dairy Chemistry from NDRI, Karnal. He has more than 22 years of experience in teaching and research at Anand. Over the past year, he was serving as in-charge of the country's only Dairy Vigyan Kendra, located in Panchmahal district.

An active member of the Indian Dairy Association, Dr. Parmar has also contributed significantly to the activities of the Gujarat State Chapter.

NATIONAL News

White Revolution 2.0 Targets Expansion of Dairy Cooperatives and 50% Increase in Milk Procurement

The Government of India has launched White Revolution 2.0 on September 19, 2024, as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The programme underscores a renewed commitment to strengthening the dairy sector through the cooperative model, particularly in uncovered Panchayats.

The initiative aims to expand cooperative coverage, improve market access, generate rural employment, and promote women's empowerment. A key target under the programme is the creation of 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies over the next five years, alongside a 50% increase in milk procurement by dairy cooperatives.

.....continue on page 62

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India continues to hold its position as the world's largest milk producer since 1998, contributing nearly 25% of global milk output. This achievement reflects sustained policy support and the implementation of various dairy development schemes by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, in collaboration with State Governments.

Among the flagship initiatives, the Rashtriya Gokul Mission has played a significant role in improving livestock productivity since its launch in December 2014. With the adoption of advanced breeding technologies such as sex-sorted semen and IVF, the average productivity of cattle and buffaloes has increased by 36.63%, rising from 1,648 kg per animal per year in 2013-14 to 2,251 kg in 2024-25. Indigenous and non-descript cattle have recorded a productivity increase of 44.89%, while buffalo productivity has grown by 25.80% during the same period.

Milk production in the country has been growing at an annual rate of 5.8%, supported by schemes such as the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD). The programme has also facilitated the adoption of digital technologies in dairy cooperatives. Tools like Data Processor Milk Collection Units (DPMCU) and Automated Milk Collection Units (AMCU) have enabled transparent milk procurement, accurate testing, and direct payment transfers to farmers' bank accounts. These systems are widely used by milk unions and federations in states such as Bihar, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

Dairy cooperatives play a crucial role in ensuring remunerative prices for farmers while supplying quality milk and milk products to consumers at affordable rates. Currently, around 1.7 crore farmers are members of dairy cooperative societies, with women accounting for nearly 38% of the total membership.

India's per capita milk availability stands at 485 grams per day, significantly higher than the 300 ml per day recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research. The continued expansion of dairy cooperatives, particularly in underserved regions, is expected to enhance nutritional security and provide stable income opportunities for rural households, especially women.

White Revolution 2.0 is thus poised to further strengthen the cooperative dairy ecosystem and contribute to inclusive rural development across the country.

Bihar Gets Boost Under Livestock, Dairy Schemes

The Government of India is strengthening the livestock and dairy sector in Bihar through multiple central schemes

aimed at boosting productivity, entrepreneurship and farmer incomes. Under the National Livestock Mission (NLM), which focuses on employment generation, entrepreneurship development and increasing per-animal productivity, key interventions are being implemented across three sub-missions-breed development, feed and fodder development, and innovation and extension.

As part of the Entrepreneurship Development Programme, 2 projects with a total cost of Rs.70 lakh have been approved in Bihar, with a subsidy of Rs.14 lakh already released to beneficiaries, supporting grassroots dairy and livestock enterprises.

The schemes are designed to enhance production of milk, meat, eggs, goat milk and wool, while improving efficiency across the value chain through better breeding, nutrition and extension services. These efforts complement broader government initiatives to strengthen dairy infrastructure, expand cooperative networks, and improve feed, fodder and animal health services, ultimately aiming to reduce production costs and increase farmer incomes in the state.

Amul's Supplies to Gulf Market Remain Consistent despite Regional Conflict



Supplies of dairy products from Amul to the Gulf market continue to remain stable despite the ongoing conflict in the region, according

to Shri Jayen Mehta, Managing Director of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Ltd.

