

# PASHUDHAN ATLAS

## *India's Livestock Wealth, Mapped in Data*

~100 Data Stories across various sub-sectors - economy, breeds, dairy, meat, eggs, health, fodder, technology, finance, trade and states - **every figure source-tagged, every chart built to be read in under a minute.**

**6**

Chapters

**~10**

Sub- sectors

**2**Data Stories  
per week**~100**Data Stories  
per year

### **Leadership**

*Shri SP Tucker, IAS (Retd), Former Chief Secretary, GoAP & Vice-Chairman, GFST*

*Shri Ch Kutumba Rao, Former VC-AP State Plg Board, Vice-Chairman (P4) & Director, GFST*

*Shri Sanjay Gupta, IFS (Retd), Former Plg Secretary, GoAP and CEO, GFST*



# FOREWORD

## A Sector That Deserved Better Data

India's livestock sector supports over eight crore farmers, contributes ₹ 15 Lakh Cr (roughly 5.5% of national GVA), and has grown faster than almost any other part of the Indian economy over the past decade — yet for most stakeholders, from state policymakers to individual entrepreneurs, a clear, current, trustworthy picture of the sector has been surprisingly hard to find.

The Pashudhan Atlas exists to close that gap. Every one of the Data Stories traces back to a named, dated source — or a clearly cited government or peer-reviewed release. Where the data didn't exist to answer a question we thought mattered, we said so rather than filling the silence with a plausible-sounding number.

What we found surprised us more than once. Kerala generates nine times more livestock value per animal than Jharkhand — not because Kerala's animals are inherently superior, but because of decades of extension services, infrastructure, and farmer education that Jharkhand has not yet had the chance to build. These are the kinds of findings that don't show up in a headline GDP number, but that matter enormously to anyone actually trying to build something in this sector.

This is what data can do when you let it speak honestly: it doesn't just confirm what you already believed. It surprises you. It complicates easy stories. It points toward real, specific opportunities that a single national average would hide completely.

This is a beginning, not a finished picture. We invite readers — government departments, researchers, cooperatives, investors and farmers alike — to use this Atlas, question it, and tell us where it falls short. That is how it gets better.

Because behind every one of these numbers is someone's morning, someone's livelihood, someone's decade of work. We owe that the respect of getting it right.



# How To Read The Pashudhan Atlas

## UNDERSTAND THE 2-PAGE DATA STORY FORMAT

*Every Data Story Follows One Simple, Consistent Format*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Page

#### THE STORY

- Headline & One-line gist
- 5 KPI Dashboard
- One main Infographic built to be read in under a minute



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Page

#### THE EVIDENCE

- Five numbered findings
- A full Data Table
- Sources & References



## TRUST THE DATA

*Our Data Discipline is non-negotiable*



#### Every Number has a Source

The Source and Year are clearly mentioned with every statistic.

#### Years Are Never Mixed

Census Data, Surveys and Estimates are always labelled separately.

#### Unknowns are Declared

Where data gaps exist, the Atlas identifies them openly.

## KNOW THE EVIDENCE BASE

*The Atlas is built only on credible and verifiable sources*

#### Official Statistics

- BAHS, DAHD, GoI
- 20<sup>TH</sup> Livestock Census
- Annual Admin Reports
- MoSPI National Accounts / State GVA Series
- RBI - KLEMS Employment Database
- World Bank
- FAOSTAT

#### Livestock Research & Genetics

- ICAR-NBAGR Breed Registration
- ICAR-NDRI, IGFRI & ICAR-NIVEDI research publications
- Locally maintained breed databases
- Vety Council of India & State Vety Councils
- Vety Universities
- NGOs

#### Trade & Policy Sources

- APEDA
- PIB Press Releases
- Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha, Assembly replies
- Govt of India official reports
- NECC
- NDDB
- Coop / Private Dairies

#### Scientific Evidence

- Peer reviewed Journals (Lancet, Scientific Reports and Others)



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# From Sunrise to Sunset, an Animal Walks Beside ~140 Crore Indians



From the first milking before sunrise to the last meal after dark, 53.68 crore animals and 85.18 crore birds quietly walk through every Indian day - feeding, sustaining and standing beside the people who depend on them.



# 1

**WORLD MILK PRODUCER**  
2479 Lakh MTs; ~25% of everything the world drinks



₹ 15.06  
Lakh Cr

**LIVESTOCK GVA, 2023-24**  
5.5% of India's entire economy



8 CRORE

**RURAL HOUSEHOLDS**  
Depend on Livestock for income and resilience



70%

**OF DAIRY WORKERS ARE WOMEN**  
The quiet backbone of rural India's livestock economy



₹ 63,474  
Crores - 2024-25

**LIVESTOCK EXPORTS**  
India's animals reach kitchens on every continent



And behind every animal that walks beside 141.3 crore Indians, someone walks beside the animal.

83,017 Registered Veterinary Doctors

67,596 Veterinary Institutions

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025; DAHD Annual Report 2025-26; 20th Livestock Census 2019; Parliamentary Questions, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha; Indian Veterinary Practitioners Register; Census of India Projections- 2025.



## Why This Atlas Exists

*Livestock rarely makes headlines the way crops, industry or services do. Yet from the moment the sun rises to the moment it sets, an animal is quietly present in the life of nearly every Indian — feeding families, sustaining livelihoods, and building an economy few fully see. This Atlas exists to bring that quiet companionship into the light, one data-backed story at a time.*

**The scale is genuinely difficult to hold in one's head:** 53.68 crore animals and 85.18 crore birds — more than any single other country's population on Earth except China and India itself.

**India leads the world in milk by a margin no other country approaches:** 2479LMTs, roughly a quarter of everything the planet drinks, achieved not through industrial mega-dairies but through the aggregate effort of tens of millions of smallholder families.

