

National Milk Day News

IDA (North Zone) and Western UP Local Chapter, Celebrate National Milk Day at the IDA Head Office

The National Milk Day 2025 event was organized at the IDA Head Office by the Indian Dairy Association (North Zone), in association with the IDA Western UP Local Chapter, on November 26, 2025. In addition, IDA Zones and Chapters actively celebrated National Milk Day.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, Indian Dairy Association (IDA), delivered the Welcome address. The Guests of Honour at the event were Dr. Radhey Shyam Dixit, Chairman, Ananda Dairy; Dr. Hardev Singh, Senior Advisor, CEDSL; and Dr. S.K. Singh, In-charge Director, ICAR-CIRC, Meerut.

In his Welcome address, **Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh** recalled his association with Dr. Verghese Kurien. He stated that he began his career at Patna Dairy when it had a milk processing capacity of 500 litres per day and left it with a capacity exceeding six lakh litres per day. He emphasized that Dr. Kurien never allowed external interference in the functioning of dairy institutions. Dr. Kurien was a visionary leader who inspired people to dream big and work selflessly to achieve their goals, with zero tolerance for corruption. His vision played a pivotal role in the tremendous growth of the dairy sector in Bihar. Today, we have 22 milk federations, 241 district cooperative milk unions, 25 milk-producing organizations (MPOs), 2.35 lakh village cooperative



societies and 1.72 crore dairy farmers as members. Across the country, more than 48,000 women-led dairy cooperative societies operate at the village level.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh further stated that India currently contributes around 25 per cent of the world's total milk production, a milestone achieved due to Dr. Kurien's vision. He emphasized the need to increase milk yield per animal in the coming years. If the current yield per animal is doubled, the country will witness surplus milk production. He stressed the importance of making the dairy sector attractive to the younger generation. Although several start-ups with innovative ideas have emerged, using advanced technology and full automation. Efforts must be made to reduce the cost of milk production to benefit farmers. He also highlighted the need to significantly reduce the cost of IVF, as many farmers cannot afford this technology. White Revolution 2.0 has already begun by the end of 2024, and it is expected that breed improvement programmes will help increase milk yield per animal. Processing capacity is also expected to improve, and growing demand in dairy plants and marketing will generate employment opportunities. All these developments are likely to significantly enhance milk production growth over the next two to three years.

Dr. R.S. Dixit, Chairman, Ananda Dairy, stated that the FSSAI has introduced dairy analogues. He observed that the younger generation is not sufficiently attracted to the dairy industry. He emphasized that mini cattle farms are the need of the hour and that embryo transfer and artificial insemination using superior-quality germplasm are essential. He urged the IDA to actively participate in genetic development policy formulation. He also highlighted feed and fodder shortages as major challenges and stressed the importance of management and sustainable development, noting that while the population is increasing, land availability remains fixed. Policies must therefore be framed accordingly to ensure sustained growth of the dairy sector.

Dr. S.K. Singh, In-charge Director, ICAR-CIRC, Meerut, credited Dr. Verghese Kurien for contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat, nutritional security, and employment generation,


Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, newly elected President-IDA being welcomed by the team IDA NZ and IDA Western UP Local Chapter.



particularly for small, marginal, and landless farmers in rural areas. He stated that the cost of milk production has risen to nearly Rs.80 per litre and emphasized that farmers must receive better remunerative prices for their sustainability. He also stressed the necessity of genetic improvement, which requires both private and government support. He highlighted the importance of waste-to-wealth management and cautioned that sex-sorted semen, IVF, and artificial insemination are not suitable for every animal and should be used based on individual animal suitability.

Dr. Harsev Singh, Senior Advisor, CEDSI, recalled Dr. Kurien's belief that farmers are the most intelligent creators in the world and that professionals in the dairy sector are essentially employees of farmers. He highlighted key issues related to procurement, processing, marketing, and quality and emphasized the need to promote technology integration to compete at international prices. He also pointed out the shortage of skilled manpower in the country.

Dr. G.S. Rajorhia, former President, IDA, raised concerns about adulteration in paneer and mentioned that the issue of sex-sorted semen is currently under discussion by the government. He stressed that reducing the cost of feed and fodder is essential to improving productivity per



animal. To address challenges such as adulteration, vegan and plant-based narratives, he suggested forming a core committee within IDA to organize press



conferences, seminars, industry awareness programmes, lobbying with concerned departments, advertisements, and publication of scientifically validated papers. He also emphasized that IDA members should have representation on all major policy platforms. He noted that optimizing the cost of milk production is critical, as New Zealand currently has the lowest cost of milk production, a position previously held by India, and that international exports are not feasible without cost optimization.

Dr. S.K. Verma, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CIRC, Meerut, spoke about crossbreeding, which was a necessity in earlier times, and clarified that milk from crossbred animals is not inferior. He raised concerns about



Guests of Honour at the event were welcomed by the President-IDA.

Dr. S.K. Singh, In-charge Director, ICAR-CIRC, Meerut

Dr. Radhey Shyam Dixit
Chairman, Ananda Dairy

Dr. Harsev Singh
Senior Advisor, CEDSI



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misinformation on social media regarding ghee quality and suggested addressing such issues through podcasts. He noted that some producers claim their milk is non-urea based and clarified that urea feed is not harmful up to a certain limit.

He further suggested that farmers should allocate at least 10 per cent of their land for fodder production to meet their own requirements. He also recommended that federations and unions disseminate informational videos on relevant topics. He informed the gathering that frozen semen is available free of cost at ICAR-CIRC for SC/ST dairy farmers.

Praising Dr. Kurien's contribution, Shri Rajat Aggarwal, Director, Param Dairy, stated that milk prices were fixed by him based on fat content and not on caste or creed.

Shri I.K. Narang, former Assistant Commissioner, Dairy Development, Government of India, shared his memories of meeting Dr. Kurien at the first DIC in Bengaluru in



1964. He described Dr. Kurien as a bold and committed personality and recalled Dr. Kurien's words:

"You people in the public sector-what have you done for farmers? It is only Amul that has done it. Amul is for the farmer and by the farmer."

IDA CEC Member, Dr. S.K. Kanawjia; Vice Chairman, IDA NZ Shri A.K. Rao; ZEC Member Shri K.L. Arora; Chairman, Punjab State Chapter, Dr. Inderjeet Singh; IDA Western UP Local Chapter team led by its Chairman, Dr. Ashok Tripathi; Vice Chairman, Shri C.S. Mittal; Secretary, Shri T.T. Reddy; SEC members Shri Pankaj Sharma; Chairman, Haryana State Chapter Dr. Mahendra Singh; Shri D.P. Singh, Vyapar Kesri and representatives from organizations such as NCDFI, IIL, IEML, Scientific & Digital Systems, etc. also participated in the event.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Secretary General, IDA, Shri Hariom Gulati.

National Milk Day Celebrations at IDA (West Zone)



On November 26, 2025, the 104th birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution," Dr. V. Kurien, was observed as "National Milk Day" across India.

To mark the occasion, Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA (outgoing), paid rich tributes to the "Milkman of India" at the IDA (West Zone) office in Andheri, Mumbai.

Dr. Sodhi was joined by key dignitaries, including Shri Arun Patil, Vice President-IDA; Shri K. Shyju; Dr. J.V. Parekh; and Shri Madhav Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (West Zone).

The event witnessed participation from various cooperative and private dairies, including Gokul, Warana, Amul, Vikas, KMF, Nature Delight, Epigamia, Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, and KMYA. The dignitaries offered floral tributes and shared their personal reflections on Dr. Kurien and his immense contribution to

the dairy industry and cooperative dairy development.

Dr. Sodhi, who worked closely with Dr. Kurien for more than three decades, spoke of the profound honour of occupying the same chair once held by Dr. Kurien as Managing Director of GCMMF and President of IDA. Emphasising the need for continuity, Dr. Sodhi said, "Dr. Kurien worked tirelessly for the development of dairying in India. However, the new generation is not fully aware of the legacy they inherit. It is our duty to keep them well informed and updated."

Shri Arun Patil, who worked with NDDB, highlighted how Dr. Kurien successfully executed the world's largest dairy development programme. He described Dr. Kurien not only as a visionary but also as a master institution builder who foresaw the needs of the industry and

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created institutions such as IRMA, IDMC, and IIL.

Building institutions and grooming individuals was his most remarkable achievement, which enabled the successful implementation of the programmes he had envisioned.



The Path to Self-Reliance

Dr. Kurien envisioned self-reliance for the Indian dairy industry. He ensured that all streams—animal husbandry, feed and fodder, milk collection, processing, value-added products, and distribution—became independent and self-sustaining, without reliance on imported plants, machinery, services, or technology.

Dr. Kurien sowed the seeds of *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) during the 1970s–1990s. Today, India is the world's largest milk producer and processor. The country manufactures all necessary dairy processing equipment and does not depend on imported components or processes.

Stronger cooperative institutions and efficient supply chains remain key to the sustainability and growth of the dairy sector.

IDA (SZ) Organizes National Symposium to Commemorate National Milk Day

The Southern Regional Station of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), in collaboration with the Indian Dairy Association (IDA-South Zone) and the Alumni Association of NDRI SRS, Bengaluru, organized a National Symposium on "**Viksit Bharat: Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward for the Indian Dairy Sector**" on November 28, 2025, to commemorate National Milk Day. The event was held at the ICAR-NDRI SRS campus, Bengaluru, in honour of the birth



anniversary of Padma Vibhushan Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of India's White Revolution.

