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No. 11

Sri Vijaya Puram, Sunday, January 11, 2026

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Rs. 3.00

Pages 4

The Daily Telegrams

...the Largest Circulating Daily of the Islands

Sri Vijaya Puram will have partly cloudy sky. Maximum and Minimum temperature will be around 30.0°C and 25.0°C respectively on Sunday 11/01/2026. Maximum Temperature (°C) of Date: 29.8 Minimum Temperature (°C) of Date: 25.7 Relative Humidity (%) at 0830 IST : 070 Relative Humidity (%) at 1730 IST : 071 Sunrise time on 11/01/2026 (in IST): 0542 Sunset time on 11/01/2026 (in IST): 1712 Rainfall upto 0830 hrs of date (last 24 hrs)- in mm: 000.0 Rainfall upto 1730 hrs of date in mm: 000.0 Rainfall (Progressive total from 1st January 2025 upto 0830 hrs (of date) in mm: 002.0



Mandatory Levy of Service Charge by Restaurants Violates Consumer Law: CCPA Automatic Addition of Service Charge Declared Unfair Trade Practice

Penalties imposed up to Rs.50,000; restaurants directed to refund service charge and modify billing systems

New Delhi, Jan. 10 (PIB)

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has taken suo motu cognizance against 27 restaurants located across the country for violation of consumer rights and adoption of unfair trade practices under Section 2(47) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, relating to the mandatory levy of service charge.

The action follows the judgment of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 28 March, 2025, which upheld the Guidelines issued by CCPA on levy of service charge. The Court held that mandatory collection of service charge by restaurants is contrary to law and observed that all restaurant establishments are required to adhere to the CCPA guidelines. The Court further affirmed that CCPA is fully empowered to enforce its guidelines in accordance with law.

[The Guidelines to Prevent Unfair Trade Practices and Protection of Consumer Interest with Regard to Levy of Service Charge in Hotels and Restaurants, issued by CCPA on 4 July, 2022, stipulate that:](#)

➢ No hotel or restaurant shall add service charge automatically or by default in the food bill.

➢ No service charge shall be collected by any other

name.

➢ Consumers shall not be forced to pay service charge and must be clearly informed that it is voluntary and optional.

➢ No restriction on entry or provision of services shall be imposed based on refusal to pay service charge.

➢ Service charge shall not be added to the bill and subjected to GST.

Investigations revealed that several restaurants, including Café Blue Bottle, Patna, and China Gate Restaurant Private Limited (Bora Bora), Mumbai, were automatically levying a 10% service charge by default, in clear violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 and the CCPA Guidelines, which have now been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The action was initiated based on complaints received on the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), supported by invoices clearly reflecting default addition of service charge. A detailed investigation established that such practices amount to Unfair Trade Practice under Section 2(47) of the Act.

[In the case of Café Blue Bottle, Patna, the CCPA](#)

directed the restaurant to:

• Refund the full amount of service charge to the consumer.

• Discontinue the practice of levying service charge with immediate effect.

• Pay a penalty of Rs. 30,000.

In the case of China Gate Restaurant Private Limited (Bora Bora), Mumbai, the restaurant refunded the service charge during the hearing.

The CCPA further directed the restaurant to:

• Modify its software-generated billing system to remove default addition of service charge or any similar charge.

• Pay a penalty of Rs. 50,000 for violation of consumer rights and unfair trade practice.

• Ensure that its email ID available on public platforms remains active and functional at all times for effective consumer grievance redressal, as mandated under the Act.

The Central Consumer Protection Authority is closely monitoring complaints received on the National Consumer Helpline regarding levy of service charge and will continue to take strict action against non-compliant restaurants to safeguard consumer rights and prevent unfair trade practices.

Special Camp to be conducted today at all Polling Stations to enable electors to verify their names in the draft roll Period for filing claims & objections will be upto Jan. 22

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 10

The Chief Electoral Officer, A&N Islands has informed that as per the schedule of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) the draft electoral roll-2026 was published on 23rd December, 2025 in this UT of Andaman & Nicobar Parliamentary Constituency. The period for filing claims and objections period will be upto 22nd January, 2026.

