

National Milk Day Celebrations at IDA (West Zone)

On November 26, 2025, the 104th birth anniversary of the "Father of the White Revolution," Dr. V. Kurien, was observed as "National Milk Day" across India.

To mark the occasion, Dr. R.S. Sodhi, President-IDA

(outgoing), paid rich tributes to the "Milkman of India" at the IDA (West Zone) office in Andheri, Mumbai.

Dr. Sodhi was joined by key dignitaries, including Shri Arun Patil, Vice President-IDA; Shri K. Shyju; Dr. J.V. Parekh; and Shri Madhav



Patgaonkar, Secretary, IDA (West Zone).

The event witnessed participation from various cooperative and private dairies, including Gokul, Warana, Amul, Vikas, KMF, Nature Delight, Epigamia, Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, and KMYA. The dignitaries offered floral tributes and shared their personal reflections on Dr. Kurien and his immense contribution to the dairy industry and cooperative dairy development.

Dr. Sodhi, who worked closely with Dr. Kurien for more than three decades, spoke of the profound honour of occupying the same chair once held by Dr. Kurien as Managing Director of GCMMF and President of IDA. Emphasising the need for continuity, Dr. Sodhi said, "Dr. Kurien worked tirelessly for the development of dairying in India.

However, the new generation is not fully aware of the legacy they inherit. It is our duty to keep them well informed and updated."

Shri Arun Patil, who worked with NDDB, highlighted how Dr. Kurien successfully executed the world's largest dairy development programme. He described Dr. Kurien not only as a visionary but also as a master institution builder who foresaw the needs of the industry and created institutions such as IRMA, IDMC, and IIL.

Building institutions and grooming individuals was his most remarkable achievement, which enabled the successful implementation of the programmes he had envisioned.

The Path to Self-Reliance

Dr. Kurien envisioned self-reliance for the Indian dairy industry. He ensured that all streams—animal husbandry, feed and fodder, milk collection, processing, value-added products, and distribution—became independent and self-sustaining, without reliance on imported plants, machinery, services, or technology.

Dr. Kurien sowed the seeds of *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) during the 1970s–1990s. Today, India is the world's largest milk producer and processor. The country manufactures all necessary dairy processing equipment and does not depend on imported components or processes.

Stronger cooperative institutions and efficient supply chains remain key to the sustainability and growth of the dairy sector.