Speaking on the situation, Shri Mehta said that although the initial stages of the conflict caused some supply disruptions and shipment delays, the Government of India has taken measures to ensure uninterrupted operations for the dairy sector. He noted that the government has given Amul priority in gas allocation, providing nearly 80 per cent of the company's requirement. This arrangement is expected to keep dairy plants running without interruption. In case of any shortfall, alternative fuels such as diesel, furnace oil and briquettes will be used to maintain continuous plant operations and ensure regular milk supply to the market.

Referring to exports to Gulf countries, Shri Mehta stated that the government has facilitated the dispatch of a new ship from India to Dubai carrying several containers of Amul's dry dairy products as well as refrigerated

items. This step, he said, will help maintain consistent supplies to the Gulf market.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has been closely monitoring the maritime situation in the Persian Gulf region and has taken steps to safeguard Indian seafarers, vessels and maritime trade. At present, 28 Indian-flagged vessels are operating in the region, including 24 vessels west of the Strait of Hormuz carrying 677 Indian seafarers and four vessels east of the strait with 101 Indian seafarers on board. Authorities are actively monitoring their safety and security.

A 24-hour control room has been operational in the Ministry and the Directorate General of Shipping since 28 February 2026 to monitor developments and coordinate assistance. The Directorate has also issued advisories to Indian-flagged vessels and seafarers, directing them to adopt enhanced security measures and follow reporting protocols.

Indian authorities, ship managers and recruitment agencies are coordinating with Indian embassies and local authorities to ensure the safety and welfare of seafarers in the region. Meanwhile, port operations across India remain stable, and ports have been directed to extend necessary assistance to exporters to ensure the continuity of EXIM trade.

The government continues to engage with industry stakeholders to support maritime trade and safeguard India's maritime interests during the evolving regional situation.

Technological Solutions Displayed at 52nd Dairy Industry Conference

At the 52nd Dairy Industry Conference held at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, a range of technological solutions relevant to the dairy sector were presented by industry participants. Among the exhibitors



was Everest Instruments Pvt. Ltd., which displayed five solutions focusing on quality assurance, process efficiency, and traceability in dairy operations.

The technologies showcased were aimed at supporting dairy plants and allied industries in areas such as product quality monitoring and process management. The exhibition formed part of the broader conference proceedings, which included technical sessions and industry interactions.

Several dignitaries visited the exhibition area during the event, including Dr. Meenesh Shah of the National Dairy Development Board, Laurence Rycken and Gilles Froment of the International Dairy Federation, Sudhir Kumar Singh of the Indian Dairy Association, and Dr. Dheer Singh of the ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute.

The exhibition segment of the conference highlighted the growing role of technological interventions in improving efficiency and transparency across the dairy value chain.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission Shows Progress in Dairy Productivity and Breed Improvement

The Government of India has reported significant progress under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, with achievements recorded across most of its components aimed at improving bovine productivity and milk production.

According to information presented in the Lok Sabha by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, targets have been met in 11 out of 14 approved components of the scheme. However, progress in certain areas—such as embryo-based bull production, import of bulls, and implementation of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) technology—has been relatively limited due to high costs and lower acceptance among farmers.

Despite these challenges, the overall performance of the dairy sector has shown notable improvement over the past decade. India's milk production increased by about 69.41%, rising from 146.3 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25. Per capita milk availability also grew by over 52%, reaching 485 grams per day during the same period. Additionally, productivity of cattle and buffaloes increased by more than 36%, representing one of the highest growth rates globally.

The scheme has been implemented across all States and Union Territories since its launch in December 2014. In the past three years, several initiatives have been undertaken to enhance productivity, including the

expansion of artificial insemination (AI) services, induction of over 42,000 Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians (MAITRIs), and genetic improvement programmes for indigenous breeds.

During this period, approximately 5.44 crore animals were covered under AI services, with 9.72 crore inseminations performed, benefiting nearly 2.97 crore farmers nationwide. Programmes such as progeny testing, sex-sorted semen usage, and IVF-based breeding have also been promoted to improve genetic quality of livestock.

Infrastructure development under the mission includes the establishment of breed multiplication farms and strengthening of semen stations, alongside awareness programmes such as fertility camps, training sessions, and farmer outreach activities.