All prospective 18+ electors or any person whose name is not reflected in the Draft Electoral Roll may apply for inclusion by submitting Form-6 along with the declaration form to their respective BLO or through online

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION - 2026
NO ELIGIBLE VOTER TO BE LEFT OUT
CLAIMS & OBJECTIONS PERIOD
23rd DECEMBER 2025 TO 22nd JANUARY 2026
"The Election Department will conduct Special Camps at all Polling Stations on the below-mentioned date and time. Please visit your respective Polling Station for any electoral-related queries."

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

10th - 11th January, 2026

at all Polling Stations (09:00 AM to 05:00 PM)

Don't miss the opportunity to Register as a Voter
Call Voter Helpline 1950
Issued By: CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, A & N ISLANDS
Voter Helpline 1950
by visiting ECI portal: voters.eci.gov.in. For corrections of entries, electors are required to submit Form-8. Objections, can be filed

[\(Contd. on last page\)](#)

Capacity Building Programme on Technology Integration for teachers concludes

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 10

The valedictory function of the three-day Capacity Building Training Programme on "Empowering Foundational Education Teachers as KRP through Technology Integration: Enhancing Classroom Teaching through Tablets" concluded today.

Addressing the participants as the chief guest, Smti. Sangeeta Chand, Principal, SIE / DIET urged them to effectively disseminate the knowledge and skills acquired during the training to their



respective schools, clusters, and educational zones, thereby ensuring wider academic impact.

Prof. Indu Kumar, Head, Department of Training and ICT, CIET-NCERT, along with her team, conducted engaging and hands-on sessions during the programme. They demonstrated the

[\(Contd. on last page\)](#)

Central Government's Mega Projects to propel A&N Islands on the path of progress ; says Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha

Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 10

The Central Government, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, has invested several thousand crores of rupees in the development of mega infrastructure projects in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, which are expected to bring about a transformative change in the region in the coming years. These initiatives will significantly benefit the islanders and place the Islands firmly on the path of sustained economic growth, said the Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Arun Singh, while interacting with media persons here today.

Highlighting key initiatives, the Hon'ble MP stated that the International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Campbell Bay is a major strategic project of national importance. He also enumerated several landmark projects completed in recent years that have greatly benefited the island population, including the commissioning of the CAANI Project, the Azad Hind Setu, and the new



terminal building of the Veer Savarkar International Airport.

Expressing his happiness over visiting the Islands, Shri Arun Singh remarked that the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have attained the stature of a 'Tirtha Sthal' owing to the supreme sacrifices made by India's freedom fighters. He paid rich tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Veer Savarkar and numerous unsung heroes who played a pivotal role in the country's freedom struggle.

Referring to the G RAM G Scheme, the Hon'ble MP explained that it is part of India's vision for a Viksit Bharat, enacted through the G RAM G Act, 2025, which replaces the MGNREGA. The new framework aims to modernize rural employment by guaranteeing 125 days of work, integrating employment generation with the creation of durable infrastructure, strengthening digital planning through Viksit Gram Panchayats, and ensuring faster and more predictable wage payments, in line with the goal of Viksit Bharat@2047.

He further stated that the scheme has been introduced with several amendments to make it more public-friendly. Emphasizing a shift towards asset creation, the scheme leverages advanced technology and adopts a Centre-State funding model. The scheme is designed to integrate employment generation with infrastructure development across four priority verticals: water security through water-related works, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and special works aimed at mitigating the impact of extreme weather events.

Valedictory programme of training on papad, pickle, masala powder making held



Sri Vijaya Puram, Jan. 10

A 20 days Papad, Pickle, Masala Powder Making training programme organized by State Bank of India Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Sri Vijaya Puram concluded today.