**This is fundamentally a livelihood story before it is a production story:** roughly 8 crore rural households depend on livestock for income and resilience, with women forming an estimated 70% of the dairy workforce — livestock's economic value is inseparable from who actually does the work.

**The sector's ₹15.06 lakh crore GVA makes it one of India's most consistent economic engines:** livestock has grown every single year on record, including 2020-21, the one year India's overall GDP contracted — a genuine buffer against national economic shocks.

**And behind every animal, a human quietly keeps watch:** 83,017 registered veterinary doctors and 67,596 veterinary institutions form the unseen support system that keeps this entire economy healthy — every litre of milk, every meal, every rupee traded ultimately depends on the care given long before any animal reaches a farmer's gate, let alone a family's table.

## Data Table

| Dimension       | Indicator                                   | Value                       |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Foundation      | Total livestock population (2019)           | 53.68Crores                 |
| Foundation      | Poultry population (2019)                   | 85.18 Crores                |
| Dawn — Milk     | Production / PCA / World Rank               | 2479 LMT / 485 gr/day / #1  |
| Morning — Eggs  | Production / PCA / World Rank               | 14,911 Cr / 106/yr / #2     |
| Evening — Meat  | Production / PCA / World Rank               | 105.0 LMT / 7.51 Kg/yr / #4 |
| Economy         | Livestock GVA (2023-24)                     | ₹15.06 lakh crore           |
| Economy         | Share of Total & Agri+Allied GVA            | 5.5% / 30.9%                |
| Trade           | Total Livestock Exports (2024-25)           | ₹63,474 crore               |
| Veterinary Care | Registered Vety Doctors / Vety Institutions | 83,017 / 67,596             |

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025; DAHD Annual Report 2025-26; 20th Livestock Census 2019; Parliamentary Questions, Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha; Indian Veterinary Practitioners Register; Census of India Projections- 2025.



# INDIA'S LIVESTOCK SECTOR

## Ten years to \$1 trillion



Three growth pathways, one destination :  
even the conservative scenario puts livestock's  
dollar value past \$1 trillion by 2038-39 — the  
optimistic case gets there by two years sooner  
(2036) on its fastest path.



**\$177**

Billion USD

**STARTING POINT**

2023-24, all three scenarios  
begin here



**12.8%**

**BAU - CAGR**

Base-case, continuation of the  
trend



**14.8%**

**HIGH-GROWTH CAGR**

If reforms and productivity gains  
compound



**2036-38**

**\$1 Tr WINDOW**

Across all three pathways - just 3  
years apart

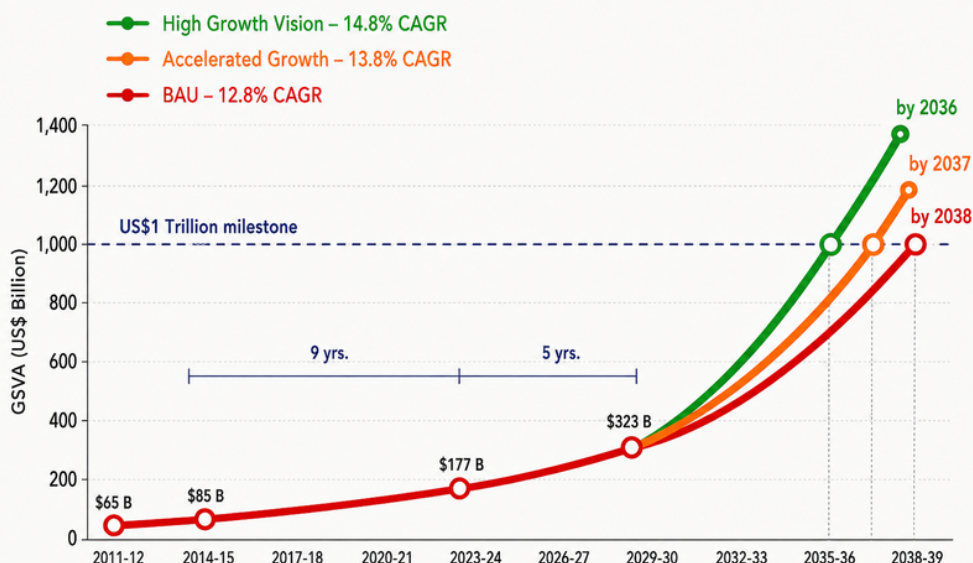


**\$4.2**

Trillion USD

**BY 2047 @ VIKSIT**

**BHARAT**  
High-Growth pathway



A 1-2 % point acceleration in CAGR can advance  
the US\$ 1 trillion milestone by 1-2 years.

- **Doubling is speeding up** — \$85B to \$177B took 9 years; the next double, to \$323B by 2028-29, takes only 5 years.
- **A milestone every 5 years:** ¼-trillion by 2026 · ½-trillion by 2032 · \$1 trillion by 2036.
- **Milestone locked for 2036–2038** — full-potential growth arrives 2 years ahead of BAU @ 14.8% CAGR.

Source: BAHS 2025, DAHD, GoI; Livestock GVA in US\$ computed from MoSPI current-price series; Forward projections (2024-25 onward) are GFST scenario modelling at fixed CAGR assumptions, not official government forecasts.



## The \$1 Tr Milestone Is Near-Certain

*The trillion is not one big push — it is many gains compounding. Reaching it, and going beyond, depends on turning the various dials across the value chain, state by state.*

**Same starting line, three speeds:** all three scenarios begin at the same \$177 billion (2023-24) — they diverge only in the assumed compound annual growth rate.

**The gap is smaller than it looks:** the difference between 12.8% and 14.8% CAGR sounds modest, but compounded over 15 years it moves the \$1-trillion crossing by two full years.

**A three-year landing window:** High Growth crosses \$1T in 2036-37, Accelerated in 2037-38, BAU (the conservative base case) in 2038-39 — a tight cluster, not a wide guess.

