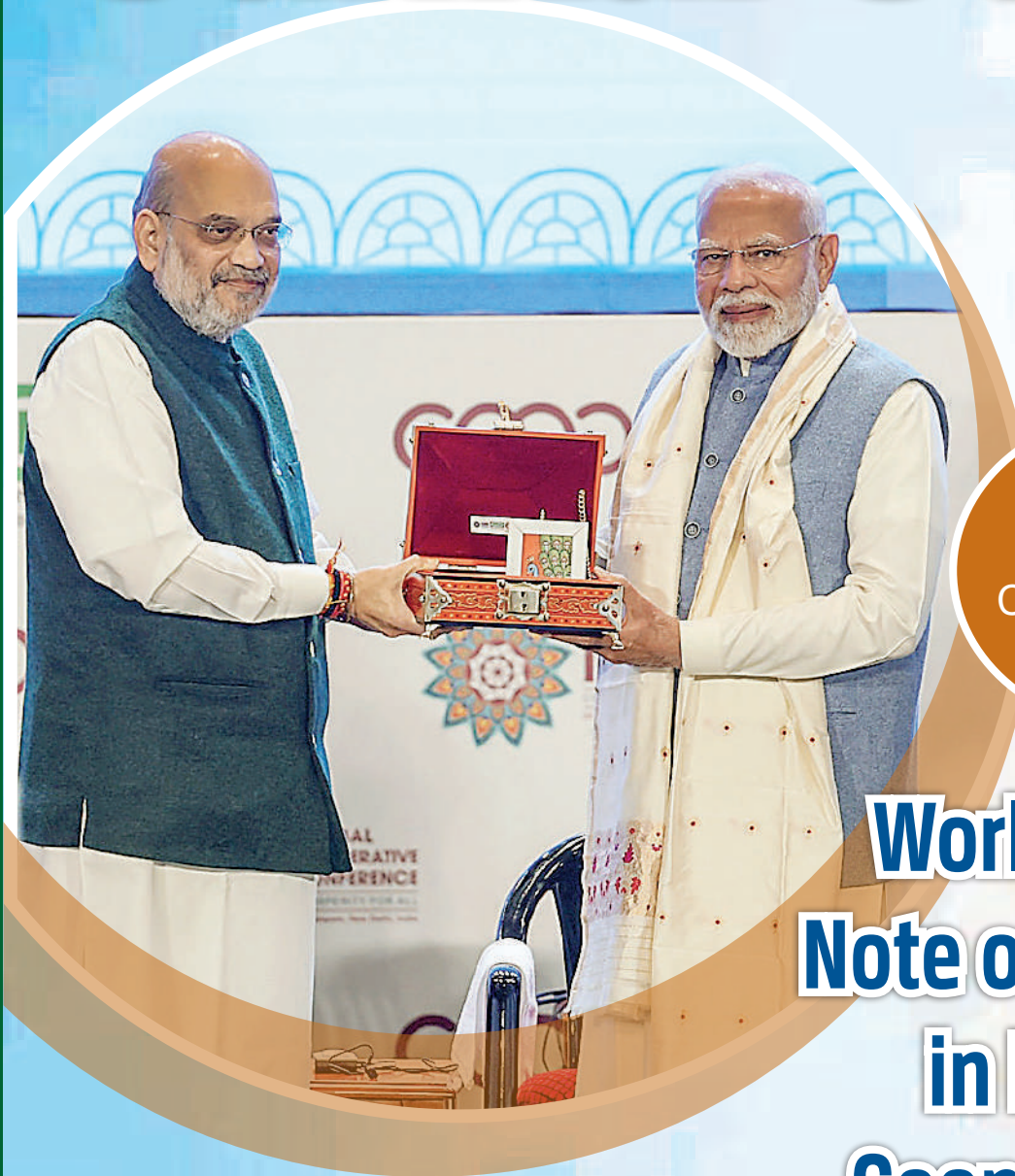


# Sahkar Uday



Prosperity  
Through  
Cooperation at  
Global Level

## World Takes Note of Reforms in Indian Cooperatives



अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहकारिता वर्ष 2025

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Global Manufacturing  
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**Sahkar Uday**

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Cover Story

**Prosperity Through Cooperation at Global Level, World Takes Note of Reforms in Indian Cooperatives**

Indian cooperatives took center stage at the Global Cooperative Conference and the General Assembly meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Cooperative leaders and representatives from over 100 countries applauded the transformative impact of Indian cooperatives in improving living standards.

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## From the Editor's Desk

India has bolstered its position in the global cooperative movement by hosting a major international cooperative conference in New Delhi in November 2024. The event saw participation from around 100 countries, making it a significant gathering of cooperation. Over 3,000 cooperative policymakers and members attended, alongside 1,500 international guests. The conference, the first of its kind in the country, was organized under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, with strong support from the Ministry of Cooperation, the Government of India and IFFCO.

The conference has received widespread international praise. With the theme 'Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All', inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' resolution, the event focused on how cooperatives can foster prosperity for all. It featured an important General Assembly session of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and global discussions on enabling policies, leadership development and creating a sustainable future. This conference is expected to provide a new direction for the cooperative movement with tangible and impactful outcomes. The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who addressed global cooperative leaders, policymakers and members. In his speech, the Prime Minister emphasized that the Global Cooperative Conference would offer valuable insights for Indian cooperatives. Additionally, he officially launched the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025, with the theme 'Cooperatives Build a Better World'. A commemorative postage stamp was released, reflecting India's dedication to the cooperative movement. The six-day conference was organized in alignment with Indian culture, featuring vegetarian meals, Indian cultural and classical programs, and the planting of 10,000 Peepal saplings.

A moment of great pride for Indian cooperatives occurred during the conference when Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO, was awarded the Rochdale Pioneers Award, the highest recognition in the cooperative world, by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for his exceptional contributions. This prestigious honour highlights India's success in the global cooperative movement. The team at Sahkar Uday magazine extends heartfelt congratulations to the Managing Director of IFFCO for receiving this esteemed award at the Global Cooperative Conference.