[\(Contd. on last page\)](#)

Beach Sports Festival gets underway at Nimbutala with fanfare; series of beach sports events conducted on the inaugural day

Rangat, Jan. 10

Beach Sports Festival under the calendar of events 2025 - 2026 of A&N Administration got underway today at the Raman Bagicha Beach, Nimbutala today. The sports festival was inaugurated by the Pramukh, Panchayat Samiti Rangat, Ms. Sita Majhi as the chief guest in the presence of Zilla Prashid Members, Panchayat Samiti Members,



Pradhans of Rangat Tehsil, Officials of all line Departments and a large gathering of general public and visitors. The event is being organized by the office of the Assistant Commissioner, Middle Andaman, Rangat in collaboration with Department of IP&T, A&N Administration. The chief guest also gave away prizes to the winners of the sprint event.

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Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules of Foreshore Sector/ Inter Island Sector vessels is being issued to the general public from 09.01.2026 (Friday) at 0900 Hrs onwards.

Tickets can be booked through the DSS e-Ticketing Portal at <https://dss.andamanicobar.gov.in/eticketing>, which is available 24x7 on all days.

For user convenience, a QR code linking directly to the portal has also been provided.

Tickets can also be booked from the STARS Ticketing Counter on all working days from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.



Scan QR Code to open on mobile.

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – MAYABUNDER & DIGLIPUR

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 12th January, 2026 onwards is being issued from 09.01.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Baratang	12.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	13.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
2.	MV Jolly Buoy	14.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	15.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
3.	MV Rani Chang	16.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	17.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – LITTLE ANDAMAN

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules w.e.f. 13th January, 2026 onwards will be issued from 09.01.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	Nalanda	11.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	11.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
2.	Nalanda	13.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	13.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Bambooka	15.01.2026 0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	15.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	Nalanda	16.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	17.01.2026 1000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
5.	Nalanda	18.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	18.01.2026 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAR NICOBAR via LITTLE ANDAMAN

Passenger tickets for the sailing schedules on 16th January, 2026 is being issued from 09.01.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Kalighat	16.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	17.01.2026 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAMPBELL BAY VIA ALL PORTS & NANCOWRY VIA ALL PORTS

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1.	MV Kalighat	22.01.2026 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Nancowry via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa & Katchal	25.01.2026 0500 Hrs	Nancowry	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman

SRI VIJAYA PURAM – CAMPBELL BAY – NANCOWRY – KATCHAL

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Voyage	From	To	Remarks
1.	Sindhu	13.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	15.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry	Berthing at Katchal Port is subject to fair weather conditions.
2.	Sindhu	20.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry	22.01.2026 0800 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Nancowry	
3.	Sindhu	27.01.2026 0900 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Campbell Bay via Nancowry & Katchal	29.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Campbell Bay	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal & Nancowry	Berthing at Katchal Port is subject to fair weather conditions.

Note: Embarkation of passengers will commence 02 Hours prior to the scheduled departure time of the vessel and boarding will be closed 30 Minutes before departure time. Passengers arriving late will not be allowed to board the vessel. The vessel will sail only after completion of survey procedure which will commence on completion of embarkation of passengers for issuance of 'B' Certificate as per MS Act. Further, with regard to cargo all the consigners are hereby advised to book actual quantity of cargo to be transshipped, as no excess cargo will be allowed.

FORESHORE SECTOR

Sl. No.	Name of the vessel	Date & Time of Sailing	From	To	Date & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
11.01.2026 (SUNDAY)							
1.	MV Rani Lakshmi	11.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	11.01.2026 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2.	MV Katchal	11.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	11.01.2026 0830 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Bambooka	11.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	11.01.2026 0845 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV Jolly Buoy	11.01.2026 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	11.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Swaraj Dweep
5.	MV North Passage	11.01.2026 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	11.01.2026 1400 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
6.	MV Hut Bay	11.01.2026 1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	12.01.2026 0530 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

12.01.2026 (MONDAY)

Additional sailing to Shaheed Dweep at 1300 Hrs from Sri Vijaya Puram from 12th to 19th January, 2026 in connection with "Vivekananda Mela" at Shaheed Dweep.

