

## Mother Dairy will bring white revolution: CM

■ Special Correspondent

IN A major step towards milk revolution in farmers' suicide hit districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada, a refurbished milk process plant was inaugurated in Nagpur at the hands of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh and Union Minister for Road, Transport and Shipping Nitin Gadkari at Dr Vasantrao Deshpande Hall on Sunday.

Agriculture Minister Pandurang Fundkar, Minister for Animal

Husbandry and Dairy Development Mahadev Jankar, Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Dilip Rath were present on the dais.

The plant has been upgraded as per the agreement between Maharashtra Government and NDDB. The Mother Dairy is a subsidiary of NDDB and will operate the plant and take up dairy development initiative like setting up of milk procurement network in Maharashtra. Mother Dairy has invested Rs 65 crore for the upgradation of the

Nagpur dairy.

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched a frontal attack on previous Congress led UPA government for its ultimate failure in agriculture front. He said that instead of taking welfare decision regarding upliftment of farmers, the UPA Government had followed the directions of a family, which did not know anything about the agriculture.

Singh said, Narendra Modi Government is committed for the prosperity of the

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farmers in the country. The production cost of the agriculture produce will not increase by merely increasing the minimum support price (MSP) but it will happen after minimizing the production cost, by providing better marketing facilities and also by increasing the agriculture production. The Government is working on all three fronts to provide benefit to the farmers. The Government has reduced the production cost of urea, conducted soil health check by opening 9,000 laboratories in last three years. The Central Government will provide 14 crore soil health cards to the farmers in the country. The cards will be provided every two year, he added and said, the condition of the soil is pathetic. The government has also increased organic farming upto 20 lakh hectare in the country. The Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme has corpus fund of Rs 20,000 crores and this fund will be utilized for completing the pending irrigation

schemes. Union Agriculture Minister appreciated Maharashtra Government for launching Jal Yukta Shivar scheme for recharging under ground water level. He said, till now, the Mother Dairy is working in New Delhi only, but due to constant efforts of Nitin Gadkari, the dairy has expanded its wings in Nagpur too.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said, Mother Dairy will bring a sea change in the lives of farmers in the state. The State Government will hand over the old Government dairy to the NDDB for the operations. The dairy was non functional for last several years. The process of the Mother Dairy is transparent and farmers will get attractive price of their milk. This scheme will begin in all the districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada, he added.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said Central Government has sanctioned Rs 65 crore for the development of milk production in the state. The State Government will hand over them all assets. He said, "We

are working to produce 2nd generation ethanol from bamboo in Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia and Chandrapur districts." He also emphasised on increasing fishing in the region and exports it.

Maharashtra Dairy Development Minister Mahadev Jankar and Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Pandurang Fundkar also spoke on the occasion.

Dilip Rath, NDDB Chairman said, Mother Dairy said that NDDB will bring white revolution in the suicide hit districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada region. The NDDB is planning to process 2 lakh litre of milk in next two years. The milk will be collected in 3,000 villages of the region.

Mayor Nanda Jichkar, Zilla Parishad Minister Nisha Sawarkar, Legislators Sudhakar Deshmukh, Ashish Deshmukh, Sudhir Parve, Mallikarjun Reddy, Divisional Commissioner Anoop Kumar were present on the dais. S Nagarajan, Managing Director of Mother Dairy proposed vote of thanks.



Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Union Minister for Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh, and Union Minister for Road, Transport, and Shipping Nitin Gadkari unveiling the corner stone at Dr Vasantrao Deshpande Hall, Maharashtra Ministers Pandurang Fundkar, Mahadev Jankar, Mayor Nanda Jichkar, Legislators Sudhakar Deshmukh, Ashish Deshmukh, Mallikarjun Reddy, and Dilip Rath also are seen.

(Pic by Satish Raut)

## Refurbished milk processing plant inaugurated in city

■ Staff Reporter

THE dairy plant at Nagpur has been upgraded as per the agreement between Government of Maharashtra and National Dairy Development Board signed on September 14, 2016. The Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) will operate the plant and take up dairy development initiatives like setting up of milk procurement network in Maharashtra.

Union Agriculture Minister Radhamohan Singh lauded NDDB and stated that dairy development activities in Vidarbha and Marathwada will ensure regular and better returns to milk producers. He said that the core components of this dairy development initiative are productivity enhancement of milk animals and creation of sustainable

farmers owned institutions.

Union Minister for Road, Transport, Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari said that NDDB will bring milk revolution in Vidarbha and Marathwada. NDDB's initiative will also put in place a fair, transparent and sustainable system. He is hopeful that the farmers would grab this opportunity and adopt dairy farming as an additional source of income.

Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDB said that the newly refurbished dairy plant has been completed in a record time of 4 months and has a milk processing capacity of 50,000 litres per day expandable to 2 lakh litres per day. In addition, Mother Dairy is setting up manufacturing lines for value added dairy range like curd, chach etc, which is expected to be commissioned by September 2017. The plant houses equipment with latest technology to mon-

itor and record all critical process parameters for ensuring milk quality on a continuous basis. A state-of-the-art quality control laboratory has been set up in order to test and monitor stringent quality parameters ensuring safe products for consumers.

Rath requested the Government of Maharashtra to support NDDB further in execution of lease agreement for land at Gove Bhiwandi to help set up a 5 Lakh litres per day plant; allocate sufficient funds for activities such as development of Nagpuri breed, AI services, fodder development, animal health, ration balancing advisory services, which are to be implemented by the Government of Maharashtra to help increase productivity and ensure that the project coordination team is given sufficient stability of tenure.

S Nagarajan, Managing Director, Mother Dairy Fruit

& Vegetable Pvt. Ltd. said that Mother Dairy is committed to the cause of rural prosperity by promoting dairy development aimed to support milk producers and enhancement of farm productivity.

Mother Dairy is wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and is a leading dairy player which manufactures, markets & sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice creams, paneer and ghee under the 'Mother Dairy' brand.

The Company also has a diversified portfolio with products in edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables, range of unpolished pulses, honey etc. under the 'Safal' brand. Mother Dairy through its brands has a national footprint across all major cities in India, offering a delectable range of products to its customers.