This edition of Sahkar Uday features in-depth articles on the Global Cooperative Conference held in New Delhi along with other engaging and informative topics. I am confident that you will find this issue both inspiring and valuable. ◆◆◆

**Thanks and Regards!**

**'Jai Sahkar'**



Cooperatives in India have travelled from idea to movement, from movement to revolution and from revolution to empowerment. India sees a huge role for cooperatives in its future growth. Our effort is to make cooperative societies multipurpose. We are following the mantra of prosperity through cooperation and are working towards making India a developed country by bringing together governance and cooperativism.

**Shri Narendra Modi,**  
Prime Minister of India

Rural cooperative banks are the basis of the economic progress of villages. The Government of India is working to make every farmer and villager prosperous by strengthening these banks. Cooperative banks will continue to contribute to the empowerment of the rural economy by providing facilities like loan distribution schemes, doorstep banking, Kisan Credit Cards and micro ATMs.

**Shri Amit Shah**  
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



Due to the efforts of the Ministry of Cooperation, the role of PACS in rural development is increasing and diversifying. PACS are now operating as PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras, PM Kisan Samridhhi Kendras as well as water committees in many villages. This is enabling them to generate additional revenue and also increase their influence.

**Shri Murlidhar Mohol**  
Union Minister of State,  
Ministry of Cooperation, Gol



Only through cooperatives a peaceful and bloodless revolution is possible in the world. Organizing the historic ICA Global Cooperative Conference in India is a matter of national pride.

**Shri Dileep Sanghani**  
President, NCUI &  
IFFCO



IFFCO's Nano products, such as Nano Urea Plus and Nano DAP help farmers achieve better crop yields. These products are easy to store and transport. These can be sprayed on any crop.

**Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi**  
MD & CEO, IFFCO

Celebrating the International Year of Cooperation 2025 will help in highlighting the importance of cooperation at the global level. This will lead to exchange of experiences and best practices between different countries, thereby further strengthening cooperative institutions in India.

**Ministry of Cooperation,**  
Government of India

# Celebrating International Yoga Day, Millets & Cooperatives

## 3 Pillars of India's Rising Global Stature

### Sahkar Uday Team

India's international standing has grown due to various government initiatives under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Over the past decade, three key areas—Yoga, Millets (Shree Anna) and cooperatives—have gained global recognition and these significant government accomplishments are being widely praised. Since the inception of International Yoga Day, India's yoga system has positively impacted lives worldwide, with its popularity rising both within India and globally. Millets have also gained international prominence in the past year, benefiting Indian farmers by increasing demand for these nutritious grains among health-conscious people, allowing them to secure better prices. Additionally, the declaration of the International Year of Cooperatives has bolstered the global credibility of Indian cooperatives.

In 2014, in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the proposal to celebrate International Yoga Day globally was presented at the United Nations Headquarters. The United Nations General Assembly, with the support of 177 countries, approved India's proposal and it was decided that June 21 would be celebrated as International Yoga Day. On June 21, 2015, the first International Yoga Day was celebrated enthusiastically in about 84 countries worldwide. In 2023, based on India's suggestion and in the context of global food security, the year was declared the International Year of Millets. This proposal was warmly accepted by the Food and



Agriculture Organization (FAO). India is the largest producer of millets and given the growing global demand for these nutritious grains, especially for health reasons, their cultivation has been strongly encouraged in India. To enhance the global supply of Indian coarse grains, a coordinated effort was made between various agricultural ministries, state governments and exporters.

In 2023, the International Year of Millets, the focus was on increasing production, boosting consumption, enhancing exports, strengthening the value chain, promoting branding, and raising awareness about the health benefits of millets. The government organized various programs to turn this into a mass movement, aiming to promote Indian millets, their dishes and value-added products globally. Millets were showcased in culinary festivals, international trade fairs, chef conferences, farmer producer organizations (FPOs), roadshows, farmer fairs, cooking training for paramilitary forces and ASEAN-India Millet Festivals held in Delhi and Indonesia, among other events.

The announcement of the International Year of Cooperatives in 2025 is expected to increase global interest in cooperatives. The

organization of the five-day Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi has provided new momentum to the cooperative movement. India has swiftly embraced this initiative by the United Nations. In 2025, the focus will be on empowering the poor, marginalized communities, women and youth through the cooperative movement. The Ministry of Cooperation plans to launch a year-long campaign to strengthen cooperative institutions and engage people in them. India is home to one-fourth of the world's cooperative institutions and efforts will be made to activate and optimize these institutions. Countries worldwide are expressing interest in adopting India's cooperative model, as demonstrated during the global conference, which will benefit Indian cooperatives. For the International Year of Cooperatives, the government has decided to inspire a cooperative spirit, especially in remote areas across India. Throughout the year, cooperatives will be promoted globally, with successful cooperative models from different countries showcased for the benefit of other countries. India's cooperative model is being recognized and celebrated worldwide. ♦♦♦

Prosperity Through Cooperation at Global Level

# World Takes Note of Reforms in Indian Cooperatives

Sahkar Uday Team

Indian cooperatives took center stage at the Global Cooperative Conference and the General Assembly meeting of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Cooperative leaders and representatives from over 100 countries applauded the transformative impact of Indian cooperatives in improving living standards.

While inaugurating the conference and launching the International Cooperative Year 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the significance of the cooperative sector in India. He remarked, “Cooperatives are a model for the world, but for India, cooperatives are the foundation of our culture and a way of life.”

To drive multidimensional development and realize the vision of ‘Sahakar se Samridhhi’ (Prosperity through Cooperation), aimed at empowering rural India and farmers, the cooperative sector in India has entered a new phase of growth, expansion, and transformation. Inspired by the success of Indian cooperatives, the Global Cooperative Conference and the ICA General Assembly, the foremost event of the global cooperative movement, was hosted in India for the first time—marking a historic moment for the nation.

The United Nations’ decision to designate 2025 as the International



- Prime Minister Shri Modi launched the International Year of Cooperatives 2025
- The theme of the ICA conference was ‘Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All’, inspired by the vision of ‘Sahakar Se Samridhhi’
- The government is committed to making cooperative institutions self-reliant and robust
- Cooperatives reach approximately 98% of rural India

Year of Cooperatives underscores the potential of cooperative enterprises in addressing global

challenges. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, while emphasizing the vision of ‘Sahkar se Samridhhi’,

Minister

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

25<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

stated that the initiative seeks to make cooperative institutions self-reliant and robust. He highlighted the transformative impact of administrative and policy reforms, as well as key initiatives, in revitalizing the cooperative sector.

