BACKGROUNDERS
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

National Milk Day

"Celebrating India's Dairy Strength and Farmer Prosperity"

25 November, 2026

Milk at the Heart of India's Nutrition and Rural Economy

Milk occupies a vital place in India's nutritional landscape. It provides high-quality animal protein and essential nutrients, including calcium, magnesium and potassium, in easily absorbable forms. Often regarded as a near-complete food, milk supports growth, bone health and vitality across all age groups.

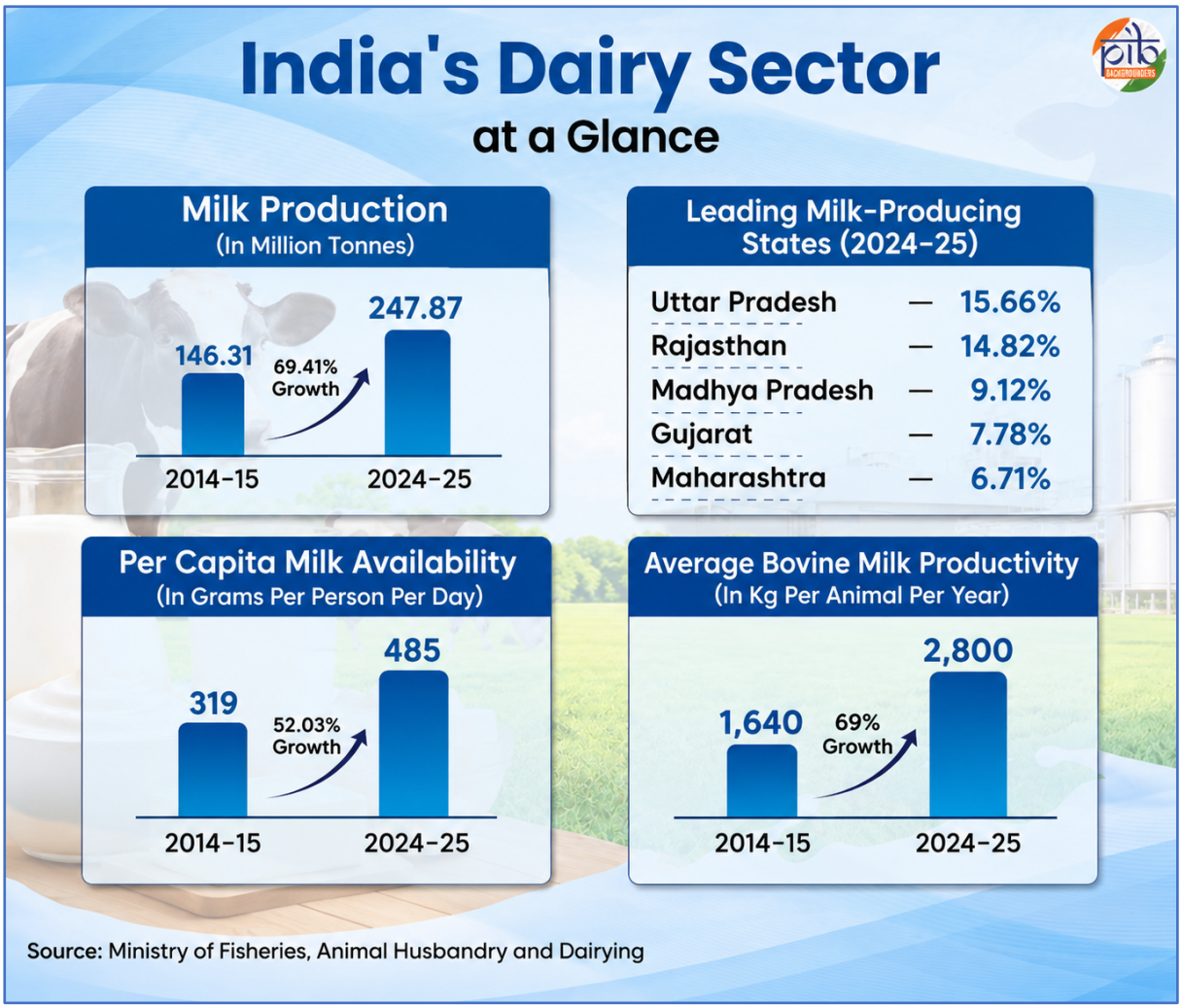
India has consistently remained the **world's largest milk producer**, contributing nearly **one-fourth of global milk production**. Between 2014-15 and 2024-25, production grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **5.41 percent**, reaching **247.87 million tonnes**. This growth also has a significant rural dimension. Dairying provides livelihoods to **8.5 crore rural households**, with women playing a central role in milk production and collection. Nearly **70 percent of India's dairy farming workforce comprises women**, highlighting their contribution to the sector's growth and its role in promoting inclusive rural development.