The symposium was inaugurated by Dr. R.P. Aneja, former Managing Director, NDDB, as Chief Guest, and Prof. V. Palanimuthu, Director, NIFTEM, as Guest of Honour.

In his welcome address, Dr. Arindam Dhali, Head of Station, extended greetings to the dignitaries and participants. Dr. Sathish Kulkarni, Chairman, IDA (South Zone), highlighted the collective contributions of IDA, the Alumni Association, and ICAR-NDRI SRS towards strengthening the Indian dairy sector.

Dr. Aneja unveiled the symposium souvenir and emphasized the transformative role of Dr. Verghese Kurien, NDDB and NDRI in reshaping India's dairy industry. Prof. Palanimuthu stressed the growing demand for high-quality milk and discussed emerging non-thermal processing technologies that help retain nutritional and sensory attributes. Dr. D. N. Das, President of the Alumni Association, proposed the vote of thanks.

The symposium witnessed enthusiastic participation from 220 delegates, including scientists, students, dairy industry professionals, entrepreneurs, policymakers and other stakeholders.

Technical Session I, on *Productivity, Sustainability and Resilience*, was presided over by Dr. A. Sahoo, Director, ICAR-NDRI, with Dr. K.T. Sampath and Dr. N.V. Belavadi as co-chairpersons. Dr. R.O. Gupta, Senior General Manager (PE), NDDB, spoke on the use of digital tools in animal health, nutrition and feed cost reduction, while Dr. P. S. Mahesh, Joint Commissioner and Director, CEAH, Government of India, highlighted capacity building and start-up opportunities in the dairy sector.



A concurrent poster session showcased 52 e-posters on innovations in dairy production, processing, policy options and strategic interventions, with awards presented to the best posters.

Technical Session II, focusing on Technology, Innovation and Value Chain Transformation, was chaired by Dr. P. A. Shankar, Former Dean, KVAFSU, with Shri B.V.K. Reddy, CEO, Dodla Dairy, and Dr. B.V. Venkateshaiah, Former Dean, KVAFSU, as co-chairpersons. Dr. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, former Director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, spoke on enzyme technology for speciality dairy products, while Shri Jitin Garg, Head - Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, Mondelez India Foods Pvt. Ltd., discussed the role of food processing and regulatory aspects of nutritional claims.

Technical Session III, on Entrepreneurship and Careers - Turning Passion into Profit, featured a panel discussion presided over by Dr. K.S. Ramachandra, Principal Scientist (Retd.), ICAR-NIANP, with Dr. L. Vishweshwaraiah and Dr. B. V. Balasubramanyam as co-chairpersons.

The session focused on entrepreneurship, innovation and career pathways in the dairy sector, with the objective of motivating students, young professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs to translate technical knowledge into sustainable business ventures. The session underscored the growing scope for start-ups, consultancy services, value-added processing, food safety, innovation and allied agribusinesses within the Indian dairy ecosystem.

Five distinguished NDRI alumni shared their entrepreneurial journeys and industry experiences:

- Shri Balakrishna Reddy, COO & Director, HR Foods Processing Pvt. Ltd., Ranchi
- Dr. H. J. Shankaralinge Gowda, Dairy Consultant and QA/Food Safety Assessor
- Shri Chetan Hanchate, Director/CEO, Centre for Processed Foods, Bengaluru
- Dr. Vikas A. Mittal, Technical Lead, Product Innovation, Kerry Ingredients India Pvt. Ltd., Bengaluru
- Shri Senthil Ganesh, Founder, Stride Innovations.

Their insights provided practical guidance and motivation for aspiring dairy entrepreneurs.

The symposium concluded with the **Plenary and Valedictory Session**, presided over by Dr. C.S. Prasad, former Vice Chancellor of MAFSU and former Director of ICAR-NIANP. Dr. Prasad summarized the key issues discussed during the symposium and examined strategic pathways to advance the dairy sector in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat.



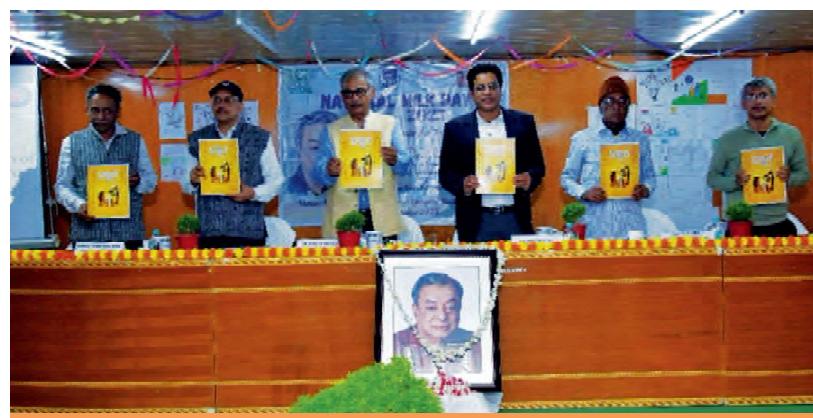
Dr. S. Subash, Organizing Secretary, presented a comprehensive report capturing the major outcomes and actionable points from the technical sessions. Awards were distributed to the best poster presenters, and Dr. Laxmana Naik N, Secretary of the Alumni Association, proposed the vote of thanks.



IDA (East Zone), WBUAFS and NDB, Kolkata Jointly Celebrate National Milk Day

National Milk Day 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and solemnity at the Seminar Hall of the Faculty of Dairy Technology, West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences (WBUAFS), Mohanpur, Nadia. The programme was jointly organized by the Faculty of Dairy Technology, WBUAFS, the Indian Dairy Association IDA (East Zone), and the National Dairy Development Board (NDB), Kolkata, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of the White Revolution, Dr. Verghese Kurien.

The programme commenced with the welcome of dignitaries on the dais, followed by the offering of floral tributes to Dr. Verghese Kurien. An invocation song rendered by the students of the Faculty of Dairy





Technology set a reverent tone for the occasion. Prof. S.K. Bag, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Technology, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the vital role of milk and the dairy sector in national development.

Dr. D.C. Sen, Vice Chairman, IDA (East Zone), addressed the gathering and briefly highlighted the life and extraordinary contributions of Dr. Verghese Kurien towards the development of India's dairy sector through the cooperative movement. As part of the celebrations, winners of drawing competitions organized on the occasion were felicitated. Two separate competitions were conducted—one for students of a nearby Junior High School and another for students of the Faculty of Dairy Technology. Milk sweets, lassi, and fruits were distributed among the participating students.

Prof. Partha Das, Registrar, WBUAFS, shared his valuable insights on the growth, challenges, and future prospects of the dairy sector. A special technical address

on "**Prospects and Problems of Cooperative Activities in Eastern India**" was delivered by Dr. Sabyasachi Roy, Regional Head (NES), NDDB, Kolkata, who elaborated on strengthening cooperative institutions in the region.

The Annual Magazine of the Students' Welfare Council titled "**MANTHAN**" was formally released by Dr. T.K. Datta, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, WBUAFS. Delivering the Presidential Address, Dr. Datta underlined the university's pivotal role in strengthening dairy education, research, and cooperative development in eastern India.

Prof. P.R. Ray, Department of Dairy Chemistry, proposed the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with the National Anthem, followed by a group photo session.

The celebration reaffirmed the collective commitment of academicians, policymakers, and industry stakeholders towards strengthening the dairy sector and advancing cooperative development in eastern India.

Mega Blood Donation Camp Organized by IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter on National Milk Day in association with Department of DSFT, Tata Cancer Hospital, and HDFC Bank

On the occasion of National Milk Day, the Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Eastern UP Local Chapter organized a Mega Blood Donation Camp at the Kamdhenu Hall of the department. The camp reflected the department's long-standing commitment to integrating scientific excellence with social responsibility, compassion, and community service.

A total of 62 volunteers registered for blood donation, of whom 42 donors successfully donated blood after undergoing mandatory medical screening. The initiative contributed significantly towards addressing the critical demand for blood, offering hope and life-saving support to patients in need.



Dr. S.K. Singh, Acting Director, IAS, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and appreciated the initiative in his address. He remarked that National Milk Day is not only a celebration of the dairy sector but also a tribute to the ideals of service, leadership, and dedication exemplified by Dr. Verghese Kurien. Emphasizing that blood donation is one of the noblest forms of human service, he lauded the enthusiasm and social consciousness of BHU students and assured continued institutional support for such meaningful initiatives. He also expressed gratitude to the organizing team, medical professionals from Tata Cancer Hospital, and all volunteers.

In his welcome address, Dr. R.K. Duari, Head of the Department, highlighted that milk and blood are both vital to human life-milk nourishes the body, while blood sustains and energizes it. He recalled Dr. Kurien's immense contribution to rural development and nutritional security and stated that the camp is organized annually to honour his legacy. He added that such initiatives foster compassion, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility among students.

Dr. Arvind, Assistant Professor and Chairman, IDA Eastern UP Chapter, stated that National Milk Day symbolizes the convergence of dairy science, nutrition, and social welfare. He noted that Tata Cancer Hospital faces a constant demand for blood and that the camp would provide crucial support to patients. He also expressed satisfaction over the successful organization of the camp and personally participated as a blood donor.

Dr. Tarun Verma, Assistant Professor and Secretary-Treasurer, IDA Eastern UP Chapter, emphasized that the ultimate goal of science is to enhance human life, and blood donation is a powerful expression of this objective. He underscored that a single unit of blood can save the lives of cancer patients, accident victims, and critically ill individuals. He acknowledged the cooperation of

students, faculty members, partner organizations, Tata Cancer Hospital, and HDFC Bank, and expressed hope that the spirit of service at BHU would continue to grow stronger.

