

12 February 2026

52ND DAIRY INDUSTRY CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

EMPOWERING RURAL INDIA THROUGH DAIRY ENTREPRENEURSHIP

12 | 13 | 14 FEB 2026 | Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Delhi

Day 1 Show Daily



Grand Inauguration Marks a Powerful Start for 52nd DIC 2026



Shri Chirag Paswan

Hon'ble Union Minister,
Ministry of Food Processing Industries
(MoFPI), Government of India

Millions of dairy farmers and the entire dairy value chain today serve as a strong bridge connecting rural and urban Bharat, effectively advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat as envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. We must work together across all verticals of dairy processing to continuously improve product quality in line with global benchmarks. We should strive to make Indian quality so high that it itself becomes a global standard. Indian dairy products must find a prominent place in international supermarkets as well as on dining tables across the world. The Government of India remains fully committed to providing every possible support and encouragement to the dairy sector to help it cross many more milestones in the years ahead.

The 52nd Dairy Industry Conference & Exhibition (DIC 2026) was formally inaugurated today at the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi, marking the opening of India's most influential and comprehensive dairy platform. The grand inaugural ceremony brought together national policymakers, institutional leaders and industry stalwarts, underlining the strategic importance of the dairy sector in India's agri-food economy.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by **Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, and Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India, as the Guest of**

Honour. The event also witnessed the distinguished presence of **Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB); Ms. Laurence Rycken, Director General, International Dairy Federation (IDF), Gilles Froment, President, International Dairy Federation (IDF); Smt. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary (CDD & IT), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited (IEML); Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, Indian Dairy Association (IDA); and Dr. Dheer Singh, Director, ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI).**

Together, the leadership symbolised the collective commitment of government, institutions and industry to strengthen India's dairy ecosystem and position it for future global competitiveness.



Glimpses

A strong opening for dialogue and collaboration

Day One of DIC 2026 unfolded with high-energy participation from policymakers, scientists, industry leaders and dairy entrepreneurs. The opening day of the conference set a forward-looking tone for the next three days, with strong focus on productivity, sustainability, innovation and farmer-centric growth. Marking a significant milestone for global collaboration, a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) to organise an upcoming IDF Annual Event in Mumbai in association with IDA, reinforcing India's growing leadership on the global dairy platform.** The inaugural technical sessions drew strong engagement, reflecting the urgency of



addressing climate challenges, digital transformation and value creation across the dairy value chain. In a special recognition ceremony, **women dairy farmers, producers and scientists were honoured with awards across multiple categories by the Hon'ble Ministers and distinguished dignitaries, celebrating their vital contribution to strengthening India's dairy ecosystem.** Delegates actively participated in discussions that linked national policy priorities with on-ground realities of milk production, processing, quality assurance and market access. The conference floor remained abuzz throughout the day with intensive knowledge exchange, networking and cross-sector collaboration.



Trailblazers Speak: Leadership Voices Shaping Indian Dairying



Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel,

Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India

The dairy sector today runs a parallel economy in the country and holds immense potential to help farmers achieve the goal of doubling their income, in line with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister. India has witnessed an astounding growth in its dairy sector, with a record milk production of nearly 248 million tonnes, reflecting the strength of our farmers and institutions. Our growth rate and per capita milk availability have surpassed several countries that were once global leaders in the dairy sector, and today India stands as a world leader across almost every dimension of dairy development. DIC 2026 plays a critical role in bridging policy, science and farmers by creating direct access to innovations and institutional support systems that can significantly improve income stability and operational efficiency in rural dairy households.

Dr. Meenesh Shah

Chairman, National Dairy Development Board

India's cooperative-led dairy model must evolve with modern technologies and new business structures to remain globally competitive. Digital traceability, energy-efficient processing and integrated cold chain infrastructure are now essential components of future dairy systems. DIC 2026 creates a unique platform where institutions, technology providers and entrepreneurs can jointly design scalable solutions for productivity enhancement, quality assurance and sustainability across the country's diverse dairy landscape.



Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh

President, Indian Dairy Association

The Indian Dairy Association has always worked as a unifying platform for industry, institutions, researchers and policymakers to strengthen India's dairy ecosystem. DIC is one of IDA's flagship initiatives and plays a pivotal role in bringing the entire dairy value chain under one roof. Through DIC, we enable meaningful knowledge exchange, showcase cutting-edge technologies and create business opportunities that directly support productivity enhancement, quality improvement and sustainable growth. The platform also helps align policy priorities with industry needs and farmer aspirations, thereby contributing to a modern, efficient and globally competitive dairy sector.



Dr. Rakesh Kumar,
Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited

DIC 2026 has emerged as one of the most comprehensive dairy industry platforms in the country. The exhibition and conference together significantly accelerate technology adoption and foster strong partnerships between solution providers, processors and cooperatives. Such integrated platforms strengthen India's visibility in the global dairy marketplace and support the transition towards high-quality, sustainable and innovation-driven dairy operations.



Ms. Laurence Rycken,
Director General, International Dairy Federation (IDF)

I am delighted to explore India's diverse and farmer-driven dairy practices and to learn from its strong cooperative and institutional ecosystem. India's progress in productivity, technology adoption and inclusive growth offers valuable insights for the global dairy community. Strengthening institutional frameworks, extension systems and digital monitoring mechanisms will be crucial for achieving long-term sustainability in the dairy sector, particularly to improve animal health, traceability, efficiency and climate resilience across the value chain.



