National Milk Day

PIB analysis

Celebrating India's Dairy Strength and Farmer Prosperity

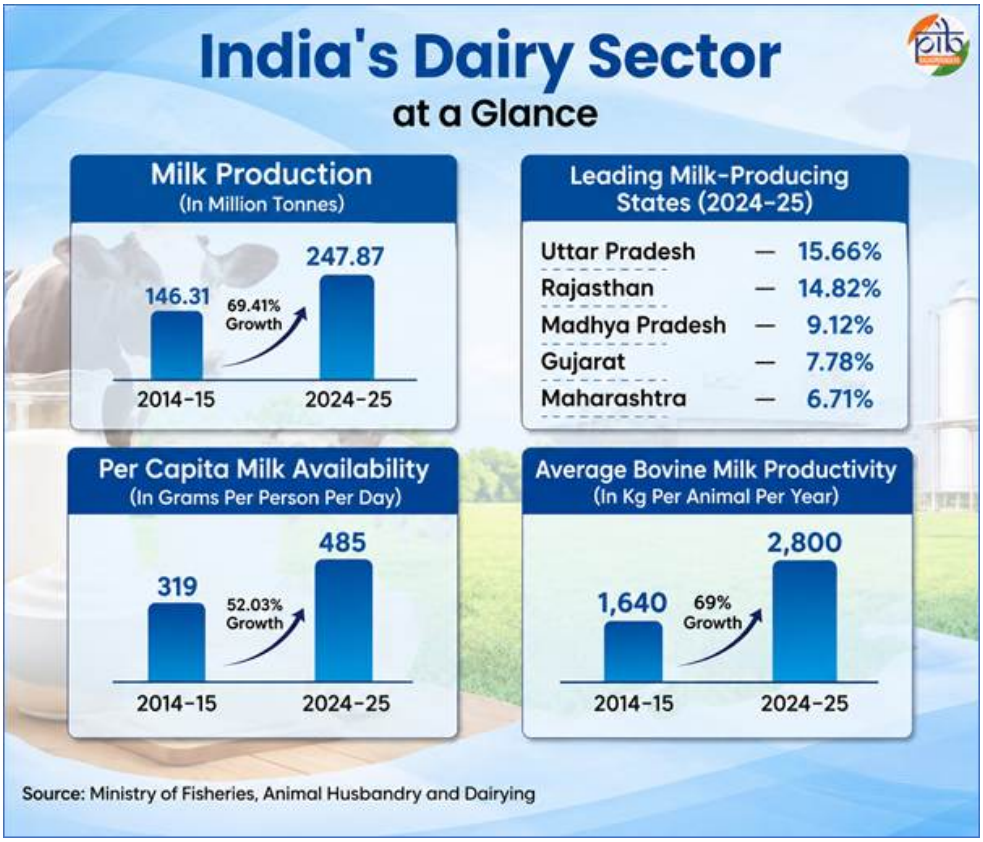
- National Milk Day is observed annually on **26 November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution.
- India remains the world's largest milk producer, contributing nearly **one-fourth of global milk production**.
- The dairy sector supports rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, nutritional security and inclusive economic development.

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

- Milk provides high-quality animal protein and essential nutrients such as calcium, magnesium and potassium, supporting growth, bone health and overall well-being.
- India’s milk production grew at a CAGR of **5.41% between 2014-15 and 2024-25**, reaching 247.87 million tonnes.
- Dairying supports approximately **8.5 crore rural households**, with women constituting nearly 70% of the dairy workforce.

India's Dairy Sector Records Strong Growth

- Milk production increased by **69.41%**, from 146.31 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25.
- Leading milk-producing States include Uttar Pradesh (15.66%), Rajasthan (14.82%), Madhya Pradesh (9.12%), Gujarat (7.78%) and Maharashtra (6.71%), together contributing 54.09% of national production.
- Per capita milk availability increased by **52.03%**, from 319 grams per day in 2014-15 to 485 grams in 2024-25.
- Average bovine milk productivity increased from 1,640 kg to 2,800 kg per animal annually during the same period.