**Beyond the trillion mark:** extending the same three pathways to 2046-47 puts livestock at \$2.8 trillion (BAU), \$3.4 trillion (Accelerated), or \$4.2 trillion (High Growth).

**Why the base case is the one to plan around:** BAU assumes no major new reform or productivity breakthrough — it is what happens if the sector simply keeps doing what it has done for the past decade.

## Data Table

| Year           | BAU Growth<br>(@12.8%) | Accelerated<br>Growth@13.8% | High Growth<br>Vision@14.8% |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2023-24        | 177                    | 177                         | 177                         |
| 2025-26        | 225                    | 229                         | 233                         |
| 2030-31        | 411                    | 437                         | 464                         |
| 2035-36        | 749                    | 832                         | 925                         |
| 2036-37        | 844                    | 947                         | <b>1061</b>                 |
| 2037-38        | 952                    | <b>1077</b>                 | 1218                        |
| 2038-39        | <b>1074</b>            | 1226                        | 1398                        |
| <b>2046-47</b> | <b>2808</b>            | <b>3440</b>                 | <b>4208</b>                 |

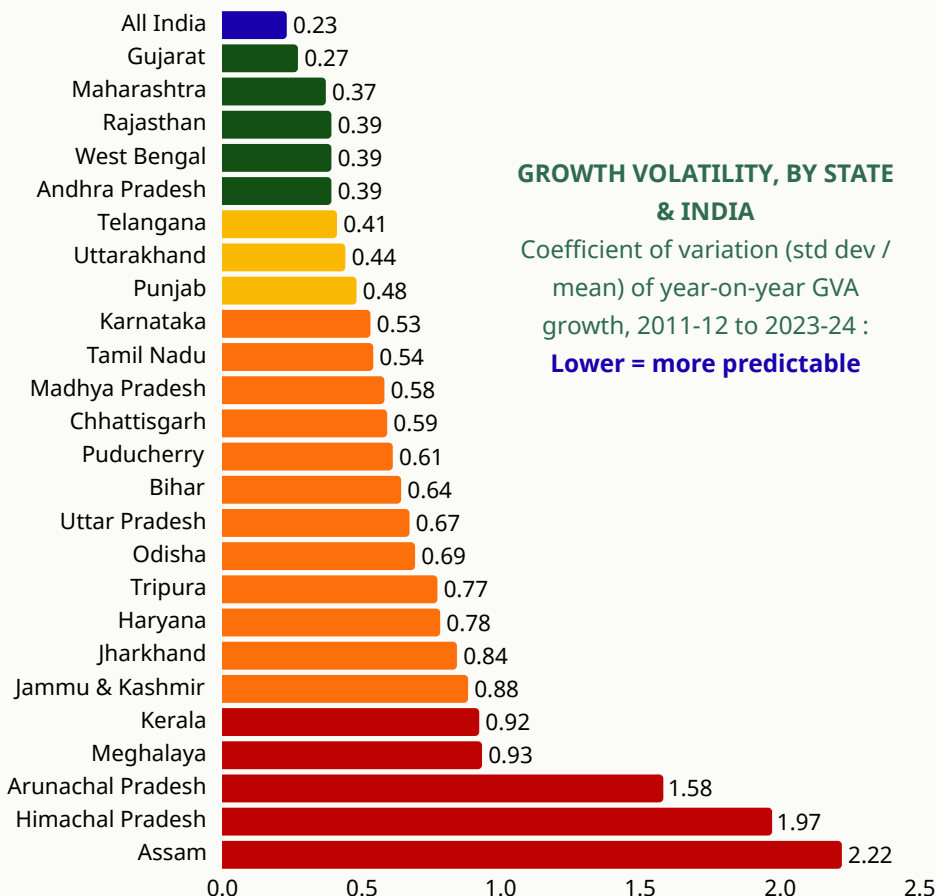
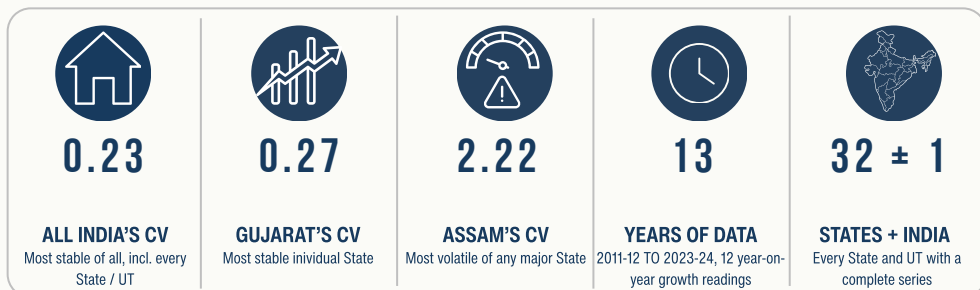
*Source: BAHS 2025, DAHD, GoI; Livestock GVA in US\$ computed from MoSPI current-price series; Forward projections (2024-25 onward) are GFST scenario modelling at fixed CAGR assumptions, not official government forecasts.*



# LIVESTOCK STABILITY RANKING :: INDIA BEATS STATES



India's own national livestock growth is more stable than any individual state's - even Gujarat's. Pooled across the States/UTs the swings that hit individual states average out at the national level.



Most Stable  
(CV < 0.4)

Stable  
(0.4 - 0.5)

Moderately Volatile  
(0.5 - 0.9)

Highly Volatile  
(CV > 0.9)

India's national CV of 0.23 beats every single state individually - a textbook diversification effect : state-level shocks (a drought here, a disease outbreak there) rarely hit every state simultaneously, so they partially cancel out in the national aggregate.



# The Diversification Effect, Made Visible



Data Story 01 traced India’s path to \$1 trillion using national-level growth. This story asks a different question : is that national growth genuinely dependable, or does it just average away a much rockier reality underneath?