Several faculty members actively participated in blood donation, including Dr. V.K. Tripathi, Dr. Tarun Verma, Dr. Abhishek, Dr. Shashi Shekhar, Dr. Rohit, Dr. Sunil Meena, Dr. Arvind, and Shri Himanshu Gupta from the Varanasi Help Group, inspiring students through their example.

The camp was successfully organized through the collective efforts of the Department of DSFT, IDA Eastern UP Chapter, Tata Cancer Hospital, and HDFC Bank. Gift hampers and refreshments were distributed to all donors.

The initiative not only contributed to saving lives but also reinforced the enduring message that service, compassion, and responsibility form the true strength of society and the foundation of a strong nation.

Government of UP, SKPCL and IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter Jointly Celebrate National Milk Day

On the occasion of National Milk Day 2025, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter, and the UNDP-initiated Project SKPCL jointly organised the inauguration of the "Dr. Verghese Kurien Farmers' School"-the first initiative of its kind in India-in a rural setting at Balbadra Inter College, Pali Village, Jaunpur District.

While welcoming the participants, Dr. Raja, Managing Director of the UNDP-initiated Farmers' Organisation SKPCL (Swaayam Ksheer Producer Organisation), emphasised that Dr. Verghese Kurien, the revered architect of India's White Revolution, envisioned the

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upliftment of rural farmers through innovative and transformative technologies. In alignment with this vision, he announced a pioneering initiative to integrate herbal farming with dairy development.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Dinesh Chandra, I.A.S., District Collector and District Magistrate of Jaunpur, highlighted that the future of the dairy sector lies in its synergistic linkage with herbal farming, which can also support the fortification of milk and milk products with herbal ingredients. He noted that such integration would significantly enhance public health and farmers' income.



She affirmed that the UNDP-initiated Project SKPCL will also facilitate loan support for dedicated and enthusiastic farmers, thereby contributing to the realisation of the *Viksit Bharat 2047* vision through a grassroots-level pilot initiative.



Scholars and professors from Purvanchal University and other academic institutions appreciated the initiative and offered guidance for the effective implementation of this forward-looking concept.

Shri Surendernath Tiwari, Correspondent of the College, reaffirmed his commitment to assisting farmers, students, and society in acquiring practical knowledge on integrating herbal farming with dairy practices. He stated that the institution aspires to become a model centre, with sustained government support and strategic guidance from the UNDP-facilitated SKPCL project.

Mr. Ashok, Manager, announced that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sanctioned the establishment of School Herbal Gardens in 25 institutions, enabling farmers, students, and the general public to benefit from medicinal plants and improved health literacy.

In her vote of thanks, Mrs. Geeta Devi expressed gratitude to all participants, especially the government authorities and the IDA Eastern UP Local Chapter.

INDIAN DAIRYMAN

IDA Jharkhand Local Chapter and JMF Celebrate National Milk Day in Ranchi

The Indian Dairy Association Jharkhand Local Chapter, in association with the Jharkhand State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd. (JMF, Medha Dairy), celebrated the 104th birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of the White Revolution, as National Milk Day with great reverence. On this occasion, a one-day seminar-cum-workshop on "**New Age Technology for Milk Processing - Jharkhand Perspective**" was organized at the Medha Dairy Plant, Hotwar, Ranchi.

Dr. Verghese Kurien's visionary leadership and relentless efforts transformed India into the world's largest milk-producing nation, a feat made possible through the active participation and sustained hard work of millions of dairy farmers associated with cooperative institutions across the country.

Medha Dairy, a Government of Jharkhand undertaking, is the state's only farmer-based dairy cooperative institution and serves as a vital link between rural milk producers and urban consumers. Currently, around 60,000 marginal farmers supply milk twice daily through village-level milk collection centres. With six processing plants, the federation processes and distributes approximately 2.50 lakh litres of milk per day, catering to major towns and cities across Jharkhand.

The programme commenced with floral tributes to the statue of Dr. Verghese Kurien by Shri Pavan Kumar Marwaha, Chairman, IDA-Jharkhand Local Chapter and



General Manager, Medha Dairy; Shri Jaidev Biswas, Managing Director, Jharkhand Milk Federation; Shri Balakrishna Reddy, Secretary, IDA - Telangana Local Chapter; Shri Milton Srivastava, Vice Chairman, IDA - East Zone, along with other officials and staff of Medha Dairy.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Pavan Kumar Marwaha highlighted the importance of the cooperative model and Dr. Kurien's extraordinary contribution to the success of the White Revolution. He assured milk producers that the upcoming 20 MT milk powder plant at Hotwar, Ranchi, would help the federation effectively manage surplus milk during seasonal fluctuations. He added that this facility would mark a significant milestone in strengthening JMF's journey toward self-sufficiency.



Shri Jaidev Biswas, Managing Director, JMF, paid rich tributes to Dr. Kurien, emphasizing his values, discipline, and visionary approach in conceptualizing the cooperative dairy structure. He noted that Dr. Kurien's leadership enabled India to attain global leadership in milk production despite numerous challenges.

The technical sessions featured presentations by leading companies such as GEA and SIG on new-age technological innovations and capacity-building initiatives aimed at accelerating dairy sector development. Representatives from prominent financial institutions, including Axis Bank, IDBI Bank, and HDFC Bank, also participated, highlighting the growing

financial collaboration essential for dairy infrastructure development, farmer empowerment, and modernization of the sector.

The National Milk Day celebrations concluded in a cordial and harmonious atmosphere, with active participation from all group heads and staff of Medha Dairy, contributing to the successful organization of the event.

IDA Kerala State Chapter Celebrates National Milk Day in Association with VKIDFT and KVASU through Week-long 'PAALVAARAM 25'



The Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Kerala State Chapter, in association with AGIRA Students' Union (2024–25) of the Verghese Kurien Institute of Dairy and Food Technology (VKIDFT), Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU), successfully organized a week-long programme titled "PAALVAARAM '25" as part of the National Milk Day 2025 celebrations, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Milk Man of India.

The celebrations were inaugurated on 20 November 2025 at the VKIDFT auditorium by Dr. A.K. Beena, Dean, VKIDFT, who formally released the programme schedule.

The inaugural function was graced by Dr. Aparna Sudhakaran V (Staff Coordinator, Paalvaaram '25 & Secretary, IDA Kerala Chapter), Dr. Jose Mathew (Associate Patron, VKIDFT), Shri R. Hari Govind (Joint Secretary, AGIRA Students' Union), and student coordinators Ms. Ann and Ms. Neeraja.



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A wide range of creative, technical, and knowledge-oriented competitions were organized throughout the week, encouraging student participation, teamwork, and innovation. Events included Tableau, Milky Prints (finger painting), Best Out of Waste, Online Poster Competition, Dairy Dare (treasure hunt), Dairy Dash (Mock the Press), and a vibrant Milk Gala (fashion show).

The **inaugural day** featured the Tableau competition, with four teams comprising students and faculty members presenting themes such as "Magic of Milk" and "Dairy in Indian Festivals". The **second day** witnessed the Milky Prints competition at Idanazhi on the theme "The Cycle of Milk".

On the **third day**, VKIDFT hosted 46 students from the Dairy Club of Government Victoria Girls Higher Secondary School, Chittur, coordinated by Shri Faisal, Dairy Extension Officer. The visiting students were exposed to dairy processing operations through a plant visit, interactive sessions on milk history and product identification, hands-on paneer and peda preparation, quizzes, and a visit to the cow farm.

The Best Out of Waste competition saw enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, with innovative use of discarded milk plastic packets. The Online Poster Competition, themed "**Value Addition in Dairy: From Milk to Functional Food**", received active participation from VKIDFT students. The exciting Dairy Dare treasure hunt tested problem-solving and teamwork skills, while Dairy Dash, conducted in a "Mock the Press" format, challenged participants' technical knowledge and communication skills related to dairy products.

The celebrations culminated with the Milk Gala, a unique fashion show honoring the "Whitelene Warriors"—dairy professionals who ensure the availability of milk in everyday life. Student-faculty pairs showcased creative presentations reflecting the theme. The first prize was won by Dr. Arya and Hadhi (Designer: Sreenanda, 2025 batch), followed by Dr. Vinod and Rijancy (Designer: Akshay, 2024 batch).

The **Valedictory Function** featured addresses by

Dr. P.I. Geeverghese, Former Chairman, IDA Kerala Chapter; Dr. S.N. Rajakumar, Chairman, IDA Kerala Chapter; and Mrs. Bindu, Best Woman Dairy Farmer Awardee who delivered an inspiring talk on Manna Dairy Farm, Wayanad. An insightful industry interaction session was conducted by Shri Nahaz Basheer, Founder & Managing Director, Cremberie Foods Pvt. Ltd.



Prizes for various competitions were distributed by Dr. Jose Mathew, and the Best Outgoing Student Award was presented to Mr. Akhil Binu (CDST, Thiruvananthapuram) by Dr. S.N. Rajakumar. A video presentation highlighted the memorable moments of Paalvaaram '25. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Neeraja P. L., Student Coordinator.



The successful conduct of Paalvaaram '25 reflected the collective efforts of students, faculty, and IDA Kerala State Chapter in promoting awareness, innovation, and appreciation of the dairy sector among future professionals.

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IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter Celebrates National Milk Day in Collaboration with TANUVAS

The IDA, Tamil Nadu Chapter, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), organised a series of programmes to commemorate National Milk Day 2025, observed annually on 26 November to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Milk Man of India" and architect of the White Revolution.

