



# Rashtriya Gokul Mission

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Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying highlighted the role of the [Rashtriya Gokul Mission \(RGM\)](#) in the conservation of [indigenous bovine breeds](#) and the enhancement of milk production in the [Lok Sabha](#).

## What is the Rashtriya Gokul Mission?

- **About:** The RGM was launched in 2014 for the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds.
  - The mission continues as part of the [Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojna](#) for the period **2021 to 2026** with a budget outlay of Rs. 2400 crore.
- **Need:** The decline of indigenous bovine breeds, like **Punganur**(Andhra Pradesh), threatens valuable genetic resources. These breeds are **climate-resilient, produce high-quality milk, and adapt well to local environments**, highlighting the need for preservation efforts.
- **Objectives:** RGM aims to boost bovine productivity, promote high-quality breeding, strengthen [Artificial Insemination \(AI\)](#) services.
- **Components of RGM:**
  - **High Genetic Merit:** Enhances **genetic merit through bull production** via **progeny testing, Pedigree Selection and genomic selection, and germplasm import.**
    - It strengthens **semen stations**, implements [in vitro fertilization \(IVF\) technology for assured pregnancies](#), and sets up breed multiplication farms to scale genetic improvement in livestock.
  - **Artificial Insemination Network:** Promotes establishment of **Multi Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians in Rural India (MAITRIs)** to expand nationwide AI access.
    - RGM implements the [National Digital Livestock Mission](#), to improve data management and service delivery.
  - **Conservation of Indigenous Breeds:** Support for **Gaushalas** for the care and preservation of indigenous cattle.
  - **Skill Development and Awareness:** Focuses on skill development through **capacity-building programs, raising farmer awareness**, and supporting **research and innovation** in bovine breeding.
- **Funding Pattern:** The components of the RGM are largely funded by a **100% grant-in-aid basis**, with some specific components involving partial subsidies (e.g., IVF pregnancies, sex sorted semen, breed multiplication farms).
- **Key Initiatives Under RGM:**
  - **Gokul Grams:** indigenous cattle, called Gokul Grams for the promotion and conservation of indigenous breeds.
  - **Awards for Farmers: Gopal Ratna Award and Kamdhenu Award** to recognize exemplary management of indigenous cattle and herds.
  - **National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre:** A center for scientific conservation and development of indigenous breeds. It functions as a national repository of **germplasm(genetic material)** of Indigenous Breeds of the country
  - **E-Pashu Haat - Nakul Prajnan Bazaar:** An e-market portal connecting breeders and

farmers.

- **National Bovine Genomic Center:** A center for genomic enhancement to select high-merit bulls using gene-based technology.

## Artificial insemination

- AI is a reproductive technology that involves manually introducing sperm into a female's reproductive tract to achieve pregnancy.

## Other Initiatives Related to Livestock Sector

- [Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund \(AHIDF\)](#)
- [National Animal Disease Control Programme](#)
- [National Artificial Insemination Programme](#)

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### ***Prelims***

**Q. At present, scientists can determine the arrangement or relative positions of genes or DNA sequences on a chromosome. How does this knowledge benefit us? (2011)**

1. It is possible to know the pedigree of livestock.
2. It is possible to understand the causes of all human diseases.
3. It is possible to develop disease-resistant animal breeds.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**