Observed every year on **26 November**, **National Milk Day** commemorates the birth anniversary of **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, the Father of India's White Revolution. The day recognises his transformative contribution to India's dairy cooperative movement. It honours the millions of dairy farmers whose efforts sustain the country's leadership in milk production.

India's Dairy Sector Records Strong Growth

India has maintained its position as the world's largest milk producer, supported by sustained growth in production and productivity.

- **Milk production** increased by **69.41 percent,** rising from **146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15** to **247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25**.
- **Leading milk-producing States** were Uttar Pradesh (**15.66 percent**), Rajasthan (14.82 percent), Madhya Pradesh (9.12 percent), Gujarat (7.78 percent), and Maharashtra (6.71 percent). These five States accounted for **54.09 percent** of total Milk production in the country.
- **Per capita milk availability** rose by **52.03 percent**, from **319 grams per person per day in 2014-15** to **485 grams in 2024-25**.
- **Average bovine milk productivity** increased from **1,640 kilograms per animal per year in 2014-15** to **2,800 kg per animal per year in 2024-25**, registering growth of **69 percent.**



The Cooperative Strength Behind India's Milk Economy

India's dairy cooperative movement provides an organised platform for milk producers. It connects village-level societies with district milk unions and State federations. These institutions support milk procurement, processing, marketing, and access to dairy services.

To explore the historical journey of India's dairy sector: Click Here

The country's dairy cooperative network comprises:

- **22** milk federations.
- **241** district cooperative milk unions.
- **28** marketing dairies.
- **25** Milk Producer Organisations.
- Coverage of approximately **2.45 lakh** villages and **1.65 crore** dairy farmers as members.

The network provides an institutional link between rural milk producers and organised dairy markets. It also supports collective marketing and access to better organised milk procurement systems.