Drawing from India's centuries-old cultural heritage, the Prime Minister remarked, "Vedas, Upanishads, and other Indian scriptures teach us to walk together, speak in one voice, and live in peaceful coexistence. This harmony is the essence of cooperation and is deeply rooted in Indian family traditions."

Welcoming distinguished guests, including Bhutan's Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister Manoa Kamikamica, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India Mr. Shombi Sharp, International Cooperative Alliance President Mr. Ariel Guarco, and over 3,000 representatives and

cooperative leaders from more than 100 countries, the Prime Minister addressed the gathering at the grand Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

He dedicated this greeting on behalf of India's vast cooperative network, which includes lakhs of farmers, cattle rearers, fishermen, 10 crore women from over 8 lakh cooperative societies and self-help groups, and the youth integrating technology with cooperation. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the Global Cooperative Summit would provide valuable insights into India's cooperative journey while enabling global cooperatives to benefit from India's rich experience and expertise in the sector.

### Steps Towards a Developed India

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted that India is

working towards becoming a developed nation by integrating governance with cooperatives. With eight lakh cooperative societies, India is home to a quarter of the world's cooperatives. Cooperatives have a significant presence, covering nearly 98 percent of rural India and benefiting around 30 crore people—one in every five Indians. The cooperative sector is rapidly expanding in urban and housing sectors as well.

Cooperatives are playing a pivotal role in key industries such as sugar, fertilizer, fisheries, and milk production. India boasts approximately two lakh housing cooperative societies.

The Prime Minister also emphasized the notable strides made in strengthening India's cooperative banking sector. Cooperative banks across the country now hold deposits exceeding ₹12 lakh crore,



demonstrating growing trust in these institutions. The government has introduced several reforms to enhance the cooperative banking system, including bringing these banks under the regulatory framework of the Reserve Bank of India and increasing the deposit insurance coverage to ₹5 lakh per depositor. These measures have solidified Indian cooperative banks as secure and efficient financial institutions.

### Role of Women in Cooperative Sector

Women play a crucial role in India's cooperative sector, which is a key driver of the country's development. India is currently experiencing a phase of women-led development, and women's participation is expected to be a significant factor in global progress this century. With women comprising more than 60 % of the workforce, many women-led cooperatives have become a strong pillar of India's cooperative sector.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized that the greater the participation of women in a country or society, the faster its development. He highlighted that the government is working to

“ The United Nations considers cooperatives as an important catalyst of sustainable development. They play a major role in reducing inequality in the world, promoting better welfare measures and poverty eradication. The International Year of Cooperatives 2025 will be a global initiative of cooperative efforts to face the major challenges of the world.

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister ”

enhance women's involvement in the management of cooperative societies. In this regard, the government has amended the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act to mandate the inclusion of women directors on the boards of multi-state cooperative societies. Additionally, provisions for reservation have been introduced to make these societies more inclusive and ensure the representation of underprivileged groups.

Shri Modi also referenced the widespread women empowerment movement through self-help groups,

with 10 crore women in India actively participating. Over the last decade, the government has extended ₹9 lakh crore in affordable loans to these self-help groups, empowering women and creating significant wealth in rural areas. The Prime Minister stated that this model of women empowerment could be adopted as a 'mega model' for other nations around the world.

### Dedicated to Supporting Small Farmers

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reaffirmed the Government's

## Prime Minister Discusses the Growing Role of International Cooperatives

# The Need for a Global Cooperative Financial Institution

### Sahkar Uday Team

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the significant role of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) on the global cooperative stage, emphasizing the need to establish a global financial institution capable of supporting cooperatives worldwide. He stated that such an institution would empower cooperatives to become ambassadors of integrity and mutual respect. In the 21st century, India aims to steer the global cooperative movement by developing a collective financial model that simplifies and ensures transparency in the cooperative financial system.

During his address at the Global Cooperative Conference, Shri Modi stressed the importance of creating straightforward and transparent financing solutions for small cooperatives. He suggested that shared financial platforms could help pool resources, enabling the financing of large projects and providing loans to smaller and financially weaker cooperatives. He expressed confidence in the ability of cooperatives to strengthen the supply chain by actively participating in procurement, production, and distribution processes.

commitment to supporting small farmers through the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). He highlighted that the Government is organizing small farmers into these FPOs and providing necessary financial assistance to empower them. As



- It is crucial to ensure simple and transparent financing for cooperatives in order to meet the current demands
- Cooperatives must be established as the flag bearers of integrity and mutual respect on the global stage

Shri Modi also emphasized that cooperation extends beyond structure, rules, and regulations, forming the essence of institutions and their growth. He cited Mahatma Gandhi's belief that the success of cooperatives is not determined by their numbers but by the moral development of their members. When morality prevails, he noted, decisions that serve humanity's best interests will follow.

Reaffirming India's commitment to the power of cooperatives, Shri Modi stressed that they could provide fresh momentum for global cooperation, particularly aiding the Global South in achieving their development goals. He urged the global community to explore innovative cooperative models for international collaboration, with the ICA conference serving as a critical platform for advancing this vision. ◆◆◆

per date, approximately 9,000 FPOs have been established across the country, with the goal of building a robust supply and value chain for agricultural cooperatives, linking farms to kitchens and markets.

The Government aims to create a seamless connection for agricultural

products, utilizing modern technology to enhance efficiency. Shri Modi emphasized the role of digital platforms in transforming the reach of cooperatives, noting that the Government is facilitating the sale of cooperative products through public e-commerce platforms such



as the 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC). This initiative will ensure that cooperative products directly reach consumers at the most affordable prices.

Acknowledging the significant contribution of the Government e-Marketplace (GEM) in expanding the market presence of cooperatives, the Prime Minister explained that this effort is part of the Government's broader strategy to modernize agriculture, empower farmers, and integrate them into the digital economy, making them more competitive in the marketplace.

### Comprehensive Reforms Strengthen Cooperatives

India envisions a significant role for cooperatives in its future development, and over the past few years, the Government has implemented major reforms to strengthen the cooperative system. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized that the Government's goal is to make cooperatives multi-purpose, robust, and focused on increasing the income of their members. To achieve this, the Government has established a separate Ministry of Cooperation and introduced new model bye-laws

to make cooperatives more versatile.