**India’s national CV (0.226) beats every individual state**, including Gujarat (0.266)—a genuine diversification effect. With states/uts rarely peaking or dipping together, the national aggregate smooths out volatility no single state achieves alone.

**This qualifies how Story 01’s \$1 trillion path should be read at state level:** national dependability doesn’t transfer evenly downward. A state budgeting against the national CAGR may be assuming a stability its own history doesn’t support.

**Growing fast doesn’t mean growing unpredictably**—we checked directly whether states that grow faster also swing more wildly year to year. They don’t. A state can be both quick-growing and dependable; one doesn’t have to be traded for the other.

**Three states combine above-average growth with genuine stability**—Rajasthan (15.9% growth, CV 0.39), Andhra Pradesh (15.6%, 0.39), and Telangana (14.7%, 0.41) all beat India’s own growth rate while staying in the “stable” band. For long-term investment, this is the rare combination worth naming directly.

**The practical takeaway:** growth rate alone is an incomplete basis for state-level planning. Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh offer speed and predictability together; Assam and Himachal Pradesh need a fundamentally different, risk-aware approach even where their average growth looks comparable on paper.

## Data Table

| State/India    | Mean Growth % | CV   | State/India       | Mean Growth % | CV    |
|----------------|---------------|------|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| All India      | 13.60         | 0.23 | Manipur           | 8.68          | 0.77  |
| Gujarat        | 11.93         | 0.27 | Tripura           | 23.16         | 0.77  |
| Maharashtra    | 11.08         | 0.37 | Haryana           | 6.87          | 0.78  |
| Rajasthan      | 15.90         | 0.39 | Jharkhand         | 15.07         | 0.84  |
| West Bengal    | 11.99         | 0.39 | Chandigarh        | 8.49          | 0.88  |
| Andhra Pradesh | 15.59         | 0.39 | Jammu &Kashmir    | 11.47         | 0.88  |
| Telangana      | 14.75         | 0.41 | Sikkim            | 17.58         | 0.89  |
| Uttarakhand    | 8.37          | 0.44 | Kerala            | 7.69          | 0.92  |
| Punjab         | 9.67          | 0.48 | Meghalaya         | 10.90         | 0.93  |
| Karnataka      | 16.90         | 0.53 | Arunachal Pradesh | 11.61         | 1.58  |
| Tamil Nadu     | 14.86         | 0.54 | Himachal Pradesh  | 8.32          | 1.97  |
| Madhya Pradesh | 22.41         | 0.58 | Assam             | 18.92         | 2.22  |
| Chhattisgarh   | 14.99         | 0.59 | Mizoram           | 10.08         | 2.45  |
| Puducherry     | 7.52          | 0.61 | A & N Islands     | 4.71          | 2.54  |
| Bihar          | 16.12         | 0.64 | Goa               | 10.16         | 2.74  |
| Uttar Pradesh  | 12.21         | 0.67 | Nagaland          | 1.40          | 13.72 |
| Odisha         | 11.80         | 0.69 | Delhi             | 0.38          | 28.27 |

Source: GFST Statistical analysis : MoSPI Statewise GVA\_Livestock, 2011–12 to 2023–24 annual series. Volatility metrics based on Coefficient of Variation (CV). CV = standard deviation / mean, applied to the series of year-on-year GVA growth rates; States with any missing/zero year excluded.



# Livestock: A Recession-Resilient Growth Engine

In 2020-21, India's overall GDP growth stalled to -0.9%; livestock still grew 13.8%, a gap of nearly 14.7 percentage points in the pandemic year, India's only near-contraction year on record.



13.8%

## LIVESTOCK GROWTH

2020-21, Current Prices - the Pandemic Year



-0.93%

## INDIA'S GDP GROWTH

2020-21 - the only near-contraction year on record



14.7pts

## GROWTH GAP

Widest livestock-vs-GDP swing on record



8 of 12

## YEARS OUTGREW GDP

2012-13 to 2023-24, current prices



0

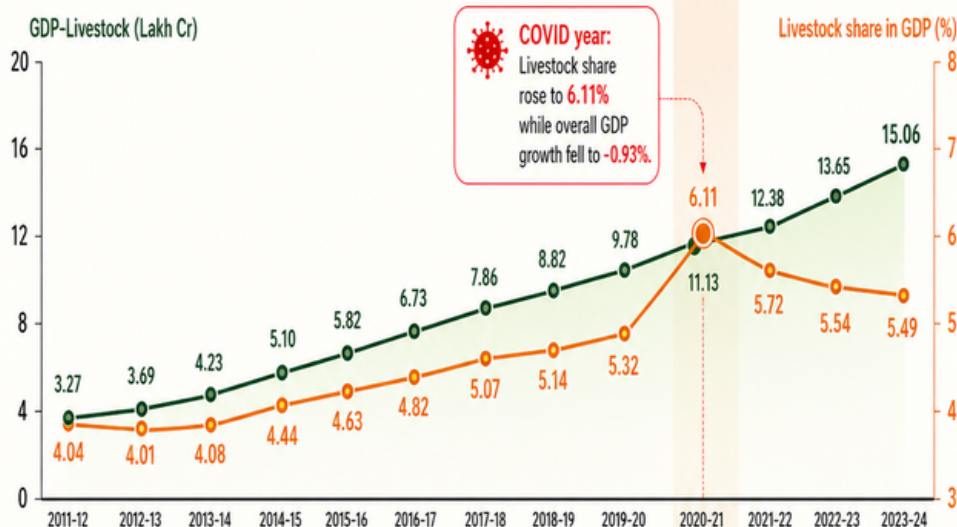
## CONTRACTION YEARS

Livestock GVA, even through 2020-21

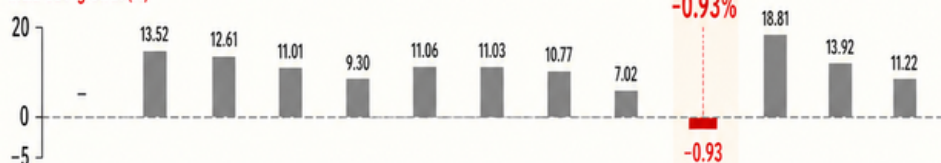
— GDP-Livestock (Lakh Cr)  
Left Axis

—○— Livestock share in total GDP (%)  
Right Axis

■ India GDP growth (%)  
(All-India)



India GDP growth (%)\*



- Livestock share of total GVA rose from 5.32% (2019-20) to 6.11% (2020-21) - the peak of the series - before easing back as the broader economy recovered.