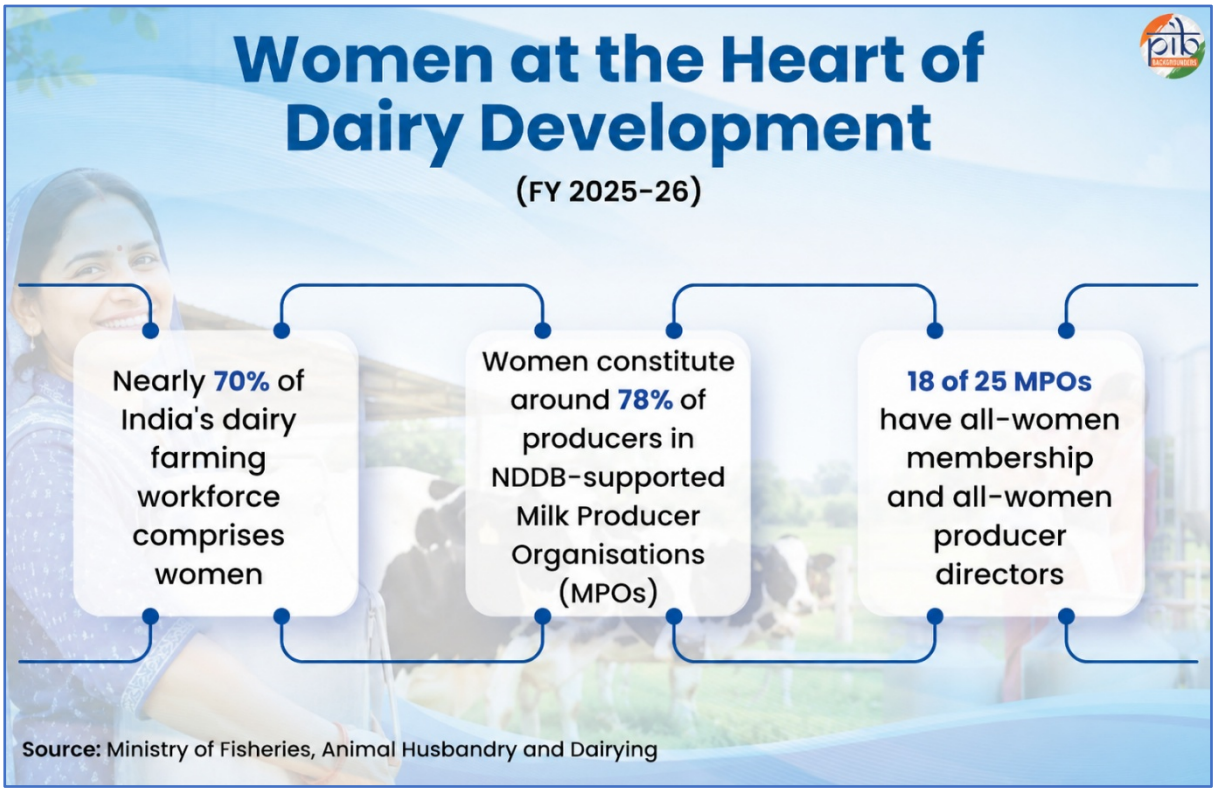
NDDB Dairy Services

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has played an important role in developing farmer-owned dairy institutions in India. Its wholly owned, not-for-profit subsidiary, **NDDB Dairy Services (NDDB-DS)**, facilitates the incorporation and operationalisation of **Milk Producer Organisations (MPOs).**

MPOs are farmer-owned Producer Companies that organise milk producers into professionally managed institutions. They facilitate collective milk procurement, strengthen market linkages, and provide farmers access to transparent pricing and direct bank payments.

As of 31 October 2026,

- NDDB-DS has successfully established **25 MPOs**.
- **18 of these 25 MPOs** have all-women membership, with women serving as all the producer directors on their respective boards.
- These organisations cover **more than 13 lakh milk producers** across **175 districts in 12 States**.
- Women constitute around **78 percent** of the producers in these organisations.
- The MPOs procure around **70 lakh litres of milk per day**.



Milk Procurement and Sales by Dairy Cooperatives

Dairy cooperatives provide an organised market for farmers and help ensure regular procurement of milk. Procurement prices are decided by the cooperatives and other dairies, based on production costs

and market conditions. Many dairy cooperatives use automated milk collection and payment systems. Payments are credited directly to farmers' bank accounts.

As on 31 October 2026**, dairy cooperatives recorded:**

- **690.90 lakh kg per day** of milk procurement.
- **462.95 lakh litres per day** of liquid milk sales.

A New Momentum for Dairy Cooperatives

White Revolution 2.0, a cooperative-led initiative formally launched on 25 December 2024 (SOP launched on 19 September 2024) aims to expand dairy cooperative coverage in uncovered villages and Panchayats. It seeks to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperatives by **50 percent** over the next five years. The initiative focuses on strengthening the cooperative network, improving market access, generating employment, and promoting women's empowerment. The activities envisaged under White Revolution 2.0 are funded under the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD).

By 2028-29, the initiative aims to establish **75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies** in uncovered villages and Panchayats and strengthen **46,422 existing Dairy Cooperative Societies**.

Progress under White Revolution 2.0 as on 31 October 2026,

- **24,097** new Dairy Cooperative Societies formed.
- **31,394** existing Dairy Cooperative Societies strengthened.

Sustainability and Circularity in Dairy Sector

1. **White Revolution 2.0** promotes sustainability and circularity across the dairy value chain. It encourages climate-smart practices, efficient resource utilisation and renewable, low-emission solutions. The initiative advances the vision of **'Gold out of Garbage'** (converting cattle dung and agricultural residues into biogas, organic manure, and value-added bio-fertilizers) through two Multi-State Cooperative Societies:

- **Cooperative Inputs and Services Delivery Multi-State Limited:** It aims to provide quality inputs and services, including animal feed, disease control, and artificial insemination.
- **Gomay Sahkari Samiti Multi-State Limited:** It focuses on the scientific management and utilisation of cattle dung.

2. **GOBARdhan, the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme**, launched on 01 October 2026, aims to **transform India's organic wealth into clean energy, rural prosperity and economic growth**. With an outlay of **Rs.23,731 crore**, the scheme will be implemented from **FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36**.

   It seeks to scale up domestic Compressed Biogas (CBG) production **nearly ten-fold** through assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and credit support. It will strengthen **energy security, mobilise private investment and promote a circular bioeconomy**.

The **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBARdhan)** initiative was originally launched in 2018 under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). It promotes converting organic waste, including cattle dung and agricultural residues, into biogas and bio-slurry, supporting village cleanliness, waste management, and rural livelihoods.

These initiatives strengthen resource circularity and create livelihood opportunities for rural households.

Building a Stronger Dairy Ecosystem

India's dairy sector relies on strong infrastructure, scientific breeding, quality feed and accessible veterinary care. Government initiatives strengthen these areas, improve livestock productivity, protect animal health and enhance returns to dairy farmers.

Strengthening Dairy Infrastructure through NPDD

The National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) seeks to enhance milk production and strengthen dairy infrastructure across the country. It supports milk procurement, processing, value addition, marketing, and milk quality infrastructure.