A three-day National Milk Day Celebration – 2025 was organised jointly with the Department of Livestock Products Technology, Veterinary College and Research Institute (VCRI), Theni, on 26 and 27 November, and 2 December 2025. As part of the celebrations, Dairy Quiz and Slogan Writing competitions were conducted for BVSc & AH students, witnessing enthusiastic participation. A total of 45 students participated in the Dairy Quiz, while 23 students took part in the Slogan Writing competition. The celebrations concluded with a Valedictory Function held on 2 December 2025.

The Valedictory Function began with a welcome address by Dr. T. R. Pugazhenthi, Secretary, IDA – Tamil Nadu Chapter and Professor & Head, Department of Livestock Products Technology. Dr. G. Ponnudurai, Dean, VCRI, Theni, delivered the Presidential Address and distributed certificates and cash prizes to the winners. The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. M. Sutha, Professor, Department of Livestock Products Technology.



In continuation of the National Milk Day celebrations, the IDA Tamil Nadu Chapter, in collaboration with the College of Food and Dairy Technology (CFDT), TANUVAS, Chennai, organised a National Workshop on "Advances in Dairy Technology" on 4 December 2025 at CFDT, Chennai. To encourage wider



participation, CFDT also organised Cartoon Drawing, Article Writing (English and Tamil), Slogan Writing (English and Tamil) competitions, along with a Best Calf Contest at the CFDT-adopted village, Sethupakkam, Thiruvallur District.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Dr. N. Kumaravelu, Dean, CFDT. Dr. T. R. Pugazhenthi, Secretary, IDA – Tamil Nadu Chapter, felicitated the dignitaries. Dr. Raja Rathinam, Managing Director, UNDP-initiated SKPCL, addressed the gathering. The Presidential Address was delivered by Shri C. P. Charles, Central Executive Committee Member, Indian Dairy Association, New Delhi, who paid rich tributes to the enduring legacy of Dr. Verghese Kurien. The Chief Guest Address was delivered by Dr. M. Gunasekaran, General Manager, NDDB Dairy Services, Alamathi Semen Station, Chennai. Prizes were distributed by the dignitaries.

On the occasion, the IDA Best Women Dairy Farmer (Tamil Nadu) – 2025 Award was conferred on Mrs. S. Padmini, Sri Mahalakshmi Dairy Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, while the Best B.Tech. (Dairy Technology) Student Award was presented to Shri C.V. Vithun (2020–21 batch). Both awardees received a cash prize of Rs. 10,000, a certificate, and a copy of "I Too Had a Dream" by Dr. Verghese Kurien. The same book was also presented to winners of various competitions.



Both programmes were meticulously organised under the leadership of Dr. T.R. Pugazhenthi, Secretary, IDA – Tamil Nadu Chapter. The workshop concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. M. Esther Magdalene Sharon, Assistant Professor, CFDT, Chennai.

IDA Karnataka State Chapter Celebrates National Milk Day along with MYMUL, Mysuru

The IDA, Karnataka State Chapter, in association with the Mysuru Cooperative Milk Producers' Societies Union

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(MYMUL), celebrated National Milk Day at the MYMUL Dairy premises, Mysuru, on 26 November 2025, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of the White Revolution.

Inaugurating the programme, Shri G.T. Devegowda, MLA and President, State Cooperative Federation, paid floral tributes to Dr. Kurien and highlighted the crucial role of dairying as a lifeline for farmers amid climate uncertainties, crop failures, and market volatility. He recalled Dr. Kurien's immense contribution in laying a strong foundation for India's dairy sector and noted that dairy farming has significantly empowered rural women by supporting household income, education, healthcare, and nutrition. He lauded the initiative of the IDA Karnataka State Chapter in recognising women dairy farmers through special awards.

Dr. Satish Kulkarni, President, IDA South Zone, speaking as Chief Guest, stated that India has remained the world's largest milk producer for the last two decades, producing about 239 million tonnes of milk with an economic contribution of nearly Rs. 12 lakh crore. He attributed this remarkable growth to Dr. Kurien's visionary leadership, including the establishment of 17 national institutions and the global recognition he earned for Indian dairying.

On the occasion, the State Best Woman Milk Producer Award was conferred on Mrs. Shivani Rajshekhar



(Dharwad), while Better Woman Milk Producer Awards were presented to Dr. Jyoti Umesh (Mysuru) and Ms. Manjula (Chikkaballapur). Dr. B.S. Ganagadhar,

former Managing Director, and Dr. N.V. Belavadi, former Executive Director, NDDB, were also felicitated for their outstanding contributions to the growth of the dairy industry in Karnataka.

Two technical sessions were organised for farmers, chaired by Dr. N.V. Belavadi, with Dr. P.A. Shankar, Retired Dean, Dairy Science College, Bengaluru, and Dr. B.S. Ganagadhar as Co-Chairs. Dr. S.S. Hiremath, Retired Joint Director, KMF, spoke on Effect of Feeding Practices on SNF of Milk, while Dr. Raghavendra L., Joint Director, KMF, delivered a lecture on Scientific Breeding Practices to Enhance Dairy Productivity. Over 200 farmers actively participated in the interactive Q&A sessions.



The programme was supported wholeheartedly by MYMUL Managing Director Shri Suresh Naik, President Shri K. Eregowda, and the Board of Directors. The event was coordinated by Shri B.N. Vijayakumar, Member, IDA Karnataka State Chapter Executive Committee, with effective support from the IDA Karnataka State Chapter and MYMUL officials. Shri N.B. Marathe, Chairman, IDA Karnataka State Chapter, proposed the vote of thanks.

The well-organised programme received wide media coverage and successfully highlighted the enduring legacy of Dr. Verghese Kurien and the vital role of the dairy sector in empowering farmers and strengthening the nation.



IDA AP Local Chapter Celebrates National Milk Day with CDT, SVVU, Tirupati

The Indian Dairy Association-Andhra Pradesh (IDA-AP) Local Chapter, in collaboration with the College of Dairy Technology (CDT), Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (SVVU), Tirupati, organised the National Milk Day Celebrations - 2025 at the College of Dairy Technology, Tirupati, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Milk Man of India".

The programme began with the garlanding of the photograph of Dr. Verghese Kurien, followed by floral tributes paid by officers of IDA and CDT. Speakers on the occasion recalled the visionary leadership and invaluable contributions of Dr. Kurien to the development of India's dairy industry and the empowerment of rural milk producers, particularly women.

On the occasion, Mrs. Chandrasekhar Nagajyothi of Garigachineepalli village, Kuppam Mandal, Chittoor District, who was adjudged the Best Woman Dairy Farmer of Andhra Pradesh - 2025 by the IDA-AP Local Chapter, was felicitated. She was presented with a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 in recognition of her exemplary contribution to dairy farming.

As part of the celebrations, an elocution competition was organised for students from six institutions in Tirupati,



namely S.V. Agriculture College, College of Veterinary Science, College of Dairy Technology, S.V. Arts College, Department of Home Science (SV University), and

Department of Home Science (SP Women's University), on the topic "Ensuring Better Returns to Milk Producers". Participation certificates were awarded to all contestants, and cash prizes were presented to the first three winners.

The programme was attended by Dr. J.V. Ramana, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SVVU, Tirupati; Dr. Ravi Kumar, Chairman, IDA-AP Local Chapter; Dr. K. Nageswara Rao, Dean, Faculty of Dairy Science, SVVU and Secretary, IDA-AP Local Chapter; Dr. Gangaraju, Associate Dean, CDT, Tirupati; Dr. Manjunatha, RE Member, IDA-AP Local Chapter, along with teaching and non-teaching staff and students of the College of Dairy Technology, participants from various local colleges, and employees of Shreeja Mahila Milk Producers Company Limited, Tirupati.

The celebrations effectively highlighted the enduring legacy of Dr. Verghese Kurien and reinforced the importance of the dairy sector in ensuring sustainable livelihoods for milk producers.

IDA Telangana Local Chapter Celebrates National Milk Day 2025 with FTCCI and Karimnagar Dairy

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Telangana Local Chapter, in association with the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), Hyderabad, commemorated National Milk Day 2025 on 26 November 2025, paying rich tributes to Dr. Verghese Kurien, the architect of India's White Revolution.

A major programme was organised at Karimnagar Dairy, with Shri Amit Reddy, Chairman, Telangana State Dairy Development Cooperative Federation (TGDDCF),

gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his keynote address, Shri Amit Reddy highlighted the challenges posed by rapid urbanisation around the Hyderabad region, which is leading to a decline in milk production. He emphasised that aspiring dairy entrepreneurs must give due importance to forward linkages and effective marketing strategies while planning and



establishing dairy farms to ensure sustainability and profitability.

Shri Ch. Rajeshwar Rao, Chairman, IDA Telangana Local Chapter, shared his personal experiences and interactions with Dr. Verghese Kurien, recalling his visionary leadership and immense contribution to the growth of India's dairy sector.

The programme was further enriched by addresses from Shri Maheshwari, Senior Vice President, FTCCI; Shri Chandra Mohan, Head - Agriculture Wing, FTCCI; Shri B.P. Acharya, Retired IAS Officer; and Shri Madhusudhan Rao, General Manager, Vijaya Dairy, who spoke on contemporary issues, opportunities, and the future roadmap for the dairy industry.

A large number of Dairy Technology students, dairy entrepreneurs, and industry stakeholders participated in the event, reflecting strong engagement from academia and the dairy sector.



On the occasion, Shri Ch. Rajeswara Rao, Chairman, IDA Telangana Chapter, presented the Best Women Dairy Farmer Award - 2025 along with prize money to

Mrs. A. Radha, recognising her outstanding contribution to dairy farming and women empowerment in the sector.