1.	MV North Passage	12.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	12.01.2026 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2.	MV Pilomillow	12.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	12.01.2026 0830 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Rani Lakshmi	12.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	12.01.2026 0845 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV Rani Chang	12.01.2026 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	12.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
5.	MV Bambooka	12.01.2026 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	12.01.2026 1400 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
6.	MV Katchal (Additional Sailing)	12.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	12.01.2026 1500 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
7.	MV Jolly Buoy	12.01.2026 1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	12.01.2026 0530 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

13.01.2026 (TUESDAY)

1.	MV Long Island	13.01.2026 0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	13.01.2026 1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep
2.	MV Katchal	13.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	13.01.2026 0830 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
3.	MV Bambooka	13.01.2026 0615 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	13.01.2026 0845 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram
4.	MV Jolly Buoy	13.01.2026 1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	13.01.2026 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Swaraj Dweep
5.	MV North Passage	13.01.2026 1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	13.01.2026 1400 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram

14.01.2026 (WEDNESDAY)

1.	MV Baratang	14.01.202

Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

Building a Smarter, Transparent, and Farmer-Centric Ecosystem

Key Takeaways

- More than 35.68 crore animals have been issued "Pashu Aadhaar" under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM), enabling traceable livestock management.
- Over 17.3 lakh milk producers across 54 milk unions benefit from the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS), ensuring transparent payments and efficient operations.
- Around 198 milk unions and 15 federations use the Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS) for data-driven decision-making and performance benchmarking.
- Milk route optimisation using GIS technology has helped cooperatives in several states save significantly on transportation costs and improve delivery efficiency.

Introduction

India is the world's largest producer of milk, accounting for 25% of global output. As the sector continues to expand, digital tools are playing an increasingly crucial role in improving productivity, transparency, and farmer welfare. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has been at the forefront of this transformation, developing digital platforms that connect farmers, cooperatives, and stakeholders across the dairy value chain. These initiatives aim to modernize operations, reduce inefficiencies, and enhance traceability, ultimately strengthening the world's largest dairy ecosystem.

National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM)

The National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM), implemented by NDDB in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), represents a major step toward a unified digital livestock ecosystem called "Bharat Pashudhan."

To enhance data-driven livestock management, the Bharat Pashudhan database records field activities such as breeding, artificial insemination, health services, vaccination, and treatment, with over 84 crore transactions logged. Field personnel, including veterinarians and extension workers, assist farmers in accessing this system.

The NDLM uses digital tools such as unique animal identification, data integration, and mobile applications to empower farmers and improve productivity. It aims to ensure every animal in India has a digital identity, linking it to health records and productivity data. NDDB provides both technical and financial support to implement this mission across states.

In line with the international practices a unique 12-digit bar coded Tag ID in the form of ear tag is being issued to all livestock animals. This unique code has been named as "Pashu Aadhar", and it acts as a primary key for registering all types of transactions done on the animals such as Vaccination, Breeding, Treatment, etc. All these transactions can be viewed at a single place against the Tag ID and shall be visible to the farmer as well as to the field veterinarians and workers for respective animals/area. Till November 2025, over 35.68 Crore Pashu Aadhaar has been generated.

Under the National Digital Livestock Mission, the 1962 App provides authenticated information on best practices and government schemes. Besides, the toll-free number 1962 is available to the farmers to get the veterinary services through Mobile Veterinary Units at their doorstep.