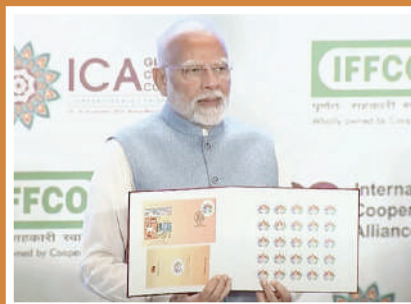
The Government has also integrated cooperative societies with information technology, linking them with cooperative banking institutions at the district and state levels through digitization. These fundamental reforms have enabled cooperative societies to engage in a wide range of

activities in rural areas, such as operating local solution centers, running petrol and diesel retail outlets, managing water resources, and installing solar panels.

In line with the mantra of "energy from waste," cooperative societies are also playing a role in the Gobardhan Yojana.

### Commemorative Postage Stamp Released

Following the inauguration of the conference, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative postage stamp that symbolizes India's dedication to the cooperative movement. The lotus flower featured on the stamp represents the core values of sustainability and community development in cooperatives. Its five petals symbolize the five elements of nature, reflecting the commitment of cooperatives to environmental, social, and economic sustainability. The stamp also highlights key sectors such as agriculture, dairy, fisheries, consumer cooperatives, and housing, with drones symbolizing the role of modern technology in advancing agriculture.





## Inclusive Development is Driving the Welfare of the Marginalized

Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted India's commitment to inclusive development, stating that India is currently the fastest-growing economy, with the goal of ensuring that the benefits of this growth reach the most marginalized individuals. He stressed the importance of viewing development from a human-centric perspective, both in India and globally, emphasizing that human-centric values should guide all our actions. Reflecting on India's global role during the COVID-19 crisis, he reminded the audience of how India supported the world, particularly countries in the Global South, by sharing essential medicines and vaccines.

have evolved from an idea to a movement, from movement to revolution, and from revolution to empowerment. ♦♦♦

**“ The decision of the United Nations to celebrate 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives will prove to be a blessing for crores of farmers around the world.**

**Shri Amit Shah**

**Union Minister for Home and Cooperation**

Additionally, they are providing digital services through Common Service Centers in villages. The Government is also working on creating two lakh multipurpose cooperative societies in underserved villages, expanding the role of cooperatives from manufacturing to the service sector.

The Prime Minister highlighted that India is working on the world's largest grain storage project in the cooperative sector. This initiative, led by cooperative societies, involves building warehouses across the country, allowing farmers to

store their crops safely at the local level. This project is set to provide significant benefits to small farmers, ensuring they have access to secure storage options.

## The Role of Cooperatives in Freedom Movement

Prime Minister Shri Modi stated that India's freedom struggle was deeply influenced by cooperatives, which not only fostered economic empowerment but also provided a social platform for freedom fighters. He highlighted that Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj movement sparked a revolution in community participation, particularly through Khadi and Village Industries. Shri Modi pointed out that these cooperatives enabled Khadi and Village Industries to challenge and outpace large commercial brands. He also noted that Sardar Patel used milk cooperatives to unite farmers, further advancing the freedom struggle. Amul Dairy, which began as a small group of milk-producing farmers during the struggle for independence, has now become one of the leading global dairy cooperative brands. Shri Modi emphasized that cooperatives in India



International Year of Cooperatives 2025

# Paving the Path for Farmers and Women to Lead Dignified Lives

**Sahkar Uday Team**

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah emphasized the transformative role of the cooperative movement in India, highlighting its potential to empower villages, farmers, women, and the poor. Speaking at the inauguration of the Global Cooperative Conference 2024, Shri Shah expressed confidence that the goal of “prosperity through cooperation,” articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, would soon be realized. He noted that the United Nations’ decision to declare 2025 as the International year of Cooperatives would be a turning point for millions of poor, farmers, and women worldwide, offering them empowerment and dignity.

Shri Shah reiterated the Government of India’s commitment to extending the reach of cooperatives, connecting every village and farmer to the cooperative system. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the government established the Ministry of Cooperatives three years ago, initiating a series of reforms to strengthen the cooperative sector and ensure its accessibility across the nation. He highlighted the significant legal and policy changes that have taken place to support cooperatives, including the White Revolution 2.0 and Blue Revolution, where cooperatives play a crucial role.

Shri Shah further outlined the government’s plans to create trained and technology-equipped human resources through the



- The government will guide the country’s cooperative movement towards a new direction with the introduction of a national cooperative policy during the International year of Cooperatives 2025
- The International year of Cooperatives 2025 will be a blessing for millions of farming communities worldwide
- After 75 years of independence, India’s cooperative movement has been revitalized, ushering in renewed enthusiasm
- Major decisions have been made to modernize, technologize and make PACS (Primary Agricultural Credit Societies) economically viable

Cooperative University, emphasizing the importance of skill development

in the sector. He also assured that during the International Cooperative

Year, the government would introduce a new cooperative policy aimed at taking India's cooperative movement to new heights and ensuring its continued evolution.

Shri Amit Shah praised the exemplary achievements of IFFCO, KRIBHCO, and AMUL in the cooperative sector, noting that these organizations have set a global standard. He emphasized that these three cooperatives serve as models for cooperative work worldwide, offering guidance to those involved in the sector. Shri Shah highlighted the Government of India's commitment to expanding the reach of cooperatives into villages that have historically been deprived of such access. With the establishment of two lakh new Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), along with Dairy and Fisheries Societies in the past three years, every village in India will soon have its own cooperative institution.

Shri Shah also noted that significant decisions have been made to modernize PACS, making them more technologically advanced and economically viable. He pointed to the formation of three new national-level cooperatives—National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)—which will enhance the reach of



Indian farmers to both national and international markets. This expansion will serve as an inspiring example for cooperative institutions around the world, demonstrating how even small farmers in India are gaining access to global markets.

The process of reform in the cooperative sector gained momentum after the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation, which facilitated the creation of a comprehensive database of the sector. This database has been instrumental in shaping informed policy decisions to further strengthen the cooperative movement across the country.

