



National Gopal Ratna Awards

Why in News?

Recently, the [Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying \(DAHD\)](#) announced the winners of the [National Gopal Ratna Awards \(NGRA\) 2024](#) under the [Rashtriya Gokul Mission \(RGM\)](#).

- It is one of the highest honours in the livestock and dairy sector and is presented on [National Milk Day \(26th November 2024\)](#).

Key Points

- **Objective of the Awards:**
 - The NGRA aims to recognize and encourage contributions to animal husbandry and dairying.
- **Award Categories:**
 - Best dairy farmer rearing [indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds](#).
 - Best [Artificial Insemination](#) Technician (AIT)
 - Best dairy cooperative/ milk producer company/ dairy farmer producer organisation.
- Special Awards for the North Eastern Region (NER) were introduced in 2024.
- **Special Recognition for North Eastern Region (NER):**
 - From 2024 onwards, a special award is included for the North Eastern Region (NER) in all three categories to boost dairy development activities in the region.
- **First Rank Winner of each category is:**
 - **Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds-** Smt. Renu, Jhajjar, Haryana.
 - **Best Dairy Cooperative society/Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organization-** The Gabat Milk Producers Cooperative Society Limited, Aravali, Gujarat.
 - **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)-** Shri Bhaskar Pradhan, Subarnapur, Odisha.
- **Background on Livestock Sector:**
 - The livestock sector contributes one-third to the agriculture and allied sector's [Gross Value Added \(GVA\)](#) and has a [Compound Annual Growth Rate \(CAGR\)](#) of over 8%.
 - It plays a **vital role in enhancing farmer income, especially for landless, small, and marginal farmers, and women** and providing **affordable and nutritious food**.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

- Launched in December 2014 under the **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development**.
- **NPBBDD have Two Components:**
 - **National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB):** Conservation and development of recognized indigenous breeds.
 - **National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD):** Creating infrastructure related to production, procurement, processing and marketing by milk unions/federations.
- **Objectives:**
 - Conservation and development of indigenous bovine breeds.
 - Improving the productivity of indigenous breeds to maximize their economic contribution.

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