Earlier in the day, as part of the National Milk Day celebrations at Karimnagar Dairy, the IDA Telangana Chapter organised a morning walk with citizens, followed by floral tributes to Dr. Verghese Kurien, reinforcing awareness about the importance of dairying in rural livelihoods and nutrition.

The celebrations served as a fitting tribute to Dr. Kurien's legacy and reaffirmed IDA Telangana Chapter's commitment to the sustainable development of the dairy sector in the state.



National Milk Day Celebration at SMC College of Dairy Science: Honouring the Legacy of Dr. Verghese Kurien

SMC College of Dairy Science, Kamdhenu University, Anand, celebrated National Milk Day with great enthusiasm and respect to mark the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the esteemed Father of the White Revolution.

The event commenced with warm opening remarks by Dr. Sunita Pinto, Principal, SMC College of Dairy Science who highlighted the exceptional contributions of Dr. Kurien in transforming India's dairy sector and establishing the nation as the world's largest milk producer. She specially highlighted establishment of Vidya Dairy as one of the excellent institutors created by Dr. Kurien. Following this, a floral tribute was offered to Dr. Verghese Kurien as a mark of deep respect and gratitude for his pioneering efforts in revolutionizing India's cooperative dairy movement.

The highlight of the celebration was an inspiring lecture delivered by the Chief Guest, Dr. J.B. Prajapati, Chairman, IDA (WZ) and former Principal of SMC College of Dairy



Science. In his insightful address, Dr. Prajapati shared valuable perspectives on Dr. Kurien's remarkable journey, his leadership in building the AMUL model, and the role of young dairy professionals in carrying forward his legacy.

The programme attended by more than 125 students and faculty members of the college. The event was organized by Dr. Maulik Prajapati, NSS Programme Officer, under the guidance of Dr. Sunita Pinto, Principal, SMC College of Dairy Science.



IDA Bihar State Chapter Honors Dr. V. Kurien's Legacy

The IDA Bihar State Chapter recently organized a workshop in its office complex on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. V. Kurien, widely known as the Father of the White Revolution.

Speaking at the event, Shri D.K. Srivastava, Chairman, IDA Bihar State Chapter, highlighted Dr. Kurien's pivotal role in establishing India as the world's largest milk producer. He is also credited with founding Amul, an initiative that began humbly with just two committees and 247 litres of milk. Dr. Kurien



also provided crucial support to dairy farmers battling corruption within Polson Dairy.

Shri Srivastava emphasized that National Milk Day transcends a mere ceremony; it is a resolution aimed at enhancing farmers' cooperation, modern techniques, legal frameworks, and cooperative values. He noted that Dr. Kurien's legacy serves as a

constant inspiration. By organizing farmers, Dr. Kurien laid a strong foundation for the cooperative movement via the Amul brand. This visionary leadership and the historic success of 'Operation Flood' ultimately propelled India to global leadership in milk production.

IDA News

New Central Executive Committee of IDA Assumes Charge on December 6, 2025

Newly elected Central Executive Committee of IDA under the leadership of Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh took charge on December 6, 2025. Outgoing President Dr. R.S. Sodhi handed over the charge to Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, newly elected President-IDA in a combined gathering of incoming and outgoing members of CEC at IDA Head Office. Some of the CEC members attended the meeting online.

Presently, Shri Singh is working as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). As Managing Director of Jharkhand State Milk Federation, he made several notable reforms in dairy



operations, which gave a new direction to the cooperative structure. Shri Singh's long association with the Patna Dairy Project under the Sudha brand further highlights his deep understanding of dairy development, operational management, and cooperative growth.

An alumnus of the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Shri Singh completed his B.Tech. in Dairying before pursuing an MBA and specialization in Marketing of Milk & Milk Products from Cranfield University, England. He did his specialization in Dairy Cooperative Management from Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).

Shri Singh is a veteran reformer and visionary in India's dairy sector, with over four decades of leadership in cooperative development, farmer empowerment, and national dairy growth. His work has shaped the modern framework of India's dairy cooperatives, combining grassroots engagement with policy-level leadership to drive transformation and self-reliance. He has strengthened more than one hundred milk unions and cooperatives, improving farmer incomes and institutional



Felicitation Programme Organized for President-IDA

College of Dairy Science & Food Technology (CDSFT), Raipur (Chhattisgarh)

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President-IDA visited the College of Dairy Science & Food Technology (CDSFT), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), on December 12, 2025.

A felicitation programme was organized in honour of Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh on his recent election as President-IDA. On this occasion, Dr. R.R.B. Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dau Shri Vasudev Chandrakar Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya, Anjora, Durg (C.G.); Dr. Saikat Samanta, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh Rajya Dugdh Mahasangh Maryadit (BMY), Urla, Durg (C.G.); and Dr. Sudhir Uprit, Dean, College of Dairy Science & Food Technology, Raipur (C.G.), shared the dais.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students, along with faculty members of the college, actively participated in the programme.

During his address, Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh motivated the students to pursue the dairy profession with dedication and sincerity. He shared his rich professional experience of over 40 years as a dairy technologist, highlighting his journey of working with various organizations in different capacities under the guidance of eminent mentors.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and the Managing Director highlighted Shri Singh's professional work culture, leadership qualities, and unwavering dedication throughout his illustrious career in the dairy sector. They also expressed confidence that, under the leadership of Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, the Indian Dairy Association would reach new heights in its commitment to farmers, industry, students, and all stakeholders in the dairy sector.

Dr. Sudhir Uprit, Dean, College of Dairy Science & Food Technology, Raipur (C.G.), formally welcomed the guest, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Archana Kahre, Professor, Department of Dairy Chemistry.



sustainability. He modernized dairy infrastructure, implemented digital procurement systems, and established quality assurance frameworks that have strengthened India's position as the world's largest and most resilient dairy economy. His leadership continues to promote innovation, inclusiveness, and cooperative excellence.

With over four decades of association with the IDA, Shri Singh has contributed extensively to strengthening the organization's identity, outreach, and professional influence. Formerly the Chairman of IDA (East Zone), Shri Singh has played an important role in strengthening dairy cooperatives across the country, increasing production capacity and giving priority to the interests of farmers. During his tenure, he opened two IDA State Chapters, namely Bihar State Chapter and Jharkhand State Chapter.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Indian dairy sector, Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh was honoured with the Fellowship Award during the 51st Dairy Industry Conference in Patna. He has been honoured three times by the National Productivity Council, received the ASSOCHAM Lifetime Achievement Award, the Best Marketing Man of the Year (2016) from the All India Management Congress, and the Bihar Times Excellence and Bhamasa Awards.

The Indian Dairy Association extends its best wishes to Shri Singh as he takes on this esteemed leadership role, confident that his vision and experience will further strengthen IDA's mission of advancing India's dairy sector.

IDA Bihar State Chapter Felicitates President-IDA

In a felicitation ceremony, on behalf of IDA Bihar State Chapter (BSC), Shri Dharmendra Kumar Srivastava, former MD of Mithila Milk Union and Chairman, IDA BSC congratulated Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh on assuming the responsibility of President-IDA and expressed confidence that his vast experience, vision and leadership will play an important role in taking the Indian dairy sector to new heights.

Shri Dharmendra Kumar Srivastava said that we had started our career in Patna Dairy Project in 1981 under the Operation Flood Project. His long time working experience with Patna Dairy Project under Sudha brand underlines his technical proficiency and operations management. It was the brainchild of Shri Sudhir Ji to launch Dahi Khao Inam Jeeto program with the introduction of Peda, Paneer, Rasgulla, Ice Cream etc. in Sudha Dairy, Patna. Apart from this, he has contributed immensely in strengthening the cooperative structure in Bihar. Earlier, as Managing Director of Jharkhand State Milk Federation, he made several notable reforms in dairy operations, which gave a new direction to the cooperative structure. Shri Ratneshwar Jha, Secretary, IDA BSC was also present on the occasion.

Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh was formerly the Chairman of IDA (East Zone) wherein he played an important role in strengthening dairy cooperatives across the country, increasing production capacity and giving priority to the interests of farmers.

For his outstanding contribution to the dairy sector, Shri Singh was honoured with the Fellowship Award at the 51st Dairy Industry Conference held in Patna, which is a remarkable recognition of his decades of dedicated efforts.



INDIAN DAIRYMAN

Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Dugdh Mahasangh Maryadit Honours President-IDA

Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Dugdh Mahasangh Maryadit, popularly known as *Devbhog*, honoured Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President-IDA, during his visit to the Raipur processing plant. During the visit, he discussed the objectives of IDA and the possibilities for establishing an IDA Chhattisgarh Chapter.



IDA Haryana State Chapter Organizes Awareness Program on Animal Health & Fertility

India's dairy industry has played a crucial role in the country's economic development. Dairying is a vital component of the global food system and plays a key role in ensuring the sustainability of rural areas in particular. The sector has also made a significant contribution towards achieving food security, reducing poverty, generating employment opportunities, and providing a regular source of income for rural households.

Animal health is critical to the economy for several reasons. Healthy animals are able to produce more offspring, leading to increased economic activity. Furthermore, they can convert feed into valuable products such as milk and meat more efficiently. Animal



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health also helps prevent the transmission of diseases to humans.

The Indian Dairy Association (IDA), Haryana State Chapter, organised an Animal Health and Fertility Awareness Programme at Village Kailash, Karnal, on 17 September 2025. Dr. Parveen Kumar, Member-RE, coordinated the programme and briefed the dairy farmers on the purpose of the meeting.