As a result, the cooperative sector in the country has received a new impetus, energizing the lower-level PACS and extending this revitalization to the apex institutions. The Ministry of Cooperation has played a crucial role by preparing model bye-laws for all states, which were successfully implemented nationwide. In addition, the government has worked to facilitate coordination among all central ministries related to cooperation, ensuring that the benefits of their schemes reach PACS. This has significantly expanded the business scope of PACS, creating employment opportunities in rural areas and boosting the income of local communities.

To further enhance the income of poor and landless farmers, a target has been set to establish over two lakh new PACS in the agriculture, dairy, and fisheries sectors. Efforts are also underway to revive old, inactive PACS, while new ones are being formed to strengthen the cooperative network. This strategic approach aims to increase the reach and effectiveness of PACS, making them pivotal in rural economic development. ♦♦♦



## 91st General Council Meeting of NCDC

# Emerging Role of National Database in Integrating Cooperatives in India

### Sahkar Uday Team

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is dedicated to enhancing the living standards of millions of farmers through the cooperative sector. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) plays a crucial role in the government's efforts to achieve self-reliance through cooperation. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah expressed these views at the 91st General Council of NCDC. Highlighting NCDC's significant contribution to the cooperative movement, he stated that the organization is playing a vital role in the development, growth and advancement of lakhs of cooperative societies.

NCDC has positively impacted the rural economy and the cooperative sector by contributing ₹60,000 crore. Shri Shah stated that the cooperative movement is bringing about significant improvements in the lives of citizens across the country. The Ministry of Cooperation has introduced the Cooperative Intern Scheme, with NCDC as the implementing agency. The scheme aims to assist State and District Cooperative Banks in aligning with Central Government initiatives and strengthening PACS. It will also provide participants with valuable practical experience, preparing them to embrace cooperative principles and support rural community development. Shri



- Government is committed to improving the standard of life of crores of farmers through the cooperative sector: Shri Amit Shah
- Government is working to make the country self-reliant through cooperation and NCDC has an important role in this direction

Shah reaffirmed his commitment to establishing a cooperative university to further bolster the cooperative sector nationwide. Highlighting the importance of capacity development programs for cooperation, he emphasized that these initiatives will help advance the vision of prosperity through cooperation.

Shri Shah also highlighted the crucial role of the National Cooperative Database in unifying cooperative societies. Discussing the Ministry of Cooperation's initiatives to strengthen Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), he emphasized that both NCDC and the Ministry of Cooperation will play a key role in advancing these efforts.

### Promotion of milk cooperatives in North-East

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah stressed the significance of White Revolution 2.0 and highlighted the urgent need to focus on promoting milk cooperative unions in the Northeastern states. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the National Dairy Development Board and NCDC to establish milk producers' unions, urging these organizations to work together to provide financial support. This initiative will not only advance the White Revolution but also play a key role in empowering tribal communities and women. ♦♦♦



# Speedy Justice, More Transparency Through Digital Revolution

## Sahkar Uday Team

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India is taking comprehensive steps for the overall development of the country and safeguarding the interest of its citizens. Significant and transformative changes have been made in India's internal security and criminal justice system. The government prioritizes providing quick and accessible justice to every citizen. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah shared these views at the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the 50th All India Police Science Conference in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He mentioned that through the introduction of three new criminal laws, the government has ensured the safety of citizens and protected the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. He further stated that within the next 10 years, India's criminal justice system will be the most modern, scientific, and fastest in the world. With the full implementation of these laws, citizens will receive justice in any case, up to the Supreme Court, within three years.

- In 10 years, India's criminal justice system will be most modern, scientific, speedy in world

Shri Shah said that while India has experienced numerous changes over the past several decades—across the country, the world, the criminal landscape, and policing—there was a delay in making the necessary updates in line with the times. Recognizing the contemporary challenges, the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, took decisive steps to implement new criminal laws. One of the key actions was the computerization of police stations, seen as an essential part of the police system. As a result, all 17,000 police stations across the country have been digitally connected to the 'Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems' (CCTNS), and 22,000 courts are now linked to e-Courts. Even before introducing the three new criminal laws, the government had already established comprehensive systems to connect the courts, prosecution, police, jails, and forensic science laboratories.

## Security Boost in Naxal-affected regions

Shri Shah mentioned that for decades, Kashmir, North-East and Naxal-affected regions were considered disturbed areas. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the government has significantly improved the security situation in these areas. In the last 10 years, violence has been reduced by about 70% compared to the previous decade. During this period, the government has seized 5,45,000 kg of narcotics worth ₹35,000 crore, which is six times more than in the previous 10 years. He added that the government has successfully transformed the confiscation process into a more scientific approach.

Shri Amit Shah further said that in the coming years, India and the world will face numerous challenges and efforts will be required to find solutions. ♦♦♦

## 116th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'

# PM Lauds Role of Youth in Shaping 'Viksit Bharat'

## Sahkar Uday Team

In the 116th episode of the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shared his vision of India's future, emphasizing the collective efforts of the nation, the achievements of the country, the capabilities of its people, the dreams of its youth, and the aspirations of its citizens. He particularly focused on the significant role of the youth in building a developed India. According to Shri Modi, when young minds collaborate, brainstorm and think about the country's future, they pave the way for concrete solutions. The Prime Minister called for bringing one lakh new youth into politics by next year and highlighted that he had encouraged youth from non-political families to consider entering politics, even from the Red Fort's ramparts. He announced that special campaigns would be launched across the country to connect such youth with politics.

As part of this initiative, the government is organizing the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' on January 11-12, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, coinciding with the 162nd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. This event aims to spotlight new, young leaders who have the potential to bring about change in the political landscape of the country.

This grand event will serve as a platform for crores of youth across the country to unite, discuss and



- Aim to bring one lakh new youth into politics by next year
- Crores of people worldwide carry India in their hearts

share their perspectives on India's future. Approximately 2,000 selected youth, chosen through competitive processes from all states, districts, blocks and villages, will participate in this nationwide event. Experts from both India and abroad, along with various national and international personalities, will attend. This will offer Indian youth a unique opportunity to present their ideas directly. Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed confidence that India's bright future can only be shaped through the capable participation

of the country's youth. He urged the youth to come together and work towards making India a developed nation.

### Selfless Contribution of India's Youth

In 'Mann Ki Baat', Shri Modi frequently highlights the youth who are working selflessly for society. He mentioned that many young people are dedicated to solving small problems faced by the public. Some have even formed groups to successfully address these issues.

