

Milma to open Kerala's sole milk powdering unit



The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma) is gearing up to offer its milk powder brand by launching a mega powdering unit at Moorkanad near Valanchery in Malappuram district. The unit being set up in 12.5 acres will be the State's first and only milk conversion factory.

Milma officials hope to launch the unit by March next year. When the ₹100 crore facility becomes functional, it will be Milma's largest single project in the State. It will be able to convert one lakh litres of surplus milk every day. If stretched, the unit can process up to 1.30 lakh litres.

Swedish multinational Tetra Pak is setting up modern milk conversion machines for Milma at a cost of ₹51 crore.

Punjab committed to diversify agriculture: Minister Kuldeep Dhaliwal



Punjab minister for animal husbandry, fisheries and dairy development, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, held a meeting with progressive dairy farmers and fish farmers at the livestock complex in Sector 68, where he discussed the problems being faced by them.

Dhaliwal said that Punjab is committed to diversify agriculture, for which a massive campaign will be launched across the state to promote allied occupations of agriculture, dairy farming, fisheries and animal husbandry in a big way to make the state a leader in this field.

The minister also appealed to the youth to opt for these allied farming practices and said that the government will extend maximum help to those who are willing to adopt them.

Dairy farmers to launch agitation on May 21 in Punjab



Dairy farmers of Punjab have announced to open a front against the Bhagwant Mann government of the state by announcing launch of an agitation from May 21 for non-redressal of their demands, including that for financial assistance.

Daljit Singh Sadarpura, president, Progressive Dairy Farmers Association (PDFA) said, that the dairy farmers had high hopes and expectations from the present government but the issues have not been resolved, especially increase in milk prices and demand for financial assistance of ₹ 7 per kg.

"Farmers had played a major role in promoting dairy in Punjab, and in making the state a dairy rich state of the country," he said, adding that in the last four years, milk prices have not been increased at par with the input cost because of which the dairy industry is reeling under financial burden.

India should keep dairy products out of all free trade pacts : Balyan

As India plans to sign a slew of Free-Trade Agreements (FTAs) with several countries in the near future, the ministry for animal husbandry is of the firm view that milk and dairy products should never form part of any such trade deal to protect the interest of farmers, minister of state Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said.

India is planning to enter into FTAs with the United Kingdom, Canada, European Union (EU), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Israel. It has already signed FTAs with UAE and Australia in the last few months. Of all, these countries, UK, Canada and EU are significant producers of milk in the world.

Meanwhile, Balyan also batted for further increase in milk procurement prices as input costs have gone up sharply in the last six months. Atul Chaturvedi, secretary, department of animal husbandry and dairying, said the dairy exports increased by 100 percent during the last fiscal year. He noted that 70-80 per cent of the consumer prices are passed to farmers.



Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Flags Off 175 Veterinary Ambulances For Livestock Welfare



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a fleet of 175 mobile ambulance veterinary clinics (MAVCs) at the CM camp office in Tadepalli on Thursday. The government has established MAVCs, under the 'Dr YSR Sanchaara Pasu Aarogya Seva' initiative, to provide improved access to medical and veterinary services at the doorstep.

In Phase 1, the Andhra government invested Rs 143 crore on 175 ambulances, with the remaining 165 vehicles costing Rs 135 crore to be launched in the second phase. Out of 340 ambulances, the chief minister flagged 175 vehicles in the first phase, each for one assembly constituency.

All emergency services, including artificial insemination and early veterinary diagnostics, would be handled by the ambulances. In the event of an emergency, these ambulances will also perform the 'Hydraulic Lift' service, which will lift animals and transport them to the nearest government veterinary hospital.

North India suffering from a fodder crisis

Farmers across North India are planting mustard instead of wheat this rabi season. This is not just because mustard requires less water compared to wheat, but because an unusually hot beginning to the summer season has led to a reduction in the wheat crop yield, which in turn, has led to a shortage of fodder in many states.

States like Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have imposed a ban on sending straw to other states. Last year, wheat straw was being sold at Rs 400-600 per quintal. This year, it is being sold at Rs 1,100-1,700 per quintal, three times the price. In Rajasthan, it has risen to Rs 2,000 per quintal.

The rise in prices is a combined consequence of an unrelenting summer, water shortage as well as better prices for other crops like mustard and gram, which is discouraging farmers from growing wheat. Sorghum could not be cultivated last year either because of water shortage.

Officials from the department of animal husbandry on the other hand blame mechanisation, declining hand holdings and encroaching of grazing areas for the shortage.



Assam joins hands with Tatas, National dairy board to boost jobs



The Assam government has tied up with Tata Technologies Limited (TTL) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to ensure a “paradigm shift” in the state’s technical education and dairy sectors.

The memorandum of agreement with Tata Technologies Limited, signed in Guwahati on Wednesday between principal secretary (skill, employment and entrepreneurship department) B. Kalyan and MD (TTL) Warren Harris, will see 34 polytechnic colleges and 43 ITIs transformed into centres of excellence, a step aimed at making those trained at these institutes industry-ready.

The joint initiative will see Assam produce 15 to 20 thousands technically-efficient youth every year. The entire upgrade will take off by May 10, 2023 with the PWD (Building) department implementing the project under TTL.

“As part of the Rs 2390.80-cr project, we’ll provide built-up space of 12,000 sq ft in each institute for setting up technology labs & workshops in which around 20,000 students can be upskilled every year for recruitment. Assam Govt will bear Rs 366.06 cr in the total project cost,” chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma tweeted.



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