



SUTRA-PIC

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Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Science and Technology** has launched the “**Scientific Utilization through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows**” (SUTRA-PIC India).

It is one of the research programmes into indigenous cattle announced during the **2019-20 Union Budget**, which aims to develop products as well as improve the genetic quality of indigenous cattle breeds.

Key Points

- It is a **collaborative effort** of the Department of Biotechnology, **the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research**, the **Ministry for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy)** and the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- The department of the **Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED)**, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, is in charge of the programme. It can be noted that SEED had also constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on “**Scientific Validation and Research on Panchagavya**” (SVAROP) in 2017.
- The programme consists of **five** themes:
 - **Uniqueness** of Indigenous Cows,
 - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for **Medicine and Health**,
 - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for **Agricultural Applications**,
 - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for **Food and Nutrition**,
 - Prime-products from indigenous **cows-based utility items**.

- The above themes **aim to perform:**
 - Scientific research on the complete **characterisation of milk and milk products** derived from Indian indigenous cows.
 - Scientific research on **nutritional and therapeutic properties of curd and ghee** prepared from indigenous breeds of cows by traditional methods.
 - Development of standards for traditionally processed dairy products of Indian-origin cows, etc.

Panchagavya

Panchagavya is an Ayurvedic panacea and is a mixture of five (pancha) products of the cow (gavya) — milk, curd, ghee, dung and urine. Its proponents believe it can cure, or treat a wide range of ailments.

Source: TH