Dr. Mahendra Singh, Vice-Chairman, IDA Haryana State Chapter, elaborated on the significance of animal fertility, highlighting that fertility-related problems result in substantial income losses, especially under prevailing hot and humid climatic conditions. He emphasised the need for supplementing balanced feed with mineral mixtures for all age groups of dairy animals, including growing animals, to ensure enhanced productivity and good health. He also stated that supplementation of mineral mixtures helps maintain the cyclicity of post-parturient cows and buffaloes, thereby reducing fertility problems. Dr. Singh further explained that the loss of even one heat due to stress or missed heat detection leads to reduced milk yield, which can be prevented through balanced feeding with concentrate mixtures. Improved reproductive efficiency can help achieve the goal of one calf per year. Feeding mineral mixtures improves immunity and regulates the reproductive cycle in dairy animals. The quality and quantity of milk can also be enhanced through mineral mixture supplementation containing essential minerals such as iron, zinc, copper, cobalt, calcium, and phosphorus in adequate amounts.

Dr. Malakar emphasised the application of stem cell technology, which has been used under field and farm conditions to heal wounds in animals, correct reproductive disorders such as repeat breeding, and control mastitis.

Dr. S.K. Kanawjia, Ex-Emeritus Scientist (Dairy Technology) and Chairman, IDA-Haryana State Chapter, welcomed the guests, dairy farmers, experts, and youth on the occasion. He apprised the gathering of the importance of milk and dairy products in meeting daily nutritional and health requirements. Dairy plays a significant role in various aspects of Indian society, including cuisine, religion, culture, and the economy. India has the largest dairy herd in the world, with over 303 million bovines, producing more than 240 million tonnes of milk annually, and ranks first in global milk production.

Dr. Kanawjia further enlightened the audience about the wide range of milk products manufactured in India, such as cheese, paneer, ghee, ice cream, and several khoa- and chhana-based sweets. He mentioned that milk and milk products enhance the body's immune system and play a key role in providing essential nutrients. Value addition through the conversion of milk into dairy products further enhances profitability.

Finally, flavoured milk and sweets were distributed to all students and other participants. In a nutshell, the programme was well planned, and after the deliberations, the participants left the venue on a happy note.

Report on the Dairy Products Exhibition and Farmer Training Programme

The Dairy Expo 'Jeevaneeyam-25' was organized by CDST Kolahalamedu in association with the Indian Dairy Association, Kerala Chapter, the Directorate of Entrepreneurship, and the Graduate Association, from

28th to 30th November 2025. The session was inaugurated by Dr. Ligimol James, while the sales section was formally opened by Dr. Manju Sasidharan, Dr. Indu B., Academic Officer, and Shri Sanoje, Administrative Officer. All teaching and non-teaching faculty members were also present during the programme.

The Dairy Products Exhibition, held at the Incubation Centre premises along the route to the renowned Pine Valley, Vagamon, concluded on an exceptionally positive note. The event attracted more than 5,000 visitors, reflecting strong public interest and enthusiasm for the innovative work being carried out by the students and the dairy plant team.

The exhibition showcased a vibrant range of dairy products, including shrikhand,



kulfi, butter biscuits, pedas, and burfis, all crafted with care and creativity by the students. Each product display highlighted the participants' technical skills, adherence to quality standards, and dedication, offering visitors an engaging and appetizing experience.

Adding further value to the event, an exclusive farmer training programme was also organized at the dairy plant in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Management Training Centre, Vagamon (LMTC). The session aimed to empower farmers with updated knowledge on dairy practices, product diversification, and modern processing techniques. The interactive format and practical demonstrations were widely appreciated by the attendees.

Overall, the exhibition and training programme successfully combined learning, innovation, and community engagement, creating a truly inspiring atmosphere. The overwhelming visitor turnout and the positive feedback received stand as a testament to the hard work, teamwork, and excellence demonstrated by everyone involved.



NATIONAL News

India–NZ FTA Allows Dairy Processing in India, Not Domestic Sale: Shri Piyush Goyal

The recently announced India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has clarified a key concern for India's dairy sector. While tariff concessions and broader trade cooperation have been agreed upon, India has ruled out opening its domestic dairy market to direct imports from New Zealand. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, emphasized that the pact allows dairy processing in India for re-export purposes, but does not permit the domestic sale of imported dairy products. This approach safeguards farmer interests and reinforces the government's protective policy stance towards India's smallholder-driven dairy economy.

Under the agreement framework, New Zealand—one of the world's most export-oriented dairy producers—will gain wider access to cooperate with Indian processing entities by supplying dairy inputs that can be value-added or re-exported from India to third-country markets. However, this provision has been carefully structured to avoid direct competition with India's domestic milk and dairy processing sector, which forms the backbone of rural incomes and is integrated with over

8 crore smallholder producers through cooperative and private procurement systems.

The policy nuance is significant. While many stakeholders had anticipated some degree of market opening for imported fluid milk or consumer-ready dairy products, the government has reiterated that protective measures remain firmly in place to ensure domestic farmer security and price stability. Instead, the FTA's dairy chapter focuses on global value chain integration, enabling Indian processors to leverage imported dairy components for value-added manufacturing and export positioning—particularly in high-value powders, ingredients, and specialised niche segments.

This approach aligns with India's broader trade strategy of expanding its role in re-export markets while safeguarding domestic production. Under the FTA, select tariff lines may be flexibly managed to encourage processing-linked trade, allowing Indian dairy firms to import inputs such as whey proteins, caseinates, and specialised milk powders from New Zealand, process them into finished or semi-finished products, and export them to markets in Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia under preferential tariff arrangements.

Industry analysts view this as a pragmatic compromise, balancing global trade engagement with local producer

protection. India's vast dairy market—characterised by one of the most dispersed and resilient production bases globally—has traditionally resisted full liberalisation. By prioritising processing, value addition, and re-exports, the agreement seeks to create export-driven growth without exposing Indian farmers to direct import competition.

For dairy stakeholders, the implications are two-fold. First, the agreement could catalyse technological collaboration, quality certification alignment, and operational efficiencies as Indian processors integrate imported dairy inputs into their supply chains. Second, it positions India as a potential regional dairy processing hub, leveraging its geographic advantage and large skilled workforce to service demand in third-country markets.

India's Milk Output Up 51% in 8 Years Under PM Modi: Shri Amit Shah Lays Foundation of NCDFI Headquarters

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI) headquarters in Gandhinagar and addressed the e-Market Awards 2023 ceremony. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat Legislative Assembly Speaker Shri Shankar Choudhary, IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani, NDBD Chairman Dr Meenesh Shah, and NCDFI Chairman Dr Mangal Rai.

Speaking at the occasion, Shri Amit Shah highlighted the remarkable achievements of India's dairy sector, particularly the cooperative model, which he said has delivered "multi-dimensional benefits to society, agriculture, villages, and milk producers." He noted that India has now become the world's largest milk producer, accounting for 24% of global output, and under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, milk production has risen by an impressive 51% in the last eight years—the fastest increase globally.

Shri Shah emphasized that cooperative dairies empower milk producers by ensuring fair pricing, improving animal health, enabling cold storage and processing facilities, and linking milk production to broader nutrition initiatives. He cited examples such as Banaskantha Dairy, which supports malnourished children, and Ahmedabad Dairy, which provides nutrition support to pregnant women and children.

The NCDFI headquarters, coming up in Anand district—the birthplace of India's White Revolution—will cover

7,000 square meters, cost approximately Rs. 32 crore, and operate entirely on solar power as a 100% green building. Shri Shah described NCDFI as a guiding institution for cooperative dairies across India, supporting their growth and promoting sustainable development.

Shri Shah also highlighted the success of digital initiatives in the cooperative sector. Under a pilot project in Gujarat, farmers have been provided RuPay cards linked to their accounts in the District Cooperative Bank, enabling direct payment for milk and easy access to cash through village ATMs. "This model should be replicated across Gujarat and eventually across India," he said.

The Minister further encouraged cooperatives to play a key role in promoting organic farming, seed conservation, and e-market platforms. He announced that NCDFI will facilitate e-auction platforms for pulses, with procurement by NAFED at MSP plus one rupee, aiming to enhance farmer income and make India self-reliant in pulses, oilseeds, and ethanol production.

Shri Shah concluded by underscoring the historical journey of India's cooperative dairy movement—from small beginnings in 1946 inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the nationwide White Revolution—and reiterated the government's commitment to empowering dairy farmers and strengthening India's cooperative sector.

MilkStation Secures \$2.5 Million to Scale Value-Added Dairy Portfolio

Indian dairy-tech startup MilkStation has raised USD 2.5 million in pre-Series A funding to accelerate its expansion and strengthen its portfolio of value-added dairy products. The funding marks a significant milestone in India's fast-evolving premium and innovation-driven dairy segment, reflecting growing investor confidence in differentiated dairy offerings beyond conventional liquid milk.

Founded with a vision to combine quality dairy with consumer convenience, MilkStation has developed a range of premium, freshly processed products including flavoured milk variants, probiotic lassi, specialised curds, and nutritionally enriched dairy formulations. The newly secured capital will be utilised to expand manufacturing capacity, enhance distribution networks, and strengthen research and development capabilities.

The company also plans to deepen its direct-to-consumer (D2C) engagement through digital platforms and subscription-based delivery models. A key focus area will be geographical expansion into tier-II and tier-III cities, where rising incomes, urbanisation, and increasing

health awareness are driving demand for high-quality and functional dairy products.