Overall, the government indicated that the scheme continues to play a key role in strengthening indigenous breeds, enhancing productivity, and supporting the growth of India's dairy sector.

Dodla Dairy Driving Innovation in Value-Added Dairy Products Through Ultrafiltration

Dodla Dairy Ltd. – A Benefactor Member of IDA has commissioned an Ultrafiltration (UF) unit, an advanced membrane processing technology, at its Gundrampally manufacturing plant. This initiative underscores the company's commitment to innovation, process excellence, and the development of high-quality, value-added dairy products.

The UF technology enables Dodla Dairy to enter the market with nutritionally enriched dairy products that offer improved consistency and functionality. This advancement supports the production of high-protein milk, fermented beverages, and other functional dairy offerings aligned with evolving consumer preferences.



Commenting on this advancement, Shri B.V.K. Reddy, CEO of Dodla Dairy, said, "The adoption of ultrafiltration technology reflects our continued focus on innovation. It enables us to deliver nutritionally superior, high-protein dairy products while strengthening our capabilities in value-added processing."

FSSAI Tightens Digital Dairy E-Commerce Norms

FSSAI has issued stricter compliance guidelines for e-commerce food businesses under the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) framework, effective April 1, 2026. The revised rules clearly define the responsibilities of seller platforms, buyer apps, and logistics partners in digital food transactions.

The move is especially important for the dairy sector, given its perishable nature and strict safety requirements. By removing ambiguity around accountability, the new framework aims to ensure end-to-end traceability, stronger food safety compliance, and greater consumer trust in online dairy sales.

The guidelines will help create a more transparent and accountable digital dairy ecosystem as online food commerce continues to expand in India.

Uttar Pradesh Dairy Exports Rise Over 10% to Rs. 489 Crore

Exports of dairy and animal husbandry products from Uttar Pradesh have recorded a notable growth of over 10 per cent, reflecting the strengthening of the state's dairy and livestock sector.

According to official data, export earnings from dairy and allied animal products increased by 10.16 per cent, rising from Rs. 444.10 crore during April 2023-November 2024 to Rs. 489.24 crore during April 2024-November 2025, registering an increase of nearly Rs. 45 crore.

The export basket includes a wide range of dairy products such as milk, ghee, paneer, butter and milk powder, along with eggs, natural honey and other edible animal-based products.

Officials attribute this growth to improvements in processing infrastructure, packaging, quality assurance systems and supply chain management, which have enhanced the international competitiveness of products originating from the state.

Government initiatives aimed at strengthening the dairy and livestock sectors have also played a key role in

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boosting export performance. These efforts are helping position Uttar Pradesh as an emerging hub for value-added dairy and animal product exports in the global market.

Purabi Dairy Expands Processing Infrastructure in Assam

Foundation stones were laid for new Purabi Dairy processing plants in Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Dhemaji, marking a step toward strengthening dairy infrastructure in Assam and the North-East.



Speaking at the ceremony, Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD/Trade/CE&P), Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Gol said that developing the dairy sector remains a key priority for the Government of India to enhance farmers'

income and promote sustainable rural livelihoods. She conveyed the message of Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, who extended his best wishes to dairy cooperative farmers and stakeholders associated with the initiative.

Joshi noted that the expansion aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to strengthen the livestock sector as a driver of rural prosperity. She also highlighted ongoing efforts under the guidance of Shri Amit Shah, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation to make the North-East more self-reliant in milk, meat and egg production.

The projects are being supported under the revised National Programme for Dairy Development, which focuses on enhancing dairy processing infrastructure in hilly and North-Eastern states. The Jorhat facility is among the first to be established under this initiative.

Dr. Meenesh C Shah, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), highlighted the growth of dairy operations in Assam. He noted that milk procurement at West Assam Milk Producers Cooperative Union Limited has increased from around 400 litres per day to about 1.9 lakh litres per day, supported by the Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma.

The new plants are expected to further strengthen the

dairy value chain, expand organised milk procurement, and improve market access for farmers across the region. NDDB also indicated ongoing expansion efforts in areas such as Barak Valley, including a recently inaugurated processing facility in Silchar.

