



Pashu Aushadhi Kendras under LHDCP

For Prelims: [Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras](#), [Foot and Mouth Disease](#), [Brucellosis](#), [National Animal Disease Control Programme](#)

For Mains: Government initiatives to enhance livestock health and productivity, Affordable veterinary care

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

The government of India will launch **Pashu Aushadhi Kendras** under the **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)** to provide affordable **veterinary medicines** to people engaged in animal husbandry and dairying.

What are Pashu Aushadhi Kendras?

- **About:** **Pashu Aushadhi Kendras**, modeled after [Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras \(PMBJKs\)](#), provide “**generic medicines**” **veterinary medicines** to improve **livestock health** and reduce **farmers' expenses**.
 - Pashu Aushadhi Kendras will also **sell ethnoveterinary medicines**, which are based on traditional Indian knowledge and indigenous practices.
 - Pashu Aushadhi initiative introduced under the **LHDCP**, has a Rs 75 crore allocation for veterinary medicines and sales incentives.
- **Operation Model:** These stores will be run by cooperative societies and **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSKs)**.
 - PMKSKs are one-stop-shops for farmers for multiple products such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc.
- **Aim:** Prevent and treat livestock diseases such as [Foot and Mouth Disease \(FMD\)](#), [Brucellosis](#), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) (**also known as sheep and goat plague**), Classical Swine Fever (CSF) (affecting pigs) and [Lumpy Skin Disease](#) (affects cattle).
- **Importance:** **India's 20th Livestock Census (2019)** reports around **536 million livestock**, including 303 million bovines. Diseases impact milk, meat yield, and farm income, with high medicine costs burdening farmers.
 - This initiative, alongside vaccination drives, aims to **reduce disease prevalence and financial strain**.

Note: “**Generic medicines**” are basically **non-branded drugs**, which are marketed under a non-proprietary or approved name rather than a proprietary or brand name.

What is a Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme?

- **About:** The LHDCP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented by the **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)**, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
 - LHDCP focuses on enhancing livestock health, productivity, and disease management, with a total outlay of Rs 3,880 crore from 2024-26.
- **Objective:** The program aims to eradicate **PPR by 2030**, control CSF through nationwide pig vaccination.
- **Components:** LHDCP consists of three components: [National Animal Disease Control Programme \(NADCP\)](#), **Livestock Health & Disease Control (LH&DC)**, and **Pashu Aushadhi**.
 - LH&DC has three sub-components which are **Critical Animal Disease Control Programme** (targets PPR and CSF for eradication), **Establishment and Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries - Mobile Veterinary Unit** (supports doorstep livestock healthcare), and **Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases** (addresses state-prioritized diseases).

Livestock Sector in India

- **Growth and Contribution:** The livestock sector has grown at a **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.99% (2014-15 to 2022-23)**. It contributed **5.50%** of India's **total Gross Value Added (GVA)** in 2022-23.
 - The livestock sector contribution to **agriculture and allied sector GVA** increased from **24.38% (2014-15) to 30.23% (2022-23)**.
 - Livestock provides livelihood to **two-third of rural communities**. It also provides employment to about **8.8 % of the population in India**.
- **Milk, Meat, and Egg Production:** India ranks **1st in milk production**, contributing **24.76%** of global production.
 - **Milk production** increased from **146.31 million tonnes (2014-15) to 239.30 million tonnes (2023-24)**, growing at a CAGR of **5.62%**.
 - **India ranks 2nd in egg production (1st China)** and **5th in meat production** globally (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2022).
 - **Egg production** grew from **78.48 billion (2014-15) to 142.77 billion (2023-24)** at a CAGR of **6.87%**.
 - **Meat production** increased from **6.69 million tonnes (2014-15) to 10.25 million tonnes (2023-24)** at a CAGR of **4.85%**.
- **Government Initiatives Driving Growth:** [Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#) promotes indigenous breed conservation. The **National Programme for Dairy Development** enhances milk processing, while the [National Livestock Mission](#) expands insurance and fodder production.
 - **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)** supports private investments in dairy, meat, and veterinary infrastructure.

Drishti Mains Question:

Analyze the role of Pashu Aushadhi Kendras in ensuring affordable veterinary care for livestock farmers.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Mains

Q. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India. **(2015)**

