



TATHASTU ICS

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS



SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

S.NO.**TOPIC**

1.	DAIRY SECTOR IN INDIA
2.	ADI SHANKARACHARYA STATUE AT OMKARESHWAR

DAIRY SECTOR IN INDIA**SOURCE:** [DTE](#)**WHY IN NEWZ?**

During COVID-19, supply chain disruptions led to a significant decrease in artificial insemination for dairy farmers in India, resulting in a substantial economic loss due to missed conceptions and reduced milk production.

OVERVIEW OF DAIRY SECTOR:

- Milk production in India remained **stagnant during the 1950s and 1960s**.
- India, during this period, **relied on milk imports**, and annual production showed negative growth for several years.
- The development of India's dairy sector and the **significant role played by dairy cooperatives since the inception of Operation Flood** are integral components of the country's impressive post-Independence growth narrative.

CURRENT STATUS:

- **India holds the top position in global milk production, contributing approximately 23% of the world's milk output.**
- Over the past 8 years, milk production in India has experienced a remarkable increase of 51.05%.
- India's milk production has maintained an impressive annual growth rate of 6.4% during the same period, while global milk production is growing at a rate of 1.2% per annum.

CHALLENGES IN THE SECTOR:

1. **Quality Control Issues:** Ensuring consistent quality in dairy products remains a challenge. For example, variations in milk quality due to factors like cattle feed can affect product standards.
2. **Price Fluctuations:** Volatile milk prices can impact dairy farmers' incomes. For instance, fluctuations in milk procurement prices by cooperatives can affect farmers' profitability.
3. **Market Access:** Dairy farmers need better market access to sell their products, particularly in remote rural areas where transportation infrastructure may be lacking.
4. **Value Addition:** Encouraging value addition to dairy products can enhance profitability. For example, converting milk into high-value products like cheese or yogurt.

Sudden drop

India's nearly stable milk production rate saw a major dip this year



*Projected figure Source: Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

5. **Health and Hygiene:** Ensuring health and hygiene in the dairy supply chain is crucial, especially in the context of food safety concerns. Example: LUMPY SKIN disease, which causes blisters and reduces milk production in cows, has infected millions of cattle and killed them.
6. **Competition:** The dairy sector faces competition from both domestic and international markets. Coping with imports of dairy products and competing in export markets can be challenging.
7. **Regulatory Compliance:** Adhering to evolving food safety and labelling regulations is essential. Non-compliance can lead to market access issues.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:	
Initiative	Description
Operation Flood	Launched in 1970, it aimed to increase milk production and provide fair prices to dairy farmers through cooperatives.
National Dairy Plan (NDP)	NDP-I and NDP-II were implemented to enhance milk production, improve milk quality, and strengthen dairy infrastructure.
Rashtriya Gokul Mission	Focused on conserving indigenous cattle breeds and enhancing their productivity.
Dairy Processing & Infrastructure	Promotes investment in modern processing facilities and cold chains to reduce post-harvest losses.
National Programme for Bovine Breeding	Aims to improve cattle genetics through artificial insemination and breed improvement programs.
Dairy Sahakar Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched by the Union Minister of Home Affairs and Corporation during Amul's 75th Foundation Year celebration in Anand, Gujarat. ▪ Total investment of Rs 5000 crore, implemented by NCDC under the Ministry of Cooperation, with the vision "from cooperation to prosperity."
Lumpi-ProVaInd	Jointly developed by ICAR's National Research Centre on Equines (NRCE) and the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). A live attenuated vaccine, similar to those used against tuberculosis, measles, mumps, and rubella.
National Animal Disease Control Prog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched in September 2019 to control Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis by vaccinating 100% cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, and pig populations. ▪ Focus on 100% bovine female calves (4-8 months) for brucellosis and broader vaccination efforts in five years (2019-20 to 2023-24).
e-GOPALA	The web version of the e-GOPALA application developed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to assist dairy farmers.

WAY FORWARD:

1. **Technology Adoption:** Promote the use of digital tools like e-GOPALA to enhance dairy farming practices, access to information, and market connectivity for farmers.
2. **Skill Development:** Invest in training and capacity building for farmers to improve their knowledge and skills in modern dairy farming techniques.
3. **Quality Assurance:** Implement quality control measures to ensure the production of safe and high-quality dairy products, boosting consumer confidence.

4. **Infrastructure Development:** Enhance cold chain and processing infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and improve product quality.
5. **Financial Inclusion:** Facilitate access to credit and financial services for small-scale dairy farmers to invest in their businesses.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (ICAR):

Name	ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Former Name	Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
Establishment Year	1929
Under	Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Legal Status	Registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
Headquarters	New Delhi
Mandate	Apex body for coordinating, guiding, and managing research and education in agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, and animal sciences across India.

ADI SHANKARACHARYA STATUE AT OMKARESHWAR

SOURCE: [IE, shankaracharya.org](https://www.shankaracharya.org)

WHY IN NEWS?

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister inaugurated the '**Statue of Oneness**' of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar, standing at a height of 108 feet.
- The statue portrays Adi Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child, symbolizing his visit to Omkareshwar during his early years.
- Omkareshwar is situated on Mandhata island in the Khandwa district.
- This development is poised to create a significant tourism circuit, in conjunction with religious towns like Ujjain, Maheshwar, and Mandu.

ABOUT ADI SHANKARACHARYA:

❖ Early Life and Birthplace:

- Adi Shankara, believed to have lived between **788 and 820 AD**, was born in Kaladi, Kerala, located on the banks of the Periyar River.
- At a young age, he embraced a life of renunciation (sanyasin) and departed from his Brahmin family.
- He is said to have journeyed to Omkareshwar, where he received teachings from his guru, Govinda Bhagavatpada.