The Cooperative Strength Behind India's Milk Economy

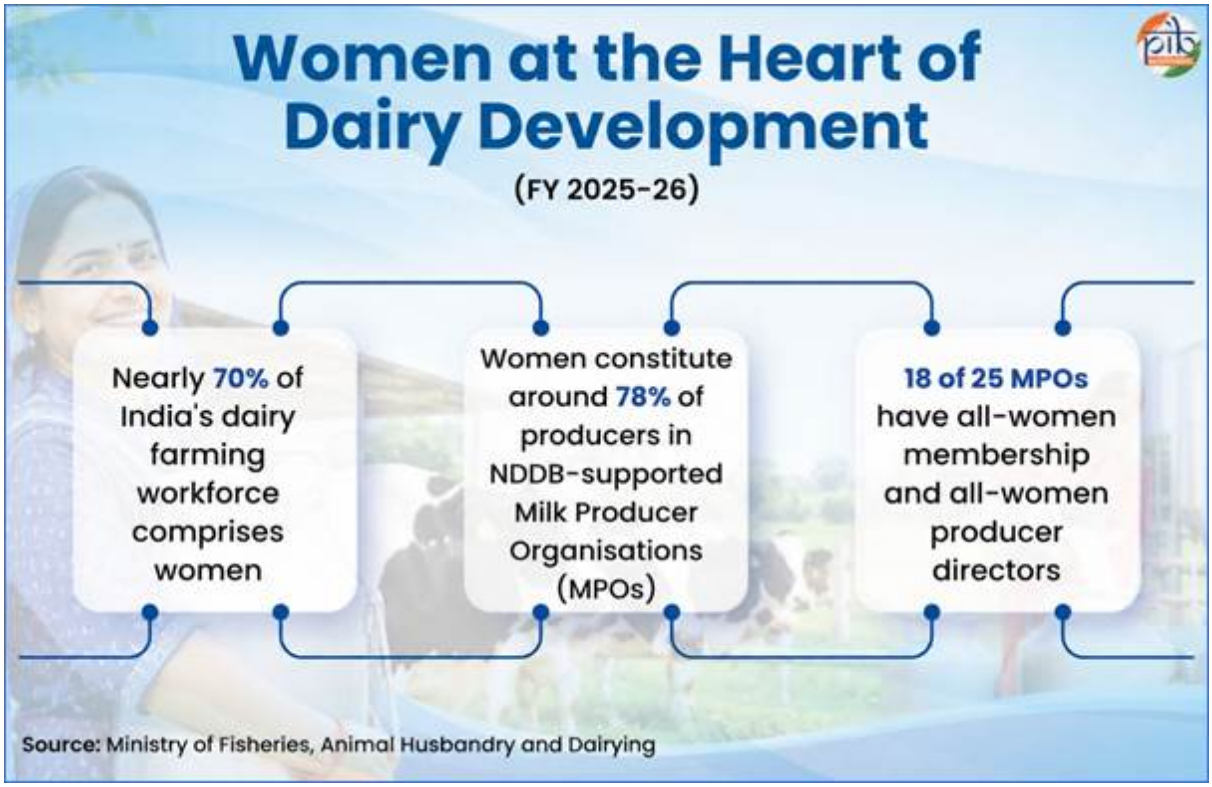
- India's dairy cooperative movement connects village-level societies with district milk unions and State federations, facilitating procurement, processing and marketing.
- The cooperative network comprises:
  - 22 milk federations.
  - 241 district cooperative milk unions.
  - 28 marketing dairies.
  - 25 Milk Producer Organisations (MPOs).
- It covers approximately **2.45 lakh villages and 1.65 crore dairy farmers**, providing organised market access and collective bargaining opportunities.

NDDB Dairy Services

- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), through its subsidiary NDDB Dairy Services, facilitates the establishment of farmer-owned Milk Producer Organisations (MPOs).
- MPOs promote collective procurement, transparent pricing, direct bank payments and professional management.
- As of 31 October 2026:
  - 25 MPOs established, including 18 exclusively women-owned organisations.
  - More than 13 lakh milk producers covered across 175 districts in 12 States.
  - Women constitute approximately 78% of producers.
  - Around 70 lakh litres of milk procured daily.

Milk Procurement and Sales by Dairy Cooperatives

- Dairy cooperatives provide organised markets, regular procurement and direct bank payments to farmers.
- As of 31 October 2026:
    - Daily milk procurement: **690.90 lakh kg**.
    - Daily liquid milk sales: **462.95 lakh litres**.



A New Momentum for Dairy Cooperatives

White Revolution 2.0

- Launched on **25 December 2024**, it aims to expand dairy cooperatives into uncovered villages and Panchayats and increase cooperative milk procurement by 50% within five years.
- It focuses on strengthening cooperatives, improving market access, generating employment and empowering women.
- By 2028-29, it targets:
    - Establishment of 75,000 new Dairy Cooperative Societies.
    - Strengthening of 46,422 existing societies.
- Progress by 31 October 2026:
    - 24,097 new societies established.
    - 31,394 existing societies strengthened.