The programme promotes balanced growth of the dairy sector through **two components**:

Component A: Strengthening Milk Procurement and Quality Infrastructure

Focuses on expanding organised milk procurement networks, strengthening milk processing and value addition infrastructure in the North Eastern Region, hilly areas and Union Territories. It also supports village-level cold chains, milk testing facilities, and training on quality and clean milk production.

Component B: Dairying through Cooperatives

Seeks to increase milk and dairy product sales by improving farmers' access to organised markets. It supports dairy processing and marketing infrastructure and strengthens producer-owned institutions to improve farmers' returns.

Component B is implemented in nine States: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

NPDD's Physical achievements as on 31 October 2026

- **40,800 new Dairy Cooperative Societies organised/revived.**
- **25.82 lakh additional farmers enrolled with 161.17 lakh additional milk procurement**
- **168 lakh litres per day** of milk chilling capacity created.
- **94,000 milk quality testing devices distributed**.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) has been initiated in December 2014 exclusively for development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific holistic manner. The scheme is playing important role in enhancing milk production and productivity of bovines to meet growing demand of

milk and making dairying more remunerative to the rural farmers of the country. Revised in March 2025, the scheme emphasis on strengthening breeding infrastructure and expanding access to advanced reproductive technologies. Its interventions include strengthening semen stations, expanding artificial insemination services, and accelerating breed improvement through advance technologies such as sex-sorted semen & IVF technology.

Progress under RGM,

- **50,023** Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs) trained & equipped.
- **24** In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) laboratories established.
- **48** semen stations are being strengthened.
- **32** heifer rearing centres sanctioned.

Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP)

The programme aims at enhancing Artificial Insemination coverage and delivering quality Artificial Insemination Services at farmer's doorstep with semen of high genetic merit bulls including indigenous breeds.

- **Over 18.71 crore** artificial inseminations performed.
- **Nearly 11.17 crore** Animals covered.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

The Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) supports modern dairy processing, value addition and cold-chain infrastructure in the private sector and cooperatives.

- It provides **3 percent interest subvention** to eligible beneficiaries for 8 years.
- Through AHIDF 258 Dairy processing plants for the private sector and cooperatives have been supported with 3 percent interest subvention since 2020-21. This has leveraged investment of approx. **Rs. 21,797 crores.**
- Projects are approved with **500.58 lakh liters per day of** milk processing capacity and value-addition capacity.

Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

The Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) supports prevention and control of economically important livestock diseases. It also strengthens veterinary infrastructure and provides doorstep veterinary services through Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs).

As of 31 October 2026,

- **4,019 MVUs** were operational across 29 States and Union Territories.
- These units have provided doorstep services to around **1.5 crore farmers** and treated **around 3.3 crore animals.**

National Animal Disease Control Programme

The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), a component of LHDCP, supports Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) control and eventual eradication, alongside Brucellosis control through vaccination and surveillance.

As of 31 October 2026,

- Cumulative FMD vaccination reached more than **152 crore doses**, benefiting around **8 crore farmers**.
- FMD outbreaks declined from 132 in 2019 to 40 in 2025.
- Brucellosis outbreaks declined from 22 in 2019 to 15 in 2025.

Digital Livestock Records through Bharat Pashudhan

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in collaboration with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has developed the ***"Bharat Pashudhan"*** database. Animals registered in the Bharat Pashudhan database are identified through a unique 12-digit ear-tag number, known as ***"Pashu Aadhaar"***. It acts as a primary key for registering all types of transactions done on the animals, such as Vaccination, Breeding, Treatment, etc. The database provides a digital record of identified animals and supports livestock management.

As of 31 October 2026,

- **9,98,55,955** livestock owners have been registered.
- Over **39.42 Crore** Pashu Aadhaar have been issued.

Indian Dairy Products in Global Markets

India's dairy sector serves a large domestic market and is also expanding its presence internationally.

- India exported **97,524.82 MT** of dairy products during 2025-26.
- Export earnings reached **USD 407.12 million** during the year.
- Major export destinations included the **UAE, Saudi Arabia, the USA, Bhutan, and Bahrain**.

These exports reflect the reach of India's dairy products across diverse international markets, extending the sector's presence beyond domestic consumption.

The Strength Behind Every Drop

India's dairy journey reflects the contribution of millions of farmers, women and cooperative institutions. Rising milk production, stronger infrastructure, scientific breeding and improved animal healthcare continue to support the sector's development. National Milk Day honours Dr. Verghese Kurien's legacy and recognises the farmers whose efforts sustain India's dairy leadership, strengthen rural livelihoods and contribute to the nation's nutritional security.

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