## CONNECTS TO DATA STORY # 01

Livestock's actual growth in its single worst year (13.8%) matches Data Story #01's own "Accelerated Growth" Scenario (13.8% CAGR) exactly - the \$1 Trillion projection is not built on an optimistic assumption alone, it's grounded in a rate the sector has already demonstrated under real stress.



# Livestock: The Economy's Floor, Not Its Ceiling



*Data Story # 01 introduced this same GVA series. Data Story # 02 showed India's aggregate growth is remarkably stable. This story asks a related but distinct question : when the wider economy actually broke, did livestock break with it?*

**Livestock's share of GVA peaked exactly when it mattered most** — rising from 5.32% (2019–20) to 6.11% (2020–21) as the rest of the economy contracted. This is the same underlying series introduced in Data Story #00's ₹15.06 lakh crore figure.

**Stability (Story #02) and resilience (this story) are related but not identical** — Story #02 measured whether growth swings consistently year to year. This story asks a sharper question: specifically in the one year everything else broke, did livestock hold? It did — and by the widest margin on record.

**The honest second half of this story:** GDP outgrew livestock in every year since the pandemic — 2021–22 (18.8% vs 11.2%), 2022–23 (13.9% vs 10.3%), 2023–24 (11.2% vs 10.3%). Livestock isn't the fastest mover in either direction — it's the floor, not the ceiling.

**That floor is exactly what Story #02's stability finding predicts** — a sector with genuinely low volatility should neither collapse in the bad years nor sprint away in the good ones. The post-pandemic data confirms it: livestock's growth compressed into a narrow 10–12% band while GDP swung from -0.9% to +18.8%.

**Why this matters for policy, precisely:** a sector that neither contracts in a downturn nor overheats in a boom is a genuine counter-cyclical buffer for rural incomes — the kind of asset worth weighting explicitly in state-level economic planning, not just celebrating in a good year.

## Data Table

| Year           | Livestock GVA Growth | India's GDP Growth | Gap (pts)     |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 2012-13        | 12.68%               | 13.52%             | -0.84         |
| 2013-14        | 14.61%               | 12.61%             | +2.00         |
| 2014-15        | 20.75%               | 11.01%             | +9.74         |
| 2015-16        | 14.11%               | 9.30%              | +4.80         |
| 2016-17        | 15.49%               | 11.06%             | +4.43         |
| 2017-18        | 16.82%               | 11.03%             | +5.78         |
| 2018-19        | 12.26%               | 10.77%             | +1.49         |
| 2019-20        | 10.87%               | 7.02%              | +3.85         |
| <b>2020-21</b> | <b>13.83%</b>        | <b>-0.93%</b>      | <b>+14.75</b> |
| 2021-22        | 11.26%               | 18.81%             | -7.55         |
| 2022-23        | 10.21%               | 13.92%             | -3.71         |
| 2023-24        | 10.32%               | 11.22%             | -0.91         |

Source: GFST Statistical Analysis. Livestock GVA: BAHS 2025, DAHD, GoI. India GDP Growth: MoSPI National Accounts, current prices.



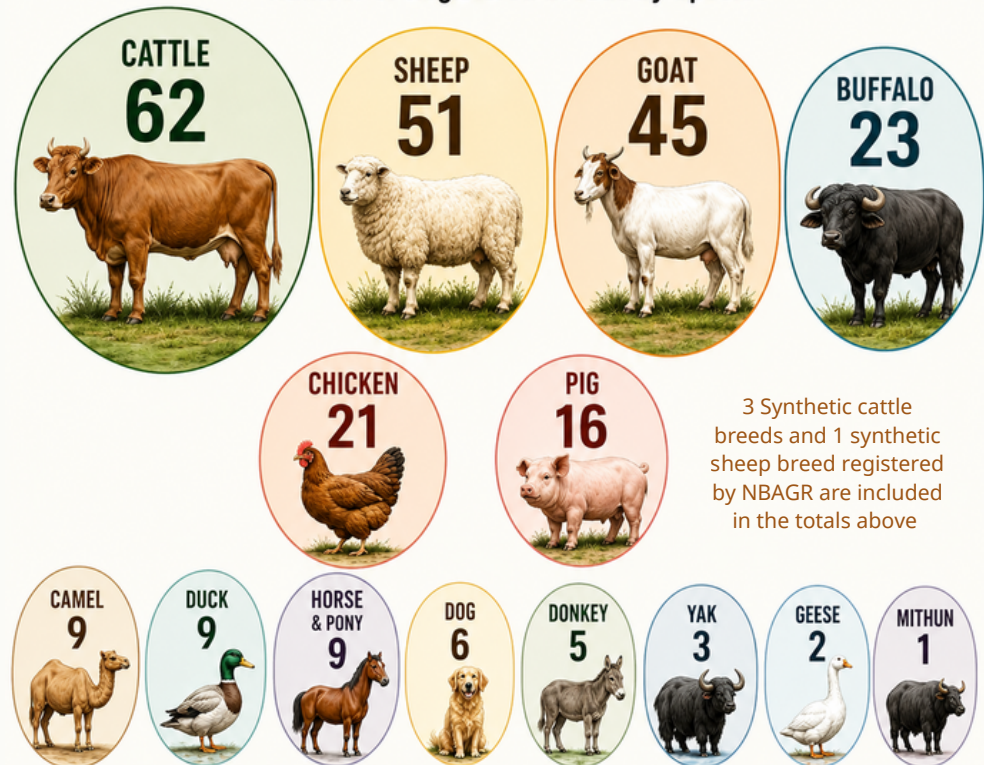
# Just 6 of 14 Species Hold 83% of India's Breed Diversity

India has registered 262 distinct livestock and poultry breeds - but that genetic wealth is sharply concentrated. Cattle, Buffalo, Sheep, Goat, Pig and Chicken account for 218 of them.