Shri Modi shared the example of Virendra, a resident of Lucknow, who is helping the elderly navigate the process of obtaining digital life certificates. Youngsters like Virendra play a crucial role in ensuring that the elderly are not left behind in the digital age, educating them about technology and guiding them through the process. He said that in many cities, youth are stepping forward to involve the elderly in the digital revolution.

Mahesh from Bhopal has taught many elderly people in his locality how to make payments through mobile. Similarly, youth have come forward to protect the elderly from the threat of 'Digital Arrest'. Rajeev from Ahmedabad has been actively warning local residents about this danger. Elderly people are often the primary victims of crimes like digital arrest and it is the collective responsibility of society to raise awareness and help them avoid cyber fraud. It is crucial to repeatedly explain that there is no such thing as 'digital arrest' in the government and it is a complete lie aimed at trapping people. Prime Minister Shri Modi expressed happiness over the youth's active involvement in this cause, stating that their efforts are becoming a source of inspiration for others.

In Mysuru, Karnataka, an organization has launched a campaign called 'Early Bird' to teach children about birds through a special library. The organization has developed a 'Nature Education Kit' to instil a sense of responsibility toward nature among children. As part of the campaign, city children are taken to rural areas to learn about birds, and as a result, the children are now able to recognize many bird species. Meanwhile, Itisha, who left the glamour of the corporate world, is now focused on cleaning the Sangti Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.

## 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' & Cleanliness Campaign Did Wonders

**Shri Narendra Modi expressed his happiness over the successful launch of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, which began a few months ago and the enthusiastic participation of people across the country. He shared that the campaign has achieved a remarkable milestone of planting 100 crore trees in just five months. He also mentioned with pride that the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign is now spreading to other countries, citing the recent participation of Guyana's President, Dr. Irfan Ali, and his family in the initiative. The campaign continues to gain momentum in various parts of India. For example, in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, a record 12 lakh saplings were planted within 24 hours, significantly contributing to transforming the barren Revati Hills into a green zone. Additionally, Shri Modi highlighted a cleanliness initiative in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, where every morning, volunteers clean the banks of the Ganga by picking up plastic and other waste. This effort has grown into a larger public participation campaign, with many citizens joining the 'Kanpur Ploggers Foundation' to collect garbage from shops and homes. The collected waste is being recycled into protective covers for trees, helping safeguard the plants. These efforts are contributing to the momentum of India's cleanliness campaign.**

### The Role of NCC in Personality Development

On the occasion of National Cadet Corps (NCC) Day, Prime Minister Shri Modi reflected on his own experience as an NCC cadet and emphasized the importance of the NCC in shaping the lives of millions of youth. He said, "NCC instils discipline in youth, fosters a spirit of leadership and service. Whenever a disaster strikes, whether it's a flood, earthquake, or any other accident, NCC cadets are always present to assist." He highlighted that efforts are ongoing to strengthen the NCC across the country. In 2014, around 14 lakh youth were part of

the NCC, but by 2024, this number has risen to over 20 lakh. The Prime Minister mentioned that the facilities for NCC have been expanded to 5,000 new schools and colleges.

Shri Modi also expressed satisfaction over the increase in the number of female cadets, which has grown from 25% to approximately 40%. Additionally, a campaign is underway to involve more youth, especially from border areas, in the NCC. Shri Modi encouraged the youth to join the NCC in large numbers, stating that it would significantly contribute to their personal development. ◆◆◆

# India is Becoming a Major Global Manufacturing Hub: PM Shri Modi

- India is making rapid advancements in physical, social and digital infrastructure
- India is becoming a leading country in mobile and electronics manufacturing
- Germany's 'Focus on India' document reflects the world recognizing the strategic importance of India



## Sahkar Uday Team

India is the fastest-growing major economy globally, attracting interest from around the world for development partnerships. Germany's 'Focus on India' report highlights the growing recognition of India's strategic significance, which will enhance bilateral relations. This shift is a result of the reforms implemented in India over the past decade, which have improved the business environment, reduced bureaucratic obstacles, and modernized policies across all sectors. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conveyed these facts during a video conference at a global event in Stuttgart, Germany.

The government has streamlined the tax system with the implementation of GST, eliminating over 30,000 provisions, and has given a boost to the banking sector. These measures have laid a solid foundation for India's future growth, with Germany continuing to be a crucial partner in this journey. Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted that while Germany is advancing in manufacturing and engineering, India is equally progressing towards becoming a global manufacturing

hub. Through the "Make in India" initiative, India is offering production-related incentives to manufacturers. The country has made notable strides, becoming a leader in mobile and electronics production, the world's largest producer of two-wheelers, and the second-largest producer of steel and cement. This shift demonstrates India's increasing role in global manufacturing. Additionally, India ranks as the fourth-largest producer of four-wheelers, and its semiconductor industry is on track for global success. This progress can be attributed to recent government policies focused on improving infrastructure, reducing logistics costs, simplifying business processes and ensuring stable governance. India is advancing rapidly in physical, social and digital infrastructure, with a significant global impact through its innovative digital technologies.

## India-Germany strategic partnership 25 years old

The India-Germany strategic partnership marks 25 years of collaboration, though the historical ties between the two nations span centuries. Germany is a key partner

for India in terms of geopolitics, trade, and investment. Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted that a German scholar wrote the first Sanskrit grammar books in Europe, and German traders introduced Tamil and Telugu printing to the continent. Currently, about 300,000 Indians reside in Germany, including 50,000 students. Over the past three to four years, more than 1,800 German companies have invested \$15 billion in India. Bilateral trade between the two nations stands at approximately \$34 billion and is expected to continue growing. He urged German companies already in India to expand their investments and encouraged those not yet operating in India to enter the market. Stressing that now is the ideal time to align with India's growth, the Prime Minister advocated for a partnership that combines India's dynamism with Germany's expertise in precision, engineering, and innovation. Shri Modi emphasized that India, as an ancient civilization, has always embraced global partnerships and extended an invitation to all to join in building a prosperous future for the world. ♦♦♦

## PM Shri Modi at G20 Summit in Brazil

# Initiatives to tackle hunger & poverty

### Sahkar Uday Team

Over the past decade, India has successfully lifted 250 million people out of poverty and free food grains are being provided to 800 million citizens. Additionally, 550 million Indians are benefiting from the largest health insurance program in the world, with six million senior citizens above the age of 70 now eligible for free health coverage. These efforts to combat hunger and poverty were highlighted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the opening session of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He also expressed support for Brazil's initiative to create a global coalition against hunger and poverty, emphasizing the need to prioritize the concerns of the Global South.