Investor interest in MilkStation mirrors broader trends in the Indian dairy value chain, where premiumisation and health-oriented products are gaining momentum. As the traditional fluid milk market matures, dairy companies are increasingly exploring specialty formats such as probiotic beverages, lactose-free milk, fortified dairy products and functional drinks that offer higher margins and stronger brand differentiation.

MilkStation's growth strategy is further supported by technology-enabled consumer engagement, including app-based ordering, real-time supply visibility, and personalised nutrition offerings. Its emphasis on quality control, traceability, freshness and clean-label formulations positions the startup competitively against established dairy players as well as emerging direct-to-consumer brands.

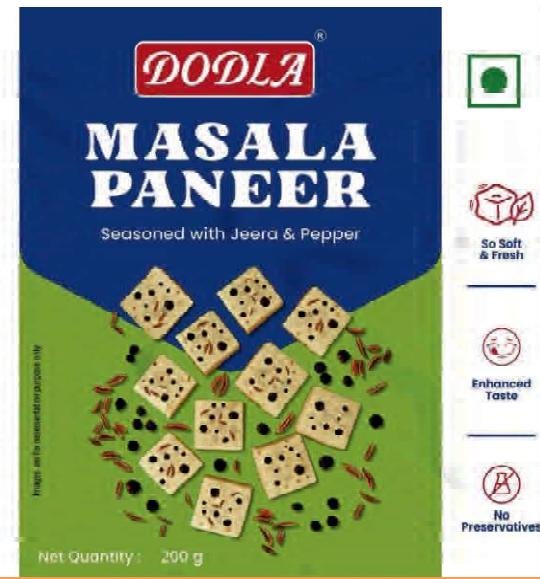
Industry experts note that this funding round reflects a broader surge in venture capital interest in India's dairy innovation ecosystem, driven by shifting consumer lifestyles and demand for convenience-led, health-focused foods. With the Indian dairy market projected to witness sustained growth in the coming decade, startups like MilkStation are expected to play a pivotal role in expanding value-added dairy consumption beyond traditional milk channels.

Despite challenges related to cold-chain logistics and regulatory complexities across regions, MilkStation's successful fundraise signals strong confidence in its execution capabilities and market positioning. As the company scales its operations and product offerings, it is contributing to the transformation of dairy consumption patterns in India by redefining nutrition, taste and modern dairy experiences.

Dodla Dairy Launches Masala Paneer

Dodla Dairy – A Benefactor member of IDA has announced the launch of its newest innovation, Masala Paneer, a first-of-its-kind desi masala-infused paneer designed to redefine Indian snacking. Positioned as a **"Smart Snack"**, the product is quick to prepare, nutritionally rich, and packed with authentic Indian flavours, catering to the needs of today's health-conscious consumers.

Speaking on the occasion, **Shri Sunil Reddy, Managing Director, Dodla Dairy**, said, "At Dodla, we have always been driven by a commitment to innovation and consumer-centric product development. Masala Paneer is a direct response to the growing demand for convenient yet healthy food options that align with



evolving lifestyles and taste preferences."

A Fusion of Tradition and Modern Convenience

Masala Paneer combines the bold flavours of traditional Indian spices with the wholesome goodness of paneer in a ready-to-cook format. Suitable for a mid-day snack, post-workout meal, or a quick bite between meetings, the product enables consumers to prepare nutritious dishes within minutes without compromising on taste or health.

Features

- Ready in Minutes:** Ideal for busy professionals, students, and families
- High in Protein:** Made from pure milk
- No Artificial Additives:** Prepared using natural Indian spices
- Versatile Usage:** Suitable for grilling, stir-frying, or air-frying

Shri B.V.K. Reddy, CEO, Dodla Dairy, added, "With Masala Paneer, we are not just launching a new product, but creating a new category for modern consumers. Rooted in Indian tradition and designed for contemporary lifestyles, this product sets a new benchmark for functional and flavourful snacking."

The product is likely to be available at select retail outlets and on leading e-commerce platforms from 19th Dec., 2025.

New Leadership at Amul Dairy: Shri Parmar and Shri Patel Assume Key Roles

Shri Sabhesinh Parmar of Virpur and Shri Vijay Patel of Dakor were elected unopposed as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Kheda District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Ltd. (Amul Dairy). The leadership



election generated considerable enthusiasm across the Kaira, Anand, and Mahisagar milk-shed regions.

Earlier, in the Board of Directors' elections of Amul Dairy, Shri Sabhesinh Parmar was elected unopposed from the Virpur seat, while Vijay Patel secured victory from the individual member seat. Their subsequent unanimous election to the top posts reflected broad consensus within the cooperative.

The election was conducted on Monday, 15 December 2025, at Amul Dairy under the chairmanship of Provincial Officer Dr. Mayur Parmar. Elected directors of Amul Dairy, office bearers from the Anand, Kheda, and Mahisagar districts, para members, and senior political leaders were present during the proceedings.

Addressing the media, Chairman Shri Sabhesinh Parmar stated that the Board of Directors would work with a strong focus on the welfare of dairy animals and affiliated dairy farmers. He emphasized efforts to ensure remunerative milk procurement prices for producers. Vice Chairman Shri Vijay Patel described Amul Dairy as a leading institution in the cooperative sector and noted that the responsibility of heading a globally renowned organization would be carried out collectively by the entire Board. He highlighted plans for special initiatives aimed at developing new products, improving animal breeds and health, enhancing milk quality, and sustaining Amul Dairy's leadership position in the years ahead.

From Smallholder to Brand Builder: Himachal Dairy Farmer Creates Rs. 1-Crore Farm-to-Consumer Enterprise

In a compelling example of grassroots entrepreneurship, a smallholder dairy farmer from Mawa Kaholan village in Una district of Himachal Pradesh has successfully transformed a modest dairy operation into a thriving farm-to-consumer agri-business in Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Operating under the brand "Farm Fresh Safe Food," dairy entrepreneur Shri Kahol has built a scalable and

profitable enterprise by converting surplus milk into value-added products and engaging directly with urban consumers.

What began with a small herd has steadily expanded under Shri Kahol's leadership. The family today manages around 30 cows, with 15-16 animals in milk at any given time.

Each morning, Shri Kahol personally supplies approximately 2.5 quintals of fresh milk and about 50 kg of processed dairy products-including curd, paneer, butter and lassi-to a dedicated city selling point in Hoshiarpur. Sales typically commence at 7:30 am and are completed within half an hour, driven by strong repeat demand from a WhatsApp-based customer network of nearly 100 regular buyers, supplemented by evening home deliveries.

The enterprise has positioned itself firmly in the premium segment of the local market, with milk priced at Rs. 70 per kg, curd at Rs. 120 per kg, paneer at Rs. 600 per kg, lassi at Rs. 60 per kg, and butter at Rs. 1,000 per kg. On an average day, total sales of milk and dairy products amount to nearly three quintals, generating daily turnover of Rs. 27,000-Rs. 30,000. This translates into monthly revenues of Rs. 8-9 lakh, with estimated profit margins of around 30 per cent.

Beyond dairy, Shri Kahol has adopted an integrated farming model to diversify income streams and reduce risk. The farm includes around 42 fruit-bearing trees-such as mango, amla, apple, lemon, anjeer and guava-whose produce is processed into pickles, murabbas, candies and powders. Seasonal vegetable cultivation contributes an additional Rs. 2,000-Rs.3,000 per day during peak periods, while turmeric grown on the farm is marketed both in raw form and as value-added pickles.

His journey highlights the potential of vertical integration, value addition and direct-to-consumer marketing in enhancing farm profitability. By moving away from bulk commodity sales toward branded products, strong customer relationships and a diversified farm ecosystem, the enterprise has crossed annual revenues of Rs. 1 crore, marking a dramatic shift from subsistence-level dairy farming to a sustainable agri-business model.

The achievement has received institutional recognition as well. Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) honoured Kahol with the Sardar Surjit Singh Dhillon Award for Self-Cultivating Small Farmers under its initiative "Process your own produce and earn profits."

The recognition underscores the growing emphasis on value addition and entrepreneurship as essential drivers of growth in India's dairy and allied sectors, particularly as consumer demand increasingly favours quality, traceability and differentiated products.

International Dairy Market: Overview

As per the latest USDA data during December 8-19, 2025, international market overview are as follows:

EUROPEAN

Western European

European dairy markets continue to face heavy pressure as oversupply weighs on prices. Raw milk values have fallen to multi-year lows, reflecting abundant milk availability and subdued demand. Cream and skimmed milk concentrate prices continue to weaken, while butter prices remain under pressure heading into early-year delivery. Cheese markets are also trending lower, with declines reported across key varieties. Strong milk output in northwest Europe continues to sustain elevated inventories, limiting near-term price support despite seasonal demand expectations.

The European milk supply is projected to decline by approximately 5% over the next decade, tightening raw milk availability across the region. Regulatory pressures, higher compliance costs, demographic shifts, and climate impacts continue to weigh on production capacity. A shrinking milk pool is expected to challenge EU dairy supply chains and drive strategic adjustments by processors to secure milk supplies and maintain utilization rates.

Eastern European

Eastern European milk supplies continue to expand, led by Poland, where collections have increased steadily through 2025 on improved yields. Strong milk flows across the region add to overall European supply growth, while global demand remains insufficient to absorb additional volumes. Elevated availability continues to weigh on market sentiment, limiting near term price recovery despite expectations for slower growth later in 2026.