Sustainability and Circularity in Dairy Sector

- White Revolution 2.0 promotes climate-smart dairying, renewable energy and efficient resource utilisation through the concept of **'Gold out of Garbage'**.
- Two multi-State cooperative societies support this approach:
    - Cooperative Inputs and Services Delivery Multi-State Limited: Provides animal feed, disease control and artificial insemination services.

    - Gomay Sahkari Samiti Multi-State Limited: Promotes scientific management and utilisation of cattle dung.
- **GOBARdhan Scheme (2026):** With an outlay of ₹23,731 crore for 2026-27 to 2035-36, it aims to expand compressed biogas production nearly ten-fold through assured procurement, capital assistance and infrastructure.
- The original GOBARdhan initiative was launched in 2018 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) to convert cattle dung and agricultural waste into biogas and bio-slurry.

Building a Stronger Dairy Ecosystem

Government initiatives focus on infrastructure, scientific breeding, livestock productivity, animal healthcare and improved farmer incomes.

Strengthening Dairy Infrastructure through NPDD

- The **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)** strengthens milk procurement, processing, value addition, marketing and quality infrastructure.
- It has two components:
    - **Component A:** Expands milk procurement, chilling facilities, testing infrastructure and clean milk production, particularly in the North Eastern Region, hilly areas and Union Territories.
    - **Component B:** Strengthens cooperative processing, marketing and producer-owned institutions to improve farmers' market access.
- Component B operates in nine States.
- Achievements by October 2026:
    - 40,800 new or revived cooperative societies.
    - 25.82 lakh additional farmers enrolled.
    - 168 lakh litres per day of milk chilling capacity created.
    - 94,000 milk quality testing devices distributed.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)

- Launched in December 2014, RGM promotes scientific development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.
- Revised in March 2025, it emphasises artificial insemination, sex-sorted semen, IVF technology and breeding infrastructure.
- Progress:
    - 50,023 MAITRIs trained and equipped.
    - 24 IVF laboratories established.
    - 48 semen stations being strengthened.
    - 32 heifer rearing centres sanctioned.

Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP)

- Aims to expand artificial insemination coverage using high-genetic-merit bull semen, including indigenous breeds.
- More than **18.71 crore artificial inseminations** performed, covering nearly 11.17

crore animals.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

- Supports modern dairy processing, value addition and cold-chain infrastructure in private and cooperative sectors.
- Provides **3% interest subvention for eight years**.
- Since 2020-21, supported 258 dairy processing plants, leveraging approximately ₹21,797 crore in investments.

Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

- Strengthens veterinary infrastructure, disease prevention and doorstep veterinary services through Mobile Veterinary Units.
- As of October 2026:
  - 4,019 Mobile Veterinary Units operational across 29 States and UTs.
  - Served approximately 1.5 crore farmers and treated 3.3 crore animals.

National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

- Focuses on controlling and eliminating Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and controlling Brucellosis through vaccination and surveillance.
- More than 152 crore FMD vaccine doses administered, benefiting around 8 crore farmers.
- FMD outbreaks declined from 132 in 2019 to 40 in 2025, while Brucellosis outbreaks declined from 22 to 15.

Digital Livestock Records through Bharat Pashudhan

- Developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying with NDDB, Bharat Pashudhan maintains digital livestock records.
- Each animal receives a unique 12-digit identification number called **Pashu Aadhaar**, recording vaccination, breeding and treatment details.
- By October 2026:
  - 9.98 crore livestock owners registered.
  - More than 39.42 crore Pashu Aadhaar issued.

Indian Dairy Products in Global Markets

- India exported **97,524.82 metric tonnes of dairy products during 2025-26**, earning USD 407.12 million.
- Major export destinations include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, USA, Bhutan and Bahrain.
- Growing exports demonstrate the expanding international presence of India's dairy industry.

The Strength Behind Every Drop

- India's dairy sector combines rising milk production, scientific breeding, cooperative institutions and improved animal healthcare.

- National Milk Day recognises Dr. Verghese Kurien's contribution and millions of dairy farmers, particularly women, whose efforts strengthen rural livelihoods, nutritional security and India's global dairy leadership.

Reference

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