❖ Advaita Vedanta Proponent:

- Adi Shankaracharya emerged as a proponent of Advaita Vedanta, challenging established philosophical traditions such as Buddhism and Jainism.
- Advaita Vedanta, a school of Hindu philosophy, espouses non-duality, emphasizing the unity between the subject and object.

❖ Notable Literary Contributions:

- Adi Shankaracharya's literary contributions include approximately 116 works.
- Among these, his commentaries (Bhashyas) on foundational texts like the Brahma Sutras (Vedanta Sutras), major Upanishads (such as Isa Upanishad, Katha Upanishad, Chandogya Upanishad), and the Bhagavad Gita hold prominence.
- He also authored Prakarana Granthas, including "Vivekachudamani," exploring discrimination between the eternal and non-eternal, "Upadeshasahasri," consisting of a thousand verses offering teachings on Advaita Vedanta, and "Atma Bodha," a concise treatise on self-realization.

❖ Devotional Hymns (Stotras):

- Adi Shankaracharya composed devotional hymns, including the "Nirvana Shatakam" (also known as "Atma Shatakam"), which delineates the realization of the self as distinct from the body and mind, and "Bhaja Govindam," a devotional composition emphasizing the importance of devotion and spiritual practice.

- ❖ **Commentaries on Sanatana Dharma:** His contributions extend to commentaries on aspects of Sanatana Dharma (eternal religion). The "**Dakshinamurti Stotra**," a hymn to Lord Dakshinamurti, elucidates the significance of the guru in one's spiritual journey.
- ❖ **Travel and Monastic Centers:** Adi Shankaracharya is renowned for his extensive travels across India, where he engaged in philosophical debates and established monastic centres known as mathas. These mathas continue to propagate the teachings of Advaita Vedanta to this day.

ORTHODOX SCHOOLS OF INDIAN PHILOSOPHY:

Orthodox School	Key Philosopher	Main Philosophical Concepts
Nyaya	Gautama (Nyaya Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic and epistemology Focus on valid knowledge (pramana) Four means of attaining valid knowledge: perception (pratyaksha), inference (anumana), comparison (upamana), and verbal testimony (shabda) Emphasis on logical reasoning and debate Belief in a dualistic worldview: self (atman) and matter (prakriti)
Vaisheshika	Kanada (Vaisheshika Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atomism: All objects in the physical universe are reducible to finite atoms Realism and objective philosophy Six categories of reality: substance (dravya), attribute (guna), action (karma), genus (samanya), distinct quality (vishesa), and inherence (samavaya) Belief in God as the guiding principle
Samkhya	Kapila (Samkhya Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dualistic philosophy Distinction between purusha (consciousness) and prakriti (matter) Purusha is unmodifiable, while prakriti undergoes change - Liberation (moksha) achieved through knowledge and discernment Enumeration of 25 principles (tattvas) in the universe
Yoga	Patanjali (Yoga Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union of individual self (atman) with the universal self (Brahman) Eightfold path (Ashtanga Yoga) to achieve spiritual realization Ethical and practical guidelines for self-discipline (yama and niyama), physical postures (asana), breath control (pranayama), and meditation (dhyana)
Mimamsa	Jaimini (Mimamsa Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on ritual interpretation and Vedic duties Emphasis on the importance of Vedas Belief in the eternal nature of Vedas and their role in guiding human action Dharma as the essence of Vedas Concerned with the correct performance of Vedic rituals and ceremonies

Vedanta	Various (Vedanta Sutras)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diverse interpretations of Upanishads ▪ Focus on the nature of reality (Brahman) and the self (Atman) ▪ Different sub-schools, including Advaita (non-dualism), Visishtadvaita (qualified non-dualism), and Dvaita (dualism) - Liberation (moksha) through knowledge of the self and realization of oneness with Brahman
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MAJOR CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SITES IN MADHYA PRADESH:

Site	Description
Khajuraho Group of Monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNESCO World Heritage Site ▪ Famous for its exquisite temples with intricate erotic sculptures ▪ Built by the Chandela dynasty between the 9th and 11th centuries ▪ Representative of Nagara-style architecture
Sanchi Stupa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNESCO World Heritage Site ▪ A Buddhist complex with several stupas, monasteries, and temples ▪ The Great Stupa is the most prominent structure ▪ Dates back to the 3rd century BCE and expanded during the Mauryan period
Bhimbetka Rock Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNESCO World Heritage Site ▪ Ancient rock shelters with prehistoric cave paintings ▪ Depict scenes of daily life, hunting, and rituals ▪ Some paintings date back to over 30,000 years ago
Orchha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historic town with well-preserved palaces and temples ▪ Highlights include Jahangir Mahal, Raj Mahal, and Chaturbhuj Temple ▪ Offers a glimpse into medieval Indian architecture and culture
Mandu (Mandavgarh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ancient fortress town with historic palaces, mosques, and tombs ▪ Notable structures include Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, and Jami Masjid ▪ Known for its Afghan architecture and scenic beauty
Ujjain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism ▪ Home to the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple ▪ Known for the Kumbh Mela, a major religious festival. Rich in cultural and religious heritage
Chanderi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historic town known for its fort, palaces, and stepwells ▪ Houses the Chanderi Fort, Koshak Mahal, and Badal Mahal ▪ Famous for its silk sarees and craftsmanship
Omkareshwar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A sacred island in the Narmada River ▪ Known for the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple ▪ Pilgrimage site with a serene atmosphere ▪ Offers religious and cultural significance