OCEANIA DAIRY MARKET

New Zealand

DairyNZ recently released their quarterly economic update. Overall, margins are expected to decrease but remain comfortable in the 2025/2026 season as the milk price declines and expenses increase. The report updated the breakeven milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season, an estimate of the milk price needed to cover production costs. The projected breakeven milk price is \$8.50 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS), up from \$8.29 in the 2024/2025 season but down 16 cents

from the last update in September. The increase from last season is primarily driven by higher input costs, with fertilizer and feed costs increasing due to inflation and the impact of the weaker New Zealand dollar on import prices. The forecasted average payout received for milk sales is \$9.92/kgMS, down from \$10.14 in the 2024/2025 season. The December report also introduced the Dairy Confidence Index, a measure of New Zealand dairy farmer confidence over time relative to a base year. In general, the index is intended to indicate whether the New Zealand dairy sector is in a period of expansion or contraction. The index shows confidence is high in 2025 and projected to remain strong into 2026, suggesting continued expansion and investment.

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) event 394, a group in New Zealand that forecasts milk prices decreased their milk price forecast for the 2025/2026 season by 16 cents from \$9.33 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS) to \$9.17/kgMS. The spot value of milk decreased to \$8.04/kgMS from \$8.99/kgMS. The group stated the downward movement in the milk price forecast is due to the weaker than expected results for WMP at GDT event 394, where near-term contracts especially saw large price declines.

Australia

Dairy Australia recently released data on packaged milk sales. In October 2025, milk sales totaled 199.2 million liters, up 0.1 million liters year over year. October sales decreased year over year in New South Wales (down 2.8 percent) and Queensland (down 2.3 percent), while sales increased year over year in Victoria (up 3.4 percent), South Australia (up 4.7 percent), Western Australia (up 0.3 percent), and Tasmania (up 3.8 percent). Packaged milk sales year-to-date in Australia's 2025/2026 season total 802.0 million liters, down 3.8 million liters (down 0.5 percent) season over season. Compared to the 2024/2025 season, year-to-date sales in the 2025/2026 season increased in Victoria (up 1.0 percent), South Australia (up 2.7 percent), Western Australia (up 0.8 percent), and Tasmania (up 1.2 percent) but decreased in New South Wales (down 2.5 percent) and Queensland (down 1.6 percent).

Dairy Australia recently released export data for Australia showing milk export volumes from July – October 2025 totaled 57,293 metric tons, an increase of 16.0 percent compared to export volume totals from July – October 2024.

The November 2025 Production Inputs Monitor Report was recently released by Dairy Australia. Weather conditions improved in key dairy regions, though below-average rainfall totals were recorded throughout much of New South Wales. Water levels in several key

reservoirs remained well below year-ago levels, increasing water prices. Fertilizer prices were mixed; urea prices increased following tightened exports from China, while diammonium phosphate prices were steady. Culling rates remained below year-ago levels. Through November, the volume of cows culled in the 2025/2026 production season was down 17 percent year over year. Lower volumes of cow culls are reflected in the average cull price, up 39 percent compared to the average price at this point in the 2024/2025 season.

SOUTH AMERICA DAIRY MARKET

Argentina's milk production remained strong in November, according to contacts, even after the seasonal peak in October, underscoring a resilient supply. Despite this, official data indicates that November export volumes of whole-milk powder to Brazil declined month-over-month. Powder offers remain firm but are under pressure to align with world market parity. Algeria is quiet, with private demand covered mainly for the first quarter. Skim milk powder markets are stable but limited, with Brazil exhibiting some buying activity at present.

Brazil's dairy market is under pressure as flush season output meets stagnant consumption. Contacts note that domestic prices have weakened, with Ultra-high-temperature (UHT) milk prices falling sharply from mid-year highs into December. Cream also slipped, and whole milk powder (WMP) is trading at higher local values than the landed cost of Argentine product. Imports remain structurally embedded, with Argentina still dominant and Uruguay contributing steady flows. Mozzarella imports from Argentina remain steady month-on-month, but volumes have pulled back notably from 2024 level. Uruguay's mozzarella exports to Brazil have declined in concert, but to a lesser extent, as Uruguay supplies a small volume of this cheese.

As reported for November, Argentina's WMP import volumes into Brazil declined sharply on both a month over-month and year-over year basis. Uruguay increased WMP sales Brazil over the past month, but sales declined relative to the previous year.

Tasmania's Robotic Dairy Sets New Benchmark with Eight Robots Managing 500 Cows

Tasmanian dairy farmer Arjan van Adrichem has been awarded the Innovation Award at the Cadbury Farmer of the Year Awards, recognising his transformation of a family-run dairy into one of Australia's most automated and labour-efficient operations.

Van Adrichem's farm now operates with a network of eight robotic milking systems that collectively manage

milking, herd monitoring and key health diagnostics for a herd of 500 cows. The advanced automation enables the enterprise to function with just one full-time worker for most of the year, a dramatic improvement over the Australian industry average of one worker per 120 cows. This shift has significantly enhanced labour productivity while reducing operational costs.

Beyond milking, the robotic system continuously tracks critical performance and welfare indicators, including feed intake, body weight variation and early signs of lameness. This real-time data supports timely management interventions, improving herd health, animal welfare and overall production efficiency. The farm's adoption of Precision Dairy Farming principles has also helped optimise inputs, minimise waste and strengthen profitability.

The Innovation Award further acknowledges van Adrichem's leadership in silage management and sustainable feeding practices. The use of dedicated feed pads provides shelter to cows during adverse weather, reduces feed losses and prevents soil compaction and damage caused by heavy machinery under wet conditions—contributing to long-term environmental sustainability.

During the awards ceremony, Cadbury announced a \$200,000, two-year support programme aimed at helping dairy farmers measure and reduce carbon emissions while maintaining productivity. Additional awards recognised excellence in milk quality, sustainable farming practices and women's leadership, reflecting the dairy sector's broader commitment to innovation, resilience and responsible growth.

China Imposes 42.7% Provisional Tariffs on EU Dairy Imports

China will impose provisional anti-subsidy tariffs of 21.9% to 42.7% on selected EU dairy products from Tuesday, a move widely seen as retaliation for EU tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles. Most companies will face duties of around 30%, covering products such as milk and cheese, including protected-origin varieties.

The European Commission termed the action "unjustified and unwarranted," noting the decision is provisional and may be revised in the final ruling. China imported about USD 589 million worth of the affected EU dairy products last year. Around 60 companies, including Arla Foods, will face tariffs near 29%, while FrieslandCampina units in Belgium and the Netherlands will pay the highest rate of 42.7%.

The measure is expected to support China's domestic dairy sector, which is grappling with milk surpluses and weak demand.

GDT Event 394 Confirms Bearish Shift in the Global Dairy Commodity Cycle

The Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 394, held on 16 December 2025, confirmed a decisive bearish shift in the global dairy commodity cycle, with the GDT Price Index falling sharply by 4.4% to an average of USD 3,341 per tonne (€2,843). The decline underscores weakening buyer appetite amid comfortable global supply conditions, particularly impacting bulk dairy commodities such as powders and fats.

Whole Milk Powder (WMP) recorded the steepest correction, falling 5.7%, while Skim Milk Powder (SMP) eased by 2.1% to USD 2,431 per tonne (€2,068), reflecting sustained demand softness from key Asian importing regions. Dairy fats continued their downward trajectory, with Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) declining 5.2% to USD 5,602 per tonne (€4,766) and butter slipping 2.5% to USD 5,012 per tonne (€4,264). These movements suggest that the correction in fats is ongoing rather than stabilising.

In contrast, select value-added products demonstrated notable resilience. Cheddar prices remained unchanged at USD 4,646 per tonne (€3,953), indicating stable demand fundamentals, while Mozzarella posted a strong 6.7% gain to USD 3,395 per tonne (€2,888), supported by steady foodservice demand. Lactose emerged as the standout performer, surging 14.4% to USD 1,430 per tonne (€1,217), signalling tightening availability and niche demand strength.

The bearish outcome at Event 394 follows closely on the heels of Event 393, where the GDT Price Index declined by 4.3% to a weighted average of around USD 3,507 per tonne. That auction also saw broad-based weakness in powders and fats, with butter and AMF posting double-digit declines, while cheddar registered a notable 7.2% increase. Traded volumes at Event 393 stood at approximately 34,282 metric tonnes, indicating continued participation but increasingly price-conscious buyer behaviour.

The recent auction results align with the broader correction phase observed in the second half of 2025. After a relatively firm first half supported by tighter supply, milk production across major exporting regions-including Oceania, the European Union and North America-has remained resilient, allowing inventories to rebuild. This improved supply backdrop, combined with cautious purchasing from key importers, particularly China, has shifted market leverage firmly towards buyers.

Looking ahead to early 2026, powder markets are

expected to remain range-bound to slightly soft in the absence of a meaningful demand revival from Asia. Dairy fats may face continued short-term pressure due to ample availability, though rising cream costs could limit further downside. Cheese and other value-added products are likely to outperform bulk commodities, supported by steadier consumption patterns and stronger price realisation.

For the Indian dairy sector, the sustained softness at GDT auctions has important implications despite domestic prices being largely insulated from global benchmarks. Lower international powder prices influence export parity calculations for Indian processors, particularly for SMP and WMP shipments to the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Southeast Asia.

Event CALENDAR

52nd Dairy Industry Conference

Date: 12-13-14 February, 2026

Venue: Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Sec-25, Dwarka, New Delhi

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Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026

Date: 08-10 January, 2026

Venue: Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala

The Indian Dairy Association - Kerala Chapter is pleased to announce the second edition of the Southern Dairy Summit, titled the Southern Dairy and Food Conclave 2026 (SDFC-2026), scheduled to be held from January 8 to 10, 2026, in the historic city of Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala. The theme of the Conclave is "**Transforming Dairy and Food Systems for Global Health**".

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