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Union Minister Shri Jitendra Singh Launched India's First Cattle Genomic Chip "IndiGau"

Union Minister of State (I-Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (I-Charge) Earth Sciences Shri. Dr. Jitendra Singh released "IndiGau", India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like, Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc. This chip will have practical utility in the Governments schemes to achieve the goal of conservation of our own breeds with better characters and help towards doubling of farmers' income by 2022.

This indigenous chip was developed by the concerted efforts of scientists of National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad which is an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology. At this occasion, Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT, Senior scientists of NIAB and senior officials of DBT were present.



Efforts on for early completion of 19 Mega Food Parks in country : FPI Minister

Minister of Food Processing Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras deliberated that efforts are being made for early completion of 19 Mega Food Parks in the country. He said, these food parks will provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing and strengthen the value chain from farm to market. Ministry has accorded final approval to 38 Mega Food Parks and in-principle approval to three Mega Food Parks in the country.

Out of these, 22 Mega Food Park projects have been made operational. The Minister said, efforts have been made to boost value addition in 22 perishables like Mango, Banana, Apple, Pineapple by the Ministry to supplement the income of farmers. Mr. Paras said, there is huge scope for Mini Food Parks in North Eastern Region and in North Bihar.



Mother Dairy Calcutta to be renamed as 'Bangla Dairy'

Chief Minister of West Bengal Smt. Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday announced rechristening Mother Dairy as "Bangla Dairy". "Mother Dairy Calcutta, which comes under the state government, will now be rechristened as Bangla Dairy," Banerjee said while holding a Press conference at Nabanna. According to the experts, the move has been taken to maintain parity with the Biswa Bangla brand and at the same time to create a brand distinction from the "Mother Dairy", which comes under the Central government. "The state is sufficient in milk production. Then why should we not set up Bangla Dairy," stated Banerjee. The Chief minister added: "I have given directions in this regard repeatedly. Now direction has been given to the Chief Secretary and principal Secretary of the Animal Resource Development department to take up the issue."

2,000 Milkmen in Assam Join Hands, Donate Part of Income to Help Fund-starved School

In a noble gesture, nearly 2,000 milkmen of a cooperative society in Assam have decided to donate 15 paise per litre of milk sold to run the higher secondary section of a school, which has not received any government funding so far. With the funds collected through this initiative, the Sitajakhala Milk Cooperative Society, one of the oldest and largest dairy cooperatives of the state located in Morigaon district, two days ago handed over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh to Sitajakhala Higher Secondary School to run classes 11 and 12. "Children of our milkmen are students of this school. The lower level of the school was provincialized (taken over by the government) in 1986.

Lack of livestock health infrastructure worrying, says parliamentary panel

Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying citing a report said that testing and treatment facilities for veterinary diseases are woefully lacking in India. Many villages in India still lack basic testing facilities and required infrastructure. In many cases, even if samples are taken, they needed to be sent to the nearby block or district facilities for test results, the report noted. The absence of testing facilities and required infrastructure is not only troublesome for livestock owners but also pose the danger of zoonotic diseases.



"The Committee said skilled people are needed at the grassroots level to solve this problem."

Some states do have mobile veterinary units in villages for basic testing facilities. However, most of them are inefficient due to paucity of funds or lack of resources. India has 256 state laboratories, 56 veterinary colleges laboratories, 33 ELISA laboratories, five regional and one central disease diagnostic laboratories. But these are insufficient to deal with a vast country like India, the report said.

Moreover, vaccination — considered the most effective method against many diseases — is still not being used effectively. Many farmers who are dependent on animal husbandry department, lost their animals after inoculation due to the inefficiency of vaccines. They neither got any compensation, nor had any proper communication channel been set up between animal owners and the animal husbandry department. The committee observed that until now there was no provision to compensate the owner in case of death after vaccination. To deal with such issues, it suggested setting up one stop centres at the grassroots level.

CEDSI Organized Industrial Training Program for Prabhat Dairy Maharashtra

CEDSI organized a training program to upskill the field employees of Prabhat Dairy, objective of the training program was to increase the operational efficiency of field employees. The two-day training program covered key areas like Milk Shed survey, Milk Sourcing, Milk Testing, Milk Transportation and Logistics efficiency, Feed and Fodder Management, Veterinary and Extension services. Such an Industrial Training program increases the work efficiency of employees contributing to the growth of the organization.



International: First online, practical dairy training series in Sri Lanka successfully completed

Close to 120 dairy farmers, farm managers, extension officers and other professionals in the fast-developing dairy sector in Sri Lanka have successfully completed a training course in sustainable feed and waste management. Of the 6 planned training sessions, 2 were conducted fully online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is the first time this kind of training session for the dairy industry took place in Sri Lanka.

The bespoke training with a focus on practical, hands-on skills, was commissioned by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka with financial support from Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO; Rijksdienst Voor Ondernemend Nederland). It was conducted by a Dutch consortium of HollandDoor, Wageningen Livestock Research and Wellantcollege, in close collaboration with local partners such as All Island Dairy Association (AIDA) and the University of Peradeniya.

Start-up: This start-up is creating 'real' dairy, without cows

We've grown used to oat milk and soya milk — now a food-tech start-up is taking alternative milk to the next level. California-based Perfect Day uses fungi to make dairy protein that is "molecularly identical" to the protein in cow's milk, says co-founder Ryan Pandya. That means it can be used to make dairy products such as cheese and yogurt.

"We were interested in the question of what is in milk... that gives it incredible versatility and nutrition that is somehow missing from the plant-based milks," says Pandya.

Perfect Day has assembled the gene that codes for whey protein in cow's milk, and introduced it into a fungus. When the fungus is grown in fermentation tanks, it produces whey protein, which is then filtered and dried into a powder used in products including cheese and ice cream — which are already on the shelves in the United States and Hong Kong.

Although Perfect Day's protein contains no lactose, hormones or cholesterol, it isn't suitable for people with a dairy allergy. But as the process involves no animals, Pandya describes the product as "vegan-friendly." It's also good for the environment.

"[It's for] people who still love dairy, but want to feel better about it for themselves, for the planet, and for the animal," says Pandya.

In 2020, Perfect Day launched Brave Robot ice cream with The Urgent Company, and partnered with ice cream brands N!ck's and Graeter's to make its products available in 5,000 stores across the United States. The next product in development is cream cheese, due to be released later in 2021, says Pandya.



Photo: Chemical and biological engineer Ryan Pandya (left) and biomedical engineer Perumal Gandhi (right) founded Perfect Day in 2014

TRICOR promoting poultry, dairy farms for tribals: Deputy CM Pushpasrivani

Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation (TRICOR) would undertake huge poultry and animal husbandry projects at a cost of Rs. 271 crore, said Deputy Chief Minister Pamula Pushpasrivani after Sataka Bulli Babu assumed charge as the chairman of TRICOR here on Wednesday. The Deputy Chief Minister said that the State government is focusing on providing self-employment to the Girijans this year with cooperation from the Central government.

She said that the proposals have been made ready to set up an animal husbandry project with the joint partnership of ITDA-TICOR at a cost of Rs. 242.89 crore which includes setting up 242 Gokulams to raise cattle. Likewise, backyard poultry-rearing would be promoted benefiting 13,500 Girijan families at a cost of Rs 28.34 crore.