Telangana Delegation Visits Anand to Study Gujarat's Cooperative Dairy Model

A ministerial delegation from Telangana, led by Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Shri Vakiti Srihari, visited Anand on 1 March 2026 to study Gujarat's cooperative dairy framework and explore its adoption in Telangana's dairy sector.

The delegation, which included Hon'ble MP from Bhongir, Ch. Kiran Reddy, Chairman of TGDDCF Shri Gutha Amit Reddy, and Chairman of NARMAC Shri G. Madhusudhan Reddy, was received by NDDB Chairman Dr. Meenesh Shah and senior officials.

During the visit, officials of the NDDB briefed the Telangana delegation on modern technologies used in milk collection, storage, processing and marketing under the cooperative model. The officials explained how Gujarat's structured dairy network has helped strengthen rural livelihoods, ensure stable incomes for farmers and build a robust value chain from villages to national markets.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vakiti Srihari said Telangana would draw inspiration from Gujarat's cooperative dairy framework to accelerate growth in the state's dairy sector.

Shri Gutha Amit Reddy, Chairman, TGDDCF, said Telangana is preparing a comprehensive action plan to emerge as a leader in milk production. He added that the state would seek to adopt Gujarat's best practices by strengthening the cooperative structure, expanding milk procurement networks, introducing modern processing technologies and ensuring better price realisation for farmers under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy.



Uttarakhand Records 3% Growth in Milk Production

Milk production in Uttarakhand has registered a growth of 3.1%, reaching 1,957.2 thousand tonnes in FY 2025-26 compared to 1,897.8 thousand tonnes in the previous fiscal, according to Dairy Development Minister Saurabh Bahuguna. The announcement was made in the state Assembly in response to a query raised by local MLA Shri Brij Bhushan Gairola.

The minister noted that per capita milk availability in the state currently stands at 456 grams per day, close to the national average of 485 grams. Uttarakhand produces approximately 53.6 lakh kg of milk daily, while consumption is estimated at 50.3 lakh kg, indicating a marginal surplus.

The state's dairy sector has demonstrated steady progress over the past decade, with production increasing from 1,656 thousand tonnes in 2015-16 to current levels. A network of 2,830 operational milk cooperative societies continues to support dairy farmers across the state.

Highlighting efforts to strengthen the sector, Bahuguna outlined several government initiatives, including the Ganga Gay Mahila Dairy Scheme, Silage and Milch Animal Nutrition Programme, Milk Price Incentive Scheme, and the State Livestock Mission, all aimed at enhancing productivity and rural livelihoods.

The cooperative dairy brand Aanchal reported a turnover of Rs.399.5 crore in 2024-25, with projections of approximately Rs.444 crore for FY 2025-26. The state government has allocated Rs.93 crore for dairy development in the current fiscal, with a proposed increase to Rs.140 crore in the next financial year to further boost the sector's growth trajectory.

UNDP-Supported Farmers' Organisation Plans Multi-State Expansion

A review meeting on developmental schemes aimed at improving farmers' livelihoods was held in Jaunpur under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate on March 18, 2026. Among the participants was Swayam Ksheer Producer Company Ltd. (SKPCL), a UNDP-supported farmers' organisation working in the region.

Addressing the meeting, SKPCL Chairperson Mrs. Geeta Devi said the organisation has been serving the farming community for over 15 years through various government-backed initiatives. She noted that despite facing operational difficulties and legal challenges, the



organisation has continued to support committed farmers, including through loan facilitation.

She also acknowledged the support received from successive state governments

and local administrators. She described the organisation as a pioneer in promoting rural economic transformation in line with the vision of institutions such as NABARD.

The District Magistrate appreciated SKPCL's contribution and directed the organisation to strengthen its dairy development activities by aligning government schemes with farmers' needs to help raise incomes.

In his concluding remarks, Managing Director Dr. Raja Rathnam said the organisation aims to expand its activities to multiple states to deliver benefits more widely to farmers.

FSSAI Mandates Registration of Milk Vendors to Strengthen Milk Safety

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued an advisory mandating the registration of milk vendors across India, a move aimed at strengthening traceability, accountability, and food safety in the country's milk distribution system.