Automatic Milk Collection System

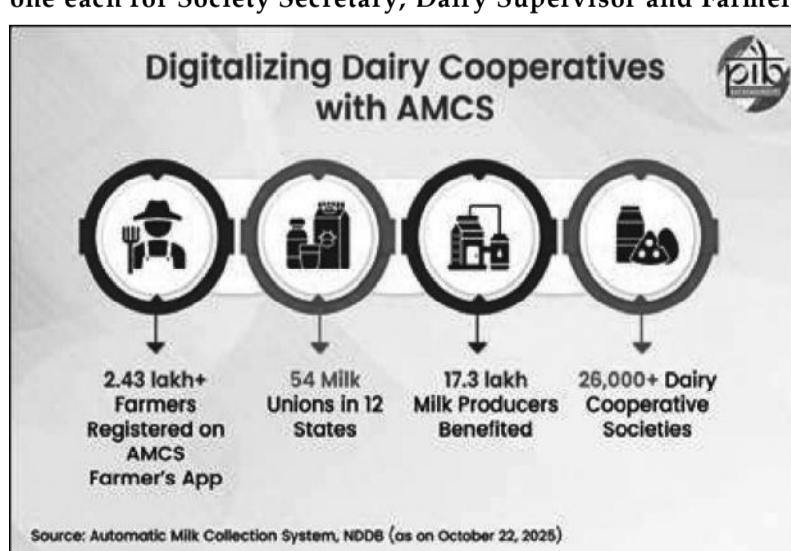
At the heart of India's cooperative dairy model is the daily milk collection from millions of farmers. To make this process transparent, efficient, and farmer-friendly, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS), a robust, integrated software platform for managing every aspect of operations at Dairy Cooperative Societies (DCS).

AMCS automates milk collection by digitally recording each transaction, including quantity, quality, and fat content, and instantly transferring payments to farmers' bank accounts. Using open-source technology, the system ensures traceability, eliminates manual errors, and promotes transparency at every level. Farmers receive real-time SMS updates on their daily sales and payments, while cooperatives gain access to data-driven insights for better procurement and production planning.

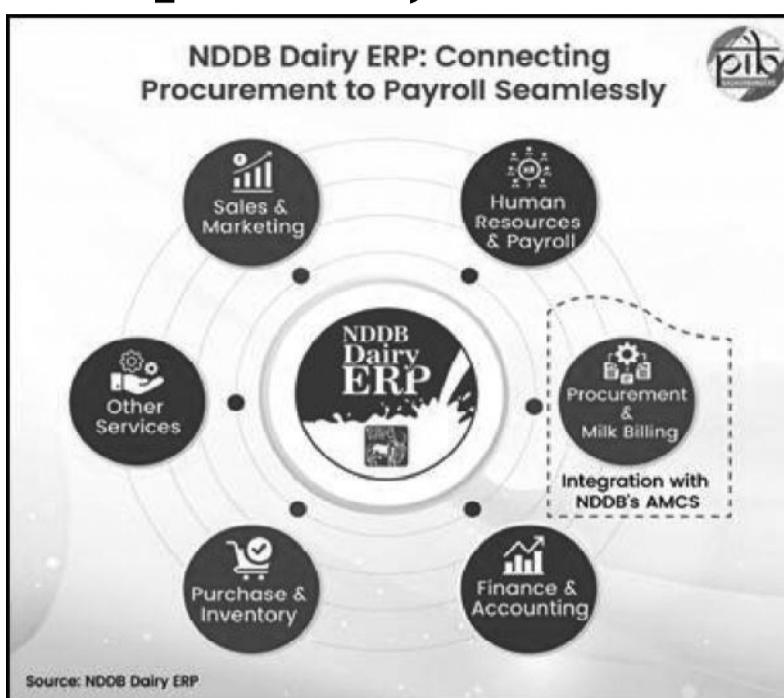
The system is integrated at Union, Federation, and National levels, connecting with financial institutions and providing mobile-based key informatics for all stakeholders. Currently operational in 12 states/UTs, AMCS covers over 26,000 Dairy Cooperative Societies and benefits over 17.3 lakh milk producers across 54 milk unions (as on October 22, 2025), reflecting NDDB's commitment to building a digitally empowered and inclusive dairy ecosystem.

The integrated AMCS solution has the following major Applications/components.

- DCS Application:** Common, multilingual AMCS Application at DCS Level which works on Windows / Linux and Android Platform.
- Portal Application:** Common Centralized AMCS Portals at Union, Federation and National Level.
- Android Apps:** Common, multilingual Mobile Applications one for Society Secretary, Dairy Supervisor and Farmer.



