



Date - 15 July 2024

## NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARD 2024

(This article is related to the section ' Role of Dairy and Livestock Sector in Indian Economy, Economics of Animal Husbandry and Issues Related to Animal Husbandry and Dairy Industry in India and various initiatives taken to promote this sector ' of UPSC Civil Services Mains Exam General Studies Paper - 3 and ' Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Sector, Pashudhan Sanjivani, E-Pashudhan Haat, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Ministry ' of UPSC Prelims Exam. It also includes suggestions from the PLUTUS IAS Team. This article is related to ' National Gopal Ratna Award 2024 ' under ' Daily Current Affairs '.)

### WHY IN THE NEWS ?



- Recently in India, the nomination for Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Award - 2024 has started from 15th July.
- This award is presented every year on National Milk Day celebrated on 26 November in India.
- Under this, awards are given to the best dairy farmer, dairy cooperative society and artificial insemination technician in various categories.

## **NATIONAL GOPAL RATNA AWARD :**

- Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Award is presented every year to encourage milk producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies, milk producing companies, dairy farmer producer organizations and artificial insemination technicians.
- It is given by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).
- From the year 2021, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is conferring the Rashtriya Gopal Ratna Award on the occasion of National Milk Day every year on 26 November.
- It aims to encourage milk producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies/MPCs/FPOs and Artificial Insemination Technicians (AITs).

## **MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE AWARD :**

- The objective of this award is to promote the conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds, which are extremely important for providing sustainability to the dairy sector in India.

## **OTHER ASPECTS OF THE AWARD :**

- **Special Recognition** : A special award category has been included to encourage dairy development activities in the North Eastern Region (NER) of India.
- **Nomination and Recognition** : The last date of application to receive this award is August 31, 2024. Nominations for the NGRA are submitted online through the National Awards Portal.

## **CATEGORIES OF AWARDS :**

**In India this award is given in three different categories. Which are as follows -**

1. **Best dairy farmers rearing indigenous cow/buffalo breed** : The farmer coming first in this category is given a reward of Rs 5 lakh.
  - **The second runner up in this category is given a prize of Rs 3 lakh.**
  - **The third place winner in this category is given a prize of Rs 2 lakh.**
1. From this year onwards a special award for North Eastern Region (NER) states has been included to encourage and promote dairy development activities in the North Eastern Region. Under this, a reward of Rs 2 lakh is given under the special award for NER.
2. **Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS)/Milk Producer Company (MPC)/Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)** : Awards will be given in this category also.

3. **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)** : No cash prize is given in this category, but merit certificates and mementos are given.

#### **RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION :**

- Rashtriya Gokul Mission in India was launched in December 2014 for the development and conservation of bovine breeds.
- This mission has been extended under the National Livestock Development Scheme from 2021 to 2026 with a budget of Rs 2400 crore.

#### **MAIN OBJECTIVES OF RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION IN INDIA :**

**Following are the main objectives of Rashtriya Gokul Mission –**

- **To promote the productivity of indigenous cattle breeds** : The objective of this mission in India is to boost the productivity of indigenous bovine breeds, thereby ensuring stability in the numbers of bovine breeds. Advanced technologies are used for this.
- **Expanding conception coverage** : Strengthening the breeding network for cattle in India and making artificial insemination services easily accessible to farmers is a major objective of this mission.
- **To increase milk production** : Under this, an important goal of the Mission is to significantly increase milk production through efficient bovine management practices in India.
- **To contribute extensively to and increase breeding of high genetic quality** : In India, the Mission focuses on using bulls with high genetic merit for cattle breeding, thereby contributing significantly to and enhancing the improvement of cattle genetics.
- **To provide comprehensive protection** : The mission is dedicated to the scientific and comprehensive conservation of indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds. Therefore, this mission provides holistic conservation to the indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds in India.

#### **CHALLENGES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY IN INDIA :**

**Following are some of the important challenges facing the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India –**

##### **NEED FOR DISEASE MANAGEMENT AND ANIMAL HEALTH CARE :**

- The impact of diseases is an important challenge in the development of animals. Proper disease management and care of animal health is required.

##### **AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF FODDER :**

- Despite the crisis of fodder availability and quality in India, it acts as an important factor for the animal husbandry sector.

### **LACK OF MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY :**

- At present, there is a great need for modern infrastructure and technology in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India.

### **LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF SKILLED PERSONNEL AND VETERINARY SERVICES :**

- At present in India, there is a great need for the availability of veterinary medical services and skilled personnel.

### **FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITED ACCESS TO CREDIT :**

- Financial problems and limited access to credit are also a challenge in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India.

### **CHALLENGES OF MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION :**

- There is a great need for improvement in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India and also in the field of marketing and distribution of dairy products.

**To face these challenges, the government, agricultural scientists, farmers and industrialists need to work together.**

### **SOLUTIONS / WAY FORWARD :**



#### **1. NEED TO STRENGTHEN VETERINARY SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- Vaccination programs and regular health check-ups will have to be promoted in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India, so that the level of production in the animal husbandry and dairy sector can improve.
- At present, an effective system has to be developed for early detection of livestock diseases in India.

## **2. TO PROMOTE CULTIVATION OF HIGH QUALITY FODDER CROPS :**

- Adoption of modern technologies like hydroponics and silage production in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India will have to be encouraged as per the present-day needs.
- As per the present times, fodder processing units will have to be established in the animal husbandry and dairy sector for continuous supply of quality fodder.
- **Hydroponics:** A method of soilless agriculture using nutrient-rich water.
- **Silage Production:** A method of fermenting and preserving high-moisture fodder crops.

## **3. UPGRADING AND MODERNIZING LIVESTOCK FARMS AND DAIRY PROCESSING UNITS :**

- Based on the needs of present time in India Veterinary hospitals will have to be equipped with advanced technologies.
- Presently in India For livestock farms and dairy processing units There will be investment in research and development and adoption of new technologies.

## **4. FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING SUPPORTIVE POLICIES :**

- It is extremely important to provide policy support to encourage investment in the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India.
- It is also extremely important to implement incentive schemes for investment in this sector.

**These steps will improve the animal husbandry and dairy sector in India and turn it into a more sustainable and profitable sector.**

**Source - The Hindu and PIB.**

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :**

### **Q.1. Consider the following statements regarding National Gopal Ratna Award :**

1. This award is presented under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).
2. In India, this award is given by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

### **Which of the above statement / statements is/ are correct?**

- A. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- B. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct, and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 1 is wrong, but statement 2 is correct.

Answer - A

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. Animal husbandry in rural areas of India has great potential as a sector to provide employment and income to people in non-agricultural related sectors. Discuss what are the main challenges of this sector in India and what could be the appropriate remedial measures to promote animal husbandry and dairy industry? ( UPSC CSE - 2015 Word Limit - 250 Marks - 15 )

Dr. Akhilesh Kumar Shrivastava

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