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |   |  |  |
| <b>262</b>                                                                        | <b>110</b>                                                                        | <b>83.2%</b>                                                                       | <b>400</b>                                                                        | <b>30-40 LAKH</b>                                                                  |
| <b>REGISTERED BREEDS</b><br>Across 14 species groups,<br>Aug 2026                 | <b>BREEDS REGISTERED</b><br>In Last 12 Yrs<br>(2015-16 to 2026-27)                | <b>HELD BY TOP 6 SPECIES</b><br>Cattle, Buffaloes, Sheep, Goat,<br>Pig and Chicken | <b>DISTRICTS COVERED</b><br>Across 24 States & 3 UTs                              | <b>FARMERS INVOLVED</b><br>Tied to 170 Lakh registered breed<br>animals            |

## THE GENETIC DIVERSITY LANDSCAPE

Number of Registered Breeds by Species



### ON THE WORLD STAGE



FAO's global registry (DAD-IS) records over 8,800 distinct livestock breeds of 38 different species across 182 countries - placing India's 262 breeds at roughly 3% of the world's documented diversity. Globally, over 2,400 breeds are already at risk of extinction, and 600 are gone entirely - the backdrop Data Story # 05 examines next, for India specifically.

Source: ICAR-NBAGR, registered breeds as of August 2026; Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)



## India's Livestock Diversity Is a Genetic Asset

*Data Story # 02 found India's economic stability concentrated in a handful of states. This story finds the same underlying pattern in a completely different domain — genetic diversity concentrated in a handful of species.*

**Cattle alone account for nearly a quarter of India's entire breed registry** — 62 of 262 breeds (23.7%), more than double the next largest group (sheep, 51 breeds). This single species carries a disproportionate share of the country's documented genetic heritage.

**Small ruminants form the largest combined pool after cattle** — sheep (51) and goat (45) together contribute 96 breeds, 36.6% of the total, reflecting centuries of localized adaptation to India's most climate-diverse, resource-constrained regions.

**This is the same concentration pattern Data Story #02 found in economic stability, applied to genetics** — just as a handful of states carried India's aggregate stability, just six species (cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo, chicken, pig) carry 83.2% of all registered breed diversity. Concentration, it turns out, is a recurring structural feature of this sector, not a one-off finding.

**The remaining eight species each hold genuinely irreplaceable genetic material, despite tiny counts** — Mithun (1 breed), Geese (2) and Yak (3) are not statistical noise; each represents a unique lineage adapted to specific regions (Northeast India's Mithun, Himalayan Yak) with no substitute if lost.

**110 of these 262 breeds were registered in just the last 12 years** — meaning documentation itself is accelerating, not static. This matters directly for Data Story #05, on conservation risk: a breed cannot be protected until it is first formally recognised and counted.

## Data Table

| Rank | Species           | Registered Breeds | % Share of Total |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1    | Cattle            | 62                | 23.7             |
| 2    | Sheep             | 51                | 19.5             |
| 3    | Goat              | 45                | 17.2             |
| 4    | Buffaloe          | 23                | 8.8              |
| 5    | Poultry (Chicken) | 21                | 8.0              |
| 6    | Pig               | 16                | 6.1              |
| 7    | Horse/Pony        | 9                 | 3.4              |
| 8    | Camel             | 9                 | 3.4              |
| 9    | Duck              | 9                 | 3.4              |
| 10   | Dog               | 6                 | 2.3              |
| 11   | Donkey            | 5                 | 1.9              |
| 12   | Yak               | 3                 | 1.1              |
| 13   | Geese             | 2                 | 0.8              |
| 14   | Mithun            | 1                 | 0.4              |
|      | <b>Total</b>      | <b>262</b>        | <b>100.0</b>     |

Source: ICAR-NBAGR, registered breeds as of August 2026



# 1 in 6 Assessed Breeds Is At Risk - Camels Face It Most



Of 236 registered breeds assessed for conservation status, 38 are Critical, Endangered or Vulnerable. But risk is not spread evenly - camels face it at nearly four times the average rate.



## CONNECTS TO DATA STORY # 04

Data Story # 04 found 262 registered breeds and asked how many are actually secure. Here's the answer: 198 are not at risk - but 38 need active conservation attention, and the risk is not spread evenly across species.

### Conservation Status by Species, Ranked by Breed Count

| Rank  | Species      | Total Breeds | Status Breakdown (Number of Breeds) |            |            |          | At-Risk (C+E+V) |
|-------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------------|
|       |              |              | Not At Risk                         | Vulnerable | Endangered | Critical |                 |
| 1     | Cattle       | 62           | 53                                  | 5          | 4          | 0        | 9               |
| 2     | Sheep        | 51           | 42                                  | 5          | 3          | 1        | 9               |
| 3     | Goat         | 45           | 41                                  | 1          | 2          | 1        | 4               |
| 4     | Buffaloe     | 23           | 21                                  | 2          | 0          | 0        | 2               |
| 5     | Chicken      | 21           | 20                                  | 1          | 0          | 0        | 1               |
| 6     | Pig          | 16           | 14                                  | 0          | 2          | 0        | 2               |
| 7     | Horse & Pony | 9            | 4                                   | 0          | 5          | 0        | 5               |
| 8     | Camel        | 9            | 3                                   | 0          | 3          | 3        | 6               |
| TOTAL |              | 236          | 198                                 | 14         | 19         | 5        | 38              |

## ON THE WORLD STAGE

Globally, FAO's registry shows roughly 27% of the world's assessed breeds are at-risk. India's 16.1% at-risk rate is proportionally lower - but 38 specific breeds still need it named directly, not averaged away.