A significant portion of milk in India is sold in loose or unbranded form through informal channels. While this traditional system plays an important role in meeting local demand, the absence of a formal registration framework has made regulatory oversight difficult. Bringing milk vendors under a basic registration system is expected to provide them with a recognised identity while enabling authorities to establish a more structured surveillance and food safety mechanism.

Industry representatives have consistently suggested that every milk seller-including loose milk vendors-should have a simple and mandatory registration, irrespective of turnover. Such registration could be facilitated through low-cost digital platforms and complemented by basic food safety training conducted by state food safety authorities. This approach would allow the informal sector to gradually come under regulatory oversight without creating barriers for small operators.

.....continue on page 70

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The measure is expected to strengthen consumer confidence in milk safety while giving thousands of small milk vendors across the country a formal identity within the food safety ecosystem. In the long run, it is also likely to contribute to building a more transparent and accountable dairy supply chain in India.

Interested member or reader may download this notification from www.indiandairyassociation.org/FSSAI-Mandatory-Registration.pdf

INTERNATIONAL News

International Dairy Market: Overview

As per the latest USDA data during March 2-13, 2026, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

The UK-based Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) recently released a report showing February milk deliveries in Great Britain were 986 million liters, the highest February on record, and up 3.7 percent from a year earlier. From the start of the milk season in April 2025 through February 2026, milk production reached 11,887 million liters, up 5.3 percent from the same period in the previous season.

In Ireland, the total number of calves registered from the start of the year through March 6 is 851,092, up 37,600 from the same time period last year. The number of calves registered to dairy cows this year is up 28,000 to 746,000.

Retail dairy sales data released by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) showed milk sales were down in the 12 weeks ending February 21 compared to a year ago, while spending increased 7.2 percent. The volume of cheese sold increased 1.8 percent, and spending was up 3.6 percent. Butter sales volumes decreased 0.8 percent, but spending was up 1.8 percent.

Canada and the United States recently lifted restrictions placed on the importation of meat and dairy products from Germany. Import restrictions were put in place after an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in January 2025, but the country was recently recognized as free from the disease. The agricultural ministry in Germany highlighted the country's efforts to control and eliminate foot-and-mouth disease, and industry sources say lifting

restrictions will be beneficial for trade between the countries.

Eastern European

An association representing Turkish milk producers is requesting that the government take steps to suspend imports of milk and dairy products and to increase tariffs on imported goods, amid economic challenges in the country. Industry sources indicate that milk and dairy consumption is declining in the region. Declining consumption is negatively impacting the country's dairy industry, and the Turkish milk association believes action should be taken to protect the local industry and provide food security in the country.

In Belarus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food recently published new rules regarding the minimum price for milk delivered to other countries. These rules set the minimum price for milk and cream with fat below 1.5% to countries other than Russia at \$2.6 per kg, up \$0.15. The minimum price for milk and cream with fat contents above 1.5% is \$3 per kg, up \$0.10.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) event 399, a group in New Zealand that forecasts milk prices increased their milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season by 14 cents from \$9.73 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS) to \$9.87/kgMS. The spot value of milk increased to \$10.45/kgMS from \$9.64/kgMS. Prices increased for all commodities at GDT Event 399, except for buttermilk powder and lactose.

A major dairy cooperative announced that the sale of its global consumer and related businesses for \$4.22 billion has gone unconditional, with all regulatory approvals secured and the business separation complete. With all conditions met, the parties will now move to finalize the transaction. The cooperative stated that, assuming completion at the end of March 2026, the record date for an approved \$2.00 per share capital return would be April 9, 2026, with payment on April 14, 2026. Final confirmation of these dates will occur once the transaction is completed.

DairyNZ recently released its quarterly economic update. The 2025/2026 season shifted decisively into a high cashflow position, driven by a strong milk price, solid on-farm production, and a substantial one-off cash injection following a major New Zealand dairy cooperative's planned divestment and special dividend. The report updated the breakeven milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season, an estimate of the milk price

.....continue on page 72

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needed to cover production costs. The projected breakeven milk price is \$8.36 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS), up from \$8.29 in the 2024/2025 season but down 14 cents from the previous update in December. The increase from last season is primarily driven by higher key inputs such as fertilizer and supplementary feed, as well as the impact of a relatively weak New Zealand dollar on imported farm inputs. Interest costs eased from their recent peak as monetary conditions soften. The forecast average payout received for milk sales is \$9.92/kgMS, down from \$10.14 in the 2024/2025 season.