- The Government is distributing free foodgrains to 80 crore people
- 55 crore Indians benefit from largest health insurance scheme

### People-Centric Schemes Improving Lives

Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted that the people-focused decisions made during the G20 Summit in New Delhi are being continued under Brazil's leadership. He expressed satisfaction with the emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals, noting that India has prioritized inclusive growth, women-led development and the empowerment of youth, aligning with the aspirations of the Global South. India has made significant strides in supporting women-led development, linking over 300 million women entrepreneurs in the micro sector to banks and offering credit facilities. Over 40 million farmers have benefited from the world's largest crop insurance program and 110 million farmers have received over \$40 billion in

assistance under the Kisan Yojana. Additionally, farmers are receiving institutional loans totaling \$300 billion. Shri Modi emphasized that India is not only ensuring food security but also focusing on nutrition. Through initiatives like the Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 campaign, India is improving the nutrition of women, newborns, children under six and adolescent girls. Special attention is also given to schoolchildren's nutrition through the Mid Day Meal scheme. Furthermore, Shri Modi informed the global forum that India is contributing to global food security, providing humanitarian aid to Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

### Focus on new tech along with organic farming

Prime Minister Shri Modi

emphasized that India is prioritizing not only organic and natural farming but also the adoption of new technologies. The country is focusing on sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, nutrition, and food security, particularly through the promotion of Shree Anna (coarse grains). India has developed over 2,000 climate-resistant crop varieties and launched the 'Digital Agriculture Mission.' Additionally, India's digital public infrastructure has facilitated social and financial inclusion. Through the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme, India has introduced a new model for inclusive development, aimed at empowering the most vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of society. ♦♦♦

# Bhagwan Birsa Munda's Role in Anti-Conversion Movement Remembered



## Sahkar Uday Team

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has made significant strides in promoting tribal pride over the past decade, nearly eradicating Naxalism which has impeded development in tribal regions and misled the youth.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah expressed these views during the unveiling of a grand statue of Bhagwan Birsa

- National hero Birsa Munda became the voice of people, from Ranchi jail to England
- He revived vital significance of water, forest and land for tribal communities

Munda at Baansera Park in New Delhi, in honour of his 150th birth anniversary. He noted that Prime Minister Shri Modi had declared the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda as 'Tribal Pride Day' in 2021. It was Shri Birsa Munda who

revived the belief that water, forest and land are vital to the tribals. To mark his 150th birth anniversary, the government has declared the next one year, that is, until 15 November 2025 as 'Tribal Pride Year'.

The government has renamed

Sarai Kale Khan Chowk to 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk' in honour of Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birth anniversary. Shri Shah highlighted that, under the previous government, the budget for tribal development was just ₹28,000 crore, but under Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership, it has been increased to ₹1,33,000 crore for the 2024-25 budget. He also mentioned that all basic amenities have been provided in 26,428 tribal villages through the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana. Additionally, ₹97,000 crore has been raised through the District Mineral Foundation Scheme. Furthermore, 708 Eklavya model residential schools have been established. Shri Shah stated that the government has allocated ₹15,000 crore under the 'PM PVTG Development Mission' to improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) and 63,000 villages are being developed under the Pradhan Mantri Tribal Unnat Gram Abhiyan.

### Revived core values of water, forest & land

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Shah said that Bhagwan Birsa Munda revived the core values of water, forest and land, emphasizing that these are everything to the tribals. Birsa Munda initiated a movement to raise awareness in society, opposing alcohol consumption, the exploitative landlord system and British rule. He became the protector of his community's culture and, at just 25 years old, used his actions to teach the country the true purpose of life and how it should be lived. Shri Shah acknowledged that Bhagwan Birsa Munda is undeniably one of the great heroes of India's independence. At a young age, during his secondary education, Birsa Munda exhibited remarkable courage by standing firm against religious conversion. His

## 'Dharti Aaba' awakened spirit of freedom, protection of tribal culture

Shri Shah stated that the life of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, widely known as 'Dharti Aaba,' can be viewed in two distinct phases. The first highlights his dedication to preserving tribal culture while the second reflects his deep commitment to sacrificing everything for the freedom and protection of his homeland. Through his actions and principles, Birsa Munda set a remarkable example for the nation, showing how one should live and for whom. His life was a constant reminder to live and die for the country. Without a doubt, he stands as one of the greatest heroes of India's independence. At just 25 years of age, Bhagwan Birsa Munda sparked a revolution against the British, drawing the attention of not only India but the entire world to the plight of tribals. Through his actions, he created a legacy that continues to earn him respect even 150 years later. His remarkable story, shaped by his conduct, ensures that the people of India will always honour him and that future generations of Indian soldiers will be inspired to safeguard the nation's identity. His heroic act of risking his life for the tribals to protect their native culture will forever serve as an inspiration to the people of India. Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that while tribals played a vital role in the freedom struggle against the British across the country, these brave heroes were forgotten after independence. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government took the initiative to establish museums dedicated to tribal heroes and preserve their heritage with an allocation of ₹200 crore. To date, three museums have been completed, including the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Museum in Ranchi, the Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah Museum in Jabalpur and the Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Chhindwara. The construction of the remaining museums is expected to be finished by 2026.

determination and bravery eventually transformed him into a national hero, whose influence extended from Ranchi jail to the Queen of England. Shri Shah emphasized that

the entire nation will forever be grateful to Bhagwan Birsa Munda for his contributions to social reform, the freedom struggle and the anti-conversion movement. ♦♦♦