Source: ICAR-NBAGR, registered breeds as of August 2026; Breed Watchlist 2022; Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)



# Risk Is Concentrated, Not Uniform

India's breed diversity is substantial, but conservation pressure is not spread evenly across species — some carry it at multiples of the national average.

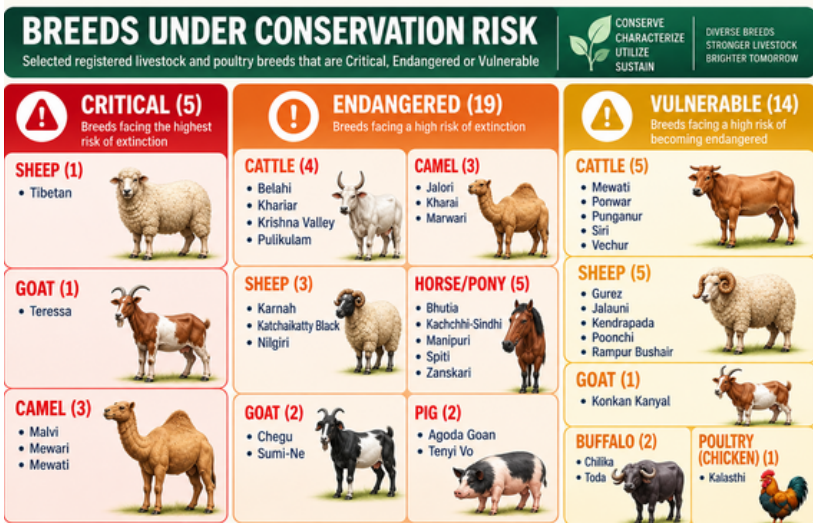
**38 of 236 assessed breeds (16.1%) face conservation risk** — 5 Critical, 19 Endangered, 14 Vulnerable. The remaining 198 (83.9%) are currently not at risk.

**Camels face conservation risk at nearly four times the national rate** — 6 of 9 breeds (66.7%) are at risk, including 3 Critical and 3 Endangered, against a national average of 16.1%. No other species comes close to this proportional burden.

**Horse & Pony breeds face a narrower but still severe risk** — 5 of 9 breeds (55.6%) are Endangered specifically, concentrated in one risk category rather than spread across all three.

**Cattle and sheep carry the largest absolute burden, but the lowest proportional one** — 9 at-risk breeds each, but against much larger total registries (62 and 51), that's 14.5% and 17.6% respectively — close to the national average, not far above it.

**This story is India's data point on a UN global indicator, not an isolated domestic count** — SDG Indicator 2.5.2 tracks exactly this question worldwide. Among breeds with a known status globally, FAO reports 27% are at risk (2024); India's assessed rate is 16.1% — a genuinely favourable position, though not a reason for complacency on the 38 breeds that do need it.



**National Norms for Livestock Breed Status in India**  
Normal: >25,000 breeding animals; Insecure: 15,000–25,000;  
Vulnerable: 5,000–15,000; Endangered: 2,000–5,000; Critical: <2,000

## Data Table



[Click here to Access all Data Stories](#)

| Species      | Critical | Endan<br>gered | Vulne<br>rable | Not At<br>Risk | Total      | At Risk   | At-Risk %     |
|--------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| Cattle       | 0        | 4              | 5              | 53             | 62         | 9         | 14.50%        |
| Sheep        | 1        | 3              | 5              | 42             | 51         | 9         | 17.60%        |
| Goat         | 1        | 2              | 1              | 41             | 45         | 4         | 8.90%         |
| Buffalo      | 0        | 0              | 2              | 21             | 23         | 2         | 8.70%         |
| Chicken      | 0        | 0              | 1              | 20             | 21         | 1         | 4.80%         |
| Pig          | 0        | 2              | 0              | 14             | 16         | 2         | 12.50%        |
| Horse/Pony   | 0        | 5              | 0              | 4              | 9          | 5         | 55.60%        |
| Camel        | 3        | 3              | 0              | 3              | 9          | 6         | 66.70%        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>19</b>      | <b>14</b>      | <b>198</b>     | <b>236</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>16.10%</b> |

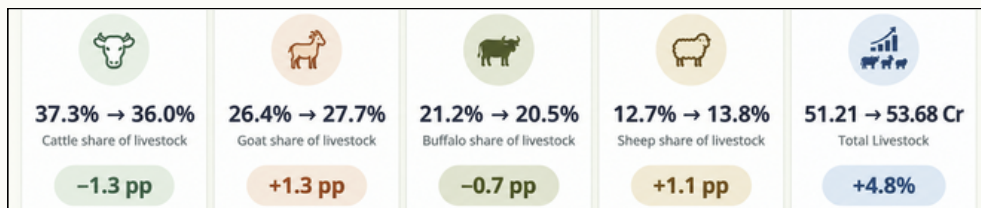
Source: ICAR-NBAGR, Breed Watchlist 2022; FAO SDG Indicator 2.5.2 report, 2024 (global comparison figure, breeds of known status).



# India's Livestock Portfolio Is Shifting



Between 2012 and 2019, India's livestock mix shifted toward sheep, goats and poultry - while camels and horses, already flagged as India's most genetically at-risk breeds, saw their populations collapse by more than a third in just seven years.