Australia

Dairy Australia recently released export data for Australia showing milk export volumes from July 2025 - January 2026 totaled 103,770 metric tons, an increase of 19.1 percent compared to export volume totals from July 2024 - January 2025.

A report titled Stories of Sustainable Progress by the Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) details Australia's dairy sector reporting strong sustainability gains, including a 34.5 percent drop in emissions intensity since 2010/11 and diverting 85 percent of waste from landfills. Processors are improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, and adopting recyclable or compostable packaging. Government industry co-investment is supporting major upgrades such as expanded water treatment systems that increase capacity and enable irrigation reuse. The industry says expectations are rising but momentum toward environmental and economic sustainability remains strong.

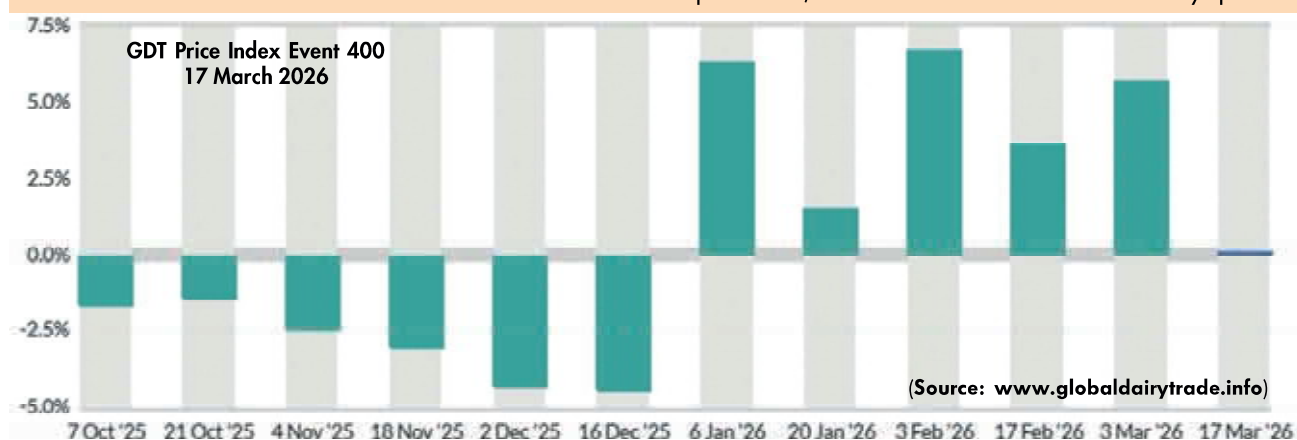
SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

Milk production in South America is seasonally steady to light compared to previous months. Year-over-year milk production is stronger in most countries. According to data sourced from clal.it, Brazil is reporting a year-over-year increase in milk, cheese, butter, skim milk powder (SMP), and whole milk powder (WMP). As a result, Brazilian imports are generally down, as internal production is catching up to consumer demand. Argentina is reporting similar production increases. Farm milk production is up 9.7% in January 2026 compared to January 2025. SMP and cream are the only products reporting a decrease in year-over-year production. Argentina is reporting an increase in dairy product exports and a decrease in imports. In Uruguay, farm milk production is up 7.54% in January 2026 compared to January 2025. For Uruguay and Chile, exports of SMP are down, while WMP exports are up year over year, indicating manufacturers are prioritizing WMP production.

Demand for milk powders is strengthening globally. South American milk powder producers are taking advantage of higher demand in other regions. Contacts indicate South American suppliers are sold out of milk powders through May/June. South American exports are expected to take priority in Algeria and other countries due to potentially longer lead times from Oceania.

