



भारत सरकार
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन एवं डेयरी मंत्रालय
पशुपालन एवं डेयरी विभाग
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली -110001

Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

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Dear Friends,

I am writing this to express my sadness over the demise of our dear friend Mr. Sharad Gupta, the editor of *Dairy India Yearbook* on the 6th of May. And in the process of mourning, we ought to reflect upon and derive inspiration from his life and legacy. Given that more than 80 million Indians are involved in dairying, Mr. Sharad Gupta, in his capacity as the editor of *Dairy India* - played a pivotal role in amplifying the achievements, innovations, and stakeholders in the Indian dairy ecosystem. Consequently, *Dairy India* earned its pride of place as one of the world's most prestigious publications on dairy. The exhaustive data and insights offered by *Dairy India* meant that this publication became the go to for any scholar, investor, or dairy farmer seeking to get a comprehensive view of the Indian dairy industry.

Ever since Mr. Sharad Gupta took over the reins of *Dairy India* from his late father Mr. P.R. Gupta, he worked tirelessly to shine the spotlight on the role of milk in the agriculture economy of India, and its contribution to the alleviation of rural poverty. This was done through the publication's exhaustive data collation on the trends in the Indian dairy industry, reference details of thousands of dairy plants, and reliable information on major stakeholders in the dairy value chain. The painstaking efforts made by his team involved collaborations with eminent scientists as well as professionals in the public, cooperative and private sectors in India and abroad. We at the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) cherished every edition of *Dairy India* as they became helpful reference tools for all of us.

So, on behalf of everyone at DAHD I would like to convey my deepest condolences to Mr. Sharad Gupta's family. They say that the greatest tribute to the deceased involves nurturing their good work and vision. And in this context, I wish to see Mr. Gupta's legacy thrive with every subsequent publication of *Dairy India*. Now that his son Vidura Gupta has taken over the reins – we wish him strength and success as he carries the torch forward.

Yours sincerely
Atul Chaturvedi
Secretary, DAHD