This Android-based application serves as a Digital Passbook for farmers and a real-time information and alert platform for Dairy Secretaries and Supervisors. So far, over 2.43 lakh farmers, 1,374 supervisors, and 13,644 secretaries have registered (as on October 22, 2025) on the AMCS mobile app.



The NDDB Dairy ERP (INERP) is a comprehensive, web-based enterprise resource planning system developed and customized specifically for the dairy and edible oil industries. Built on an open-source platform (Frappe ERPNext), it eliminates the need for any software installation and can be accessed seamlessly through a computer or mobile device. It is also available on Android and iOS (mNDERP) for distributors, offering a complete and cost-effective solution without proprietary or recurring licensing fees.

The INERP portal (<https://inerp.nddb.coop>) is an online platform for distributors integrated with INERP. It enables them to manage orders, delivery challans, invoices, and payments efficiently. Distributors can track deliveries, view outstanding balances, and download invoices directly from the portal, ensuring smooth coordination with milk unions and federations.

The mNDERP mobile app, available on Android and iOS, offers the same functionalities as INERP for distributors on the go. It allows them to place orders, check deliveries, access invoices, and monitor payments easily through their smartphones, promoting transparency and convenience in dairy business operations.

INERP includes all major functional modules such as Finance and Accounts, Purchase, Inventory, Sales and Marketing, Manufacturing, HR and Payroll, each integrated with advanced workflows and maker-checker features to ensure greater transparency and control. The system also features dashboards and analytical tools that support data-driven decision-making across management levels.

Crucially, INERP is integrated with the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS) to create an end-to-end digital solution, from cow to consumer, covering milk collection, processing, and distribution. To enhance efficiency, the platform incorporates a mass-balancing technique in the production module, helping dairies minimize processing losses.

Semen Station Management System (SSMS)

The Semen Station Management System (SSMS) is a comprehensive digital platform designed to streamline the production of Frozen Semen Doses (FSD) and ensure adherence to the Minimum Standard Protocols (MSP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) set by the Government of India. The system covers all core operations of semen stations, including bull lifecycle management, semen production, quality control, biosecurity, farm and fodder management, and sales tracking. It integrates with laboratory equipment and RFID bull tags for accurate, efficient, and traceable operations, ensuring every stage, from production to distribution, is digitally monitored.

SSMS is connected to the Information Network for Semen Production and Resource Management (INSPRM), a national portal that enables real-time data sharing between semen stations and field-level systems like INAPH (Information Network for Animal Productivity and Health). This integration allows complete traceability of semen doses supplied across the country and supports coordinated monitoring through a central database. Developed under the National Dairy Plan I (NDP I), a World Bank-funded initiative implemented by NDDB, the system has modernized semen stations nationwide,

strengthening India's artificial insemination network and contributing to enhanced dairy productivity. Currently, 38 graded semen stations across India are using SSMS to ensure quality, transparency, and standardization in semen production.

INAPH

Information Network for Animal Productivity & Health (INAPH) is an application that facilitates capturing of real time reliable data on Breeding, Nutrition and Health Services delivered at Farmer's Doorstep. It helps to assess and monitor progress of the projects.

Internet-based Dairy Information System

Efficient data management is central to evidence-based planning and informed decision-making in the dairy sector. The Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS) developed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) provides a unified digital platform for dairy cooperatives, milk unions, federations, and other allied units to systematically collect, share, and analyse data. The system enables participants to track performance indicators such as milk procurement and sales, product manufacturing and distribution, and the supply of technical inputs, while allowing each organisation to benchmark its performance against others.

Currently, around 198 milk unions, 29 marketing dairies, 54 cattle-feed plants, and 15 federations across the country are part of i-DIS, contributing to the creation of a reliable and comprehensive National Cooperative Dairy Industry Database. This data-driven ecosystem supports strategic decision-making and policy formulation within the dairy sector. NDDB also conducts regular refresher workshops for Management Information System (MIS) officials from participating unions to strengthen their ability to use i-DIS effectively and ensure its optimal utilisation for planning and operations.