## WINNERS & DECLINERS: 2012 → 2019

Change in population (in crore) and percent change

|  |                 |       |  |       |        |        |
|--|-----------------|-------|--|-------|--------|--------|
|  | Poultry         | 72.92 |  | 85.18 | +12.26 | +16.8% |
|  | Sheep           | 6.51  |  | 7.43  | +0.92  | +14.1% |
|  | Goats           | 13.52 |  | 14.89 | +1.37  | +10.1% |
|  | Cattle          | 19.09 |  | 19.35 | +0.26  | +1.4%  |
|  | Buffaloes       | 10.87 |  | 10.99 | +0.12  | +1.1%  |
|  | Pigs            | 1.03  |  | 0.91  | -0.12  | -12.0% |
|  | Horses & Ponies | 0.06  |  | 0.03  | -0.03  | -45.2% |
|  | Camels          | 0.04  |  | 0.03  | -0.01  | -37.1% |
|  | Donkeys         | 0.03  |  | 0.01  | -0.02  | -61.2% |

— ----- Change in population (crore) ----- +

## 100 ANIMALS IN 2012 BECAME...

(population in 2019)

Poultry



117

Sheep



114

Goats



110

Cattle



101

Buffaloes



101

Pigs



88

## CONNECTS TO DATA STORIES #00 & #05

Story #00 opened the entire Atlas with 53.68 crore animals and 85.18 crore birds as the foundation of India's ₹15.06 lakh crore livestock economy. This story is what's actually inside that number — and shows the growth behind it also came from goats, sheep and poultry, not solely from cattle or buffaloes. Story #05 found camels face conservation risk at nearly 4x the national rate (6 of 9 breeds, 66.7%) and horse & pony breeds at 55.6% — the two most genetically endangered species in India's registry. This census shows the same two species also had the steepest population declines of the decade: camels -37.1%, horses & ponies -45.2%. The genetic warning light and the population count are pointing at exactly the same animals.

Source: 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census, DAHD, GoI compiled in BAHS 2025. Figures are actual enumerated Census counts, not projections. India's 21<sup>st</sup> Livestock Census (2024) remains provisional at the State level only; national totals were not yet available at the time of writing.



# The Herd Is Being Reshaped From Within

Data Story #02 found India's economic stability concentrated in a handful of states. Data Story #04 found breed diversity concentrated in a handful of species. This story finds the same pattern again — growth concentrated in a few species, while the rest quietly shrink.

**The Number Story #00, unpacked:** India's 53.68 crore animals and 85.18 crore birds underpin a ₹15.06 lakh crore livestock economy. But growth is uneven: the increase also came from goats, sheep and poultry, not only cattle or buffaloes.

**Volume and value tell different stories:** Livestock headcount grew only 4.8% between 2012 and 2019, while Story #01 projects livestock GVA growing 12.8–14.8% annually toward \$1 trillion. The gap suggests value growth is being driven mainly by productivity and prices, not animal numbers.

**Poultry, sheep and goats led growth:** Poultry rose 16.8%, sheep 14.1%, and goats 10.1%, well above the 4.8% overall growth rate. Cattle (+1.4%) and buffaloes (+1.1%) were nearly flat. Five species grew faster than the national average; four did not.

**Cattle show a striking contradiction:** Story #04 found cattle account for the largest share of India's breed registry — 62 of 262 breeds (23.7%) — yet their population share is shrinking, from 37.3% to 36.0%. Breed diversity and population dominance are moving in opposite directions.

**The strongest link is to Story #05:** Camels and horses/ponies had the highest shares of breeds at risk — 66.7% and 55.6% — and also recorded the steepest population declines: -37.1% and -45.2%. Genetic risk and population decline are pointing to the same emergency.

**Why this matters for Policy :** a species can be declining on the population axis, the genetic-diversity axis, or both - and only tracking one hides the other. Camels and horses are currently failing on both counts simultaneously, which makes them the clearest candidates in this entire Atlas for urgent, targeted conservation investment rather than broad-based livestock policy.

## Data Table

| Species                | 2012 (Cr)    | 2019 (Cr)    | % Change     |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cattle                 | 19.09        | 19.35        | +1.4%        |
| Buffaloes              | 10.87        | 10.99        | +1.1%        |
| Sheep                  | 6.51         | 7.43         | +14.1%       |
| Goats                  | 13.52        | 14.89        | +10.1%       |
| Pigs                   | 1.03         | 0.91         | -12.0%       |
| Horses & Ponies        | 0.06         | 0.03         | -45.2%       |
| Camels                 | 0.04         | 0.03         | -37.1%       |
| Donkeys                | 0.03         | 0.01         | -61.2%       |
| <b>Total Livestock</b> | <b>51.21</b> | <b>53.68</b> | <b>+4.8%</b> |
| Poultry                | 72.92        | 85.18        | +16.8%       |

Source: 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census, DAHD, GoI compiled in BAHS 2025. Figures are actual enumerated Census counts, not projections. India's 21<sup>st</sup> Livestock Census (2024) remains provisional at the State level only; national totals were not yet available at the time of writing.



# WITH GRATITUDE

## Thank You for Walking Through This With Us

You've just spent time with the numbers behind eight crore families' lives — their milk, their markets, their mornings, their quiet resilience. That is not a small thing, and we do not take it lightly.

This is not a book that closes. Two new Data Stories arrive every week — not on a fixed schedule of topics, but whichever story matters most right now. Some weeks that means dairy, others policy, others a single state's own story. We follow the data, not a calendar. Thank you for reading this with us. We hope you'll stay for what comes next.

### Tell Us What You Think



This Atlas is built to be questioned

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What would you want to see next on this topic?

Any correction to flag? Two minutes, straight to our inbox.

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