# Shri Amit Shah Highlights Robust Role of DCBs in Rural Growth

## Sahkar Uday Team

In a vast country like India, NAFSCOB has breathed new life into the agriculture sector by providing hassle-free short term agricultural loans to approximately 13 crore farmers. The diamond jubilee of any organization serves two primary purposes: first, to showcase its contributions and achievements over the past 60 years and second, to identify and rectify its mistakes. Without the three-tier structure of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), District Cooperative Banks (DCBs) and State Cooperative Banks (SCBs), India's farming community, farmers and villages would not have been able to successfully navigate the 75-year journey since Independence.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah made the above remarks at the Diamond Jubilee Celebration of the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks Limited (NAFSCOB) held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. During his address at the event, which also included the national meeting of Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs), Shri Amit Shah highlighted the significant role of district and state-level banks in not only managing short-term agricultural loans but also in supporting collective farming, water management, and various other aspects of agriculture. These banks, along with PACS, played a crucial role in strengthening villages by handling everything from material and personal work to rural development. SCBs provided vital support to these rural-level institutions. Shri Amit Shah



■ NAFSCOB offers easy access to short-term agricultural loans for 13 crore farmers

■ Shri Amit Shah attends NAFSCOB Diamond Jubilee, national meeting of RCBs

further said that if all cooperative bank accounts associated with DCBs were consolidated into these banks, low-cost deposits would automatically increase by 20%. As a result, profits would rise, enhancing the lending capacity of these banks. He emphasized that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is progressing towards 'Sahakar Se Samridhi', with the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation being an integral part of this vision.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister highlighted that the White Revolution in India has truly taken place through Amul, with its turnover now reaching ₹80,000 crore, all of which is facilitated through DCBs. He emphasized that this model should be adopted by every DCB to strengthen and enhance their capabilities and confidence. He also mentioned that the profit of SCBs stands at around ₹2,400 crore, while

DCBs have earned ₹1,881 crore in profit, urging that a target should be set to increase these figures. The event was attended by several notable figures, including Union Ministers of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Shri Muralidhar Mohol and the Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation.

## NAFSCOB Manages Agri Loan Accounts

Established in 1964 with foresight by Dr Gadgil and Maganbhai Patel, NAFSCOB has played a key role in guiding and supporting district and state-level banks across India. It is the only institution that maintains authorized data on 100 key parameters for state and district-level banks, as well as thousands of PACS. This data is crucial in shaping the agricultural loan framework for the country and is 99.72% accurate and transparent. NAFSCOB was founded to address and devise

strategies for resolving issues related to cooperative credit, banking and other associated challenges.

## PACS, DCBs Win Excellence Awards

SCBs, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and PACS that have excelled in the cooperative sector were honoured by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah during the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of NAFSCOB at Bharat Mandapam. Shri Amit Shah pointed out that PACS until they were equipped with technology, lacked administrative transparency in their operations. However, after the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation, the government transformed the functioning of PACS, making them more efficient and practical. He emphasized that efforts are being made not only to involve the younger generation in cooperation but also to increase their participation in the activities of PACS.

The awards were presented in various categories as part of the event, marking the 60th anniversary of NAFSCOB, the apex body of SCBs, and attended by representatives of RCBs from across the country. Shri Amit Shah stated that to strengthen the spirit of cooperation, all village-level issues should be resolved through PACS, district problems should be addressed with cooperative solutions and state-level concerns should be handled by SCBs.

Shri Amit Shah emphasized that the core values of participation, welfare and equitable distribution of profits should be adopted by PACS and DCBs. He noted that there is now greater transparency in the operations of both DCBs and SCBs. Currently, NAFSCOB comprises 34 SCBs, 352 DCBs, and 105,000 PACS, with 65,000 PACS actively operating.



## NAFSCOB's Nationwide Network

- ○ NAFSCOB has 34 SCBs and 352 DCBs
- In addition, there are 105,000 PACS, with around 65,000 currently active
- Total deposits of ₹433,000 crore in district cooperative banks, ₹2,42,000 crore in state cooperative banks
- Government aims to establish district cooperative banks in 80 more districts across the country over next five years.

He stressed the importance of these institutions working together as a unified system.

Among the SCBs, Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank was honoured, represented by Vidyadhar Anaskar, Chairman of its Administrative Board. Kerala State Cooperative Bank was represented by its CEO, Jorty M Chacko, while Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank was represented by its MD, P Loganathan. Goa State Cooperative Bank's award was presented to its Chairman, Ulhas B Fall Desai and CEO, Anant M Chodankar. The award for Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Bank was received by Srinath Reddy, Managing

Director. Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Bank was represented by Chairman Devendra Shyam and CEO Sharwan Manta, and Gujarat State Cooperative Bank was represented by Ajaybhai Patel. Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank, Sikkim State Cooperative Bank, and Karnataka State Cooperative Apex Bank were also recognized. In the DCCB category, Gitanjali Sharma, in charge of Krishna DCCB and Shyam Manohar, CEO, received the award on behalf of their bank. Nitin Patil, Chairman and Rajendra Sarkale, CEO, received the award for Satara DCCB. Other award-winning DCCBs included Surat DCCB, Karimnagar DCCB and Akola DCCB. ♦♦♦

# Empowered Women, Prosperous Villages Through Dairy Cooperative Movement

## Sahkar Uday Team

India leads the world in average per capita milk production, a feat significantly driven by the cooperative movement. When dairy farming was first introduced in the cooperative sector, no one could have predicted that Amul would grow into a vast network worth ₹60,000 crores. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah shared these insights during the inauguration of a state-of-the-art animal feed plant in Himmatnagar, Sabarkantha district, Gujarat, with a production capacity of 800 tonnes. He emphasized that the cooperative dairy movement has not only empowered women but has also fostered prosperity and improved nutrition in rural areas. The seed sown in the form of the establishment of Sabarkantha Dairy has today grown into a banyan tree providing livelihood for over 350,000 families. Women involved in animal husbandry now lead lives of dignity because of Sabarkantha Dairy and its milk business. Shri Shah credited this success to the White Revolution initiated by Amul.

## Fulfilling Fodder Needs in Sabarkantha

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah announced that Sabar Dairy has established an advanced animal feed plant at a cost of approximately ₹210 crore to ensure local cattle receive nutritious food. This state-of-the-art facility will not only fulfill the fodder requirements of farmers in Sabarkantha and Aravali but will also generate new employment opportunities. Shri Shah noted that



- Natural farming is set to unlock global market worth ₹10 lakh crore for Indian farmers, fostering their prosperity
- Foundation laid by Sabar Dairy has blossomed into a large-scale initiative, providing livelihood to over 