Milk Route Optimisation

Efficient milk collection and distribution are vital for the success of India's dairy supply chain. To make this process more cost-effective and systematic, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has introduced milk route optimisation using GIS (Geographical Information System) technology. This digital approach replaces manual planning by mapping milk procurement and distribution routes on digitised maps, allowing easy visualisation of multiple route options and supporting data-driven decision-making.

Using GIS-based route planning helps reduce transportation distance, fuel costs, and time, improving overall efficiency in milk procurement and delivery. NDDB launched a milk route optimisation exercise in August 2022 under the Vidarbha Marathwada Dairy Development Project, where routes for four milk chilling centres were redesigned, leading to notable savings in transportation costs. Similar exercises in Varanasi Milk Union, West Assam Milk Union, Jharkhand Milk Federation, and Indore Milk Union have also produced encouraging results, showcasing the potential for significant cost reduction in dairy logistics.

To help cooperatives adopt this technology widely, NDDB has developed a web-based dynamic route planning software that enables fleet and route optimisation in a structured, scientific, and user-friendly manner. Available free of cost to dairy cooperatives, this tool allows real-time route planning and supports better operational control. By integrating technology with cooperative efficiency, NDDB's route optimisation initiative is setting a benchmark for sustainable and cost-effective milk transport in India's dairy sector.

Conclusion

India's dairy sector, which contributes a quarter of the world's milk output, is undergoing a remarkable digital transformation led by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Through integrated platforms such as NDLM, AMCS, INERP, SSMS, i-DIS, and route optimisation tools, the sector is moving toward greater efficiency, transparency, and inclusiveness. These systems are not just enhancing operational productivity but also ensuring that millions of small and marginal dairy farmers are directly linked to a modern, tech-driven ecosystem.

By combining cooperative strength with digital innovation, India is setting new standards in sustainable dairy development, one where every litre of milk and every animal is part of a connected, traceable, and efficient value chain. The ongoing efforts reflect NDDB's vision of creating a digitally empowered dairy sector that serves both producers and consumers, driving India closer to its goal of being the global leader in safe, sustainable, and technology-driven milk production.

(Source: PIB)

Government Boosts Fertilizer Security with record 73% Domestic Supply in 2025 Atmanirbhar Bharat Drive Strengthens, fertilizer Security with Record Domestic Production

Reinforcing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Government of India has significantly reduced the country's dependence on fertilizer imports. In 2025, nearly 73 percent of the country's total fertilizer requirement was met through domestic production, representing a significant milestone in achieving self-reliance. The Government continues to work tirelessly to empower farmers, promote self-reliance, and ensure a reliable and uninterrupted supply of fertilizers across the country.

With a strong focus on fertilizer security and timely availability of nutrients to farmers, the Government has prioritised long-term supply agreements for key raw materials and adopted a strategy of strategic diversification to safeguard against global uncertainties and supply disruptions.

These sustained efforts have resulted in a steady and consistent rise in domestic fertilizer production over the past five years. Total domestic production of fertilizers, including Urea, DAP, NPKs and SSP has increased from 433.29 lakh tonnes in 2021 to 467.87 lakh tonnes in 2022, followed by a significant jump to 507.93 lakh tonnes in 2023. The upward trend continued in 2024 with production

reaching 509.57 lakh tonnes, and further accelerated to an all-time high of 524.62 lakh tonnes in 2025. This sustained growth reflects the robustness of India's fertilizer manufacturing ecosystem and the effectiveness of Government interventions. This landmark achievement is a direct outcome of the Government's proactive and effective policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the fertilizer sector and supporting the agricultural economy.

The growth in domestic production has been driven by the establishment of new fertilizer plants, revival of previously closed units, promotion of indigenous manufacturing, and assured availability of raw materials. These measures have collectively enhanced the resilience, capacity, and sustainability of the fertilizer industry.

The Government remains committed to further strengthening fertilizer security, supporting farmers with timely and affordable inputs, and ensuring sustainable agricultural growth in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

'India Achieves All-Time High Fertilizer Production in 2025'

(Source: PIB)