Gilles Froment,
President, International Dairy Federation (IDF)

I am truly enthusiastic to be part of DIC 2026 and to witness India's remarkable dairy journey first-hand. India's farmer-led and cooperative-driven model, combined with its growing focus on technology, sustainability and value addition, offers powerful lessons for the global dairy community. The world can learn a great deal from India's scale, resilience and innovation in dairy development. Platforms such as DIC play a vital role in showcasing India's vast dairy potential and in strengthening global collaboration for a more sustainable and competitive dairy future.

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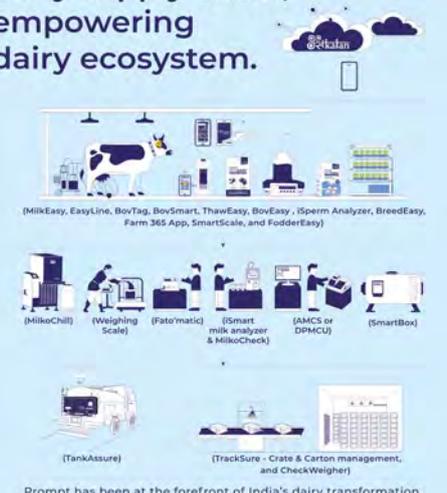
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Exhibition Declared Open

Big Brands, Global Technology and Powerful Partnerships

The exhibition at DIC 2026 was formally declared open today by Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India in the presence of Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Dairy

Development Board and Shri Sudhir Kumar Singh, President, Indian Dairy Association, along with senior office bearers and members of the Indian Dairy Association.

The exhibition floor opened to an impressive showcase of leading Indian and international brands representing dairy machinery, advanced processing lines, packaging solutions, laboratory and quality testing equipment, cold chain systems,

animal nutrition and veterinary healthcare solutions, and digital farm management technologies. Several global technology providers and Indian innovators unveiled next-generation production systems, smart dairy equipment, sustainability-driven processing technologies and export-oriented plant infrastructure.

Backed by strong institutional support from the Indian Dairy Association, the National Dairy Development Board and key ministries including the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Ministry of MSME, the exhibition has firmly positioned itself as one of the most credible sourcing and collaboration platforms for cooperatives, private processors and emerging dairy enterprises.



Knowledge Sessions and Memorial Lectures Set the Narrative



The Farmer's Session, themed "Voices from the Grassroots", powerfully captured the realities and aspirations of India's dairy farmers by bringing frontline experiences to the centre of the national dairy dialogue. The session featured distinguished panellists including Shri Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Chairman, MCX; Shri Aseem Singh Rawat, CEO, Hetha Organics; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, Patna Dairy Project; Shri Ashok Chaudhary, Chairman, GCMF Ltd., Anand; Shri K. S. Mani, Chairman, MILMA; and Shri Dhiraj Kumar, Deputy General Manager, New India Assurance. Moderated by Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, CEO, Suruchi Consultant, Noida, the session highlighted farmer-to-farmer learning, youth participation in dairying and practical pathways for strengthening rural livelihoods through entrepreneurship and technology adoption.

The day also featured the prestigious Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture and the Prof. M. R. Srinivasan Memorial Lecture, delivered in the presence of national leadership including Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB; Dr. Dheer Singh, Director, ICAR-NDRI and senior representatives from dairy cooperatives and industry bodies. The lectures reflected on

India's cooperative legacy while outlining future pathways for science-led, sustainable and technology-driven dairy growth.

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CEO Conclave and Leadership Conversations for Driving Tomorrow's Dairy

The high-level CEO's Conclave - Dairy Sector Leadership Dialogue provided a strategic platform for industry leaders to deliberate on the future of India's dairy ecosystem, focusing on collaboration between cooperatives, private enterprises and start-ups, and investments in modern dairy infrastructure. The conclave was chaired by Shri Rajit Punhani, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), with Shri Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, GCMMF Ltd. as Co-Chairman. Eminent panellists included Shri Jai Agrawal, Chairman, Gyan Dairy; Shri Yogesh Godbole, Managing Director, Kolhapur Milk

Union; Dr. K. Rathnam, Whole-time Director & CEO, Milky Mist; Shri Vinay Sareen, CEO, IndiFoss Analytical Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Pawan Marwaha, CEO, JMF; and Shri Rupesh Raj, Managing Director, VPMU, Patna. Moderated by Mr. Ashutosh Manohar, former Managing Director, Tetra Pak, the conclave underlined the urgent need for innovation-driven growth, quality assurance and scalable partnerships to build a globally competitive Indian dairy industry.




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A Cultural Close to a powerful opening day

The first day of the 52nd Dairy Industry Conference & Exhibition concluded on a vibrant note with a cultural programme, followed by the official conference dinner. Participation from IDA members, NDDB officials, ICAR scientists and senior dairy industry executives ensured that the discussions remained grounded in operational realities while aligning with national and global dairy trends.

The evening provided a relaxed yet purposeful environment for industry leaders, policymakers, researchers and business delegates to network, exchange ideas and explore collaborative opportunities. The networking dinner reinforced DIC 2026's role as not only a knowledge and technology platform, but also a strategic meeting ground for long-term partnerships that will shape the future of Indian and global dairying.

