

**Gopal Ratna Award**

Dr. Pragya Joshi

Division of Veterinary &amp; Animal Husbandry Extension Education

Assistant Professor, KCVAS, Amritsar

The population of indigenous cattle breeds of the country has shown a declining trend in past decades, also their full production potential is not being achieved. The indigenous breeds have proved to be of high genetic merit, diseases resistant, and robust. If the full production potential of the indigenous cattle could be exploited, it can play a crucial role in enhancing national economy of the country. Therefore to promote the development and conservation of indigenous breeds, “RashtriyaGokul Mission”, a new initiative under National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development has been launched in December 2014 for the first time in the country under the leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India. Under this mission the National Award for Cattle and Dairy Sector named GopalRatna Award was announced by union minister Giriraj Singh on the occasion of World Milk Day.

**Objectives of the GopalRatna Award:**

- To motivate farmers to take up productivity enhancement of indigenous breeds of milch animals in a scientific manner.

- To motivate Artificial insemination Technicians to take up 100% AI coverage, under RashtriyaGokul Mission (RGM).
- To motivate Cooperative and Milk producer Companies to grow and to instil competitive spirit.

**The award is provided under three categories:**

- Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle breeds
- Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)
- Best Dairy Cooperative/ Milk producer Company/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organisation)

Award amount in each category will be Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupee five lakh only) for first rank, Rs 3,00,000/- (Rupee three lakh only) for second rank and Rs 2,00,000/- (Rupee two lakh only) for third rank along with a certificate of merit and a memento.

**Eligibility criteria:**

- For first category the farmer should maintain any recognized indigenous breeds (Cattle 50, Buffalo 13)

- For 2nd Category the AI technicians of the SLDB/UTLDB / Milk Fed /NGO's / Private must have undergone AI training for a minimum period of 90 days
- For 3rd category: A Cooperative society/MPC/FPO set up at village level and is registered under Cooperative Act/ Companies Act collecting at least 100 LPD (Liters Per Day) milk and have minimum 50 farmer as member.

India being the highest milk producer country in the world with an output of 198.4 million tonnes of milk. But the potential of milk production from the indigenous breeds is still untapped.

The GopalRatna Award can prove to be a driving force in this direction by promoting the farmers, AI technicians and milk cooperatives to improve the milk productivity and successful AIs of indigenous breeds. The further details regarding the GopalRatna Award can be obtained from Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying website ([dahd.nic.in](http://dahd.nic.in)).