Global Dairy Prices Rise despite Ongoing Supply Glut

Global dairy markets are witnessing a notable paradox, with international commodity prices



.....continue on page 74

ERRATUM

In the March 2026 issue of the *Indian Dairyman*, the recommendations of the 52nd Dairy Industry Conference were published on pages 92–95. In paragraph 3 of the left column on page 92, the sub-head was inadvertently printed as: “Recommendation from Prof. M.R. Srinivasan Lecture by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, Former Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi.” The sub-head should correctly read: “Recommendation from Dr. V. Kurien Memorial Lecture by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, Former Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, New Delhi.” The error is sincerely regretted.

.....continue from page 72

continuing to rise even as milk production remains abundant and inventories stay elevated across major exporting regions.

At the latest **Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 400** held on March 17, 2026, dairy prices extended their upward trend, marking the fifth consecutive increase in the GDT price index. The previous auction had already recorded a 5.7% rise, with the average price reaching around USD 4,301 per tonne.

Key dairy commodities posted firm gains during the latest auction. Whole milk powder traded at approximately USD 3,850-3,900 per tonne, while skim milk powder strengthened to about USD 3,200-3,250 per tonne. Butter prices remained elevated near USD 6,700 per tonne, and anhydrous milk fat crossed USD 7,100 per tonne. Cheese prices also showed resilience, reflecting strong global demand.

The price surge comes despite a persistent global milk surplus. High production levels in major dairy regions—including the European Union, the United States, and New Zealand—have contributed to excess supply, which had earlier exerted downward pressure on prices.

Market analysts attribute the recent price rally to tightening short-term export availability rather than a structural supply shortage. Processors are reportedly managing inventories strategically, holding back stocks to recover margins following the prolonged downturn of 2024-25. Additionally, seasonal declines in milk production in Oceania, particularly as New Zealand moves past peak output, have reduced immediate export volumes.

On the demand side, global buying activity has shown signs of revival. Import demand from China has stabilised, while regions such as Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa are emerging as strong markets for milk powders and fat-based products. Increased forward buying amid supply chain uncertainties has further intensified competition at international auctions.

The current market situation highlights a complex phase for the global dairy sector, where short-term supply constraints and recovering demand are driving prices upward, even as underlying structural oversupply persists. Industry experts suggest that this imbalance could lead to continued volatility in dairy markets in the coming months.

Iran Emerges as a Major Player in Global Milk Powder Exports

Iran is rapidly strengthening its position in the global dairy trade, emerging as the world's fourth-largest exporter of milk powder, after the European Union, New Zealand and the United States, while surpassing Australia in recent years.

In 2025, Iran's exports of milk powder are estimated at about 182,000 tonnes, reflecting a sharp rise of nearly 134,000 tonnes compared to 2021. This expansion represents an increase of around 27 per cent in the country's dairy exports over the period, highlighting its growing role in the international milk powder market.

Iran processes several million tonnes of raw milk annually, converting a substantial share into skimmed milk powder for export. The country's increasing participation in global trade has also influenced market trends, with benchmark data indicating that rising demand linked to Iranian exports has contributed to more than a 20 per cent increase in skimmed milk powder prices.

Major importing countries include Pakistan, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan, where dairy and bakery industries rely heavily on these supplies. Industry experts note that any disruption in Iranian exports could significantly affect these markets, potentially disrupting segments of their dairy and food processing sectors.

Skimmed milk powder, which contains only about 0.5 per cent fat, is widely used across the food industry in products such as milk beverages, yoghurt, sweets, bakery items, tea and coffee mixes, and ice cream. Iran's expanding dairy exports underline the country's broader strategy of diversifying its economy beyond oil and gas into agri-food trade.

Event CALENDAR

IDF World Dairy Summit 2026

Date: 15-20 November, 2026

Venue: New Zealand International Convention Centre, Auckland, New Zealand.

The theme of the event is "**Healthy People, Healthy Planet, Healthy Economies**".

Poster abstract submission will close on 4 May 2026.

For submission, visit <https://www.idfwds2026.com/abstracts/abstracts>

After reading all the submission guidelines "[click here](#)" to submit your abstract.

Visit: <https://www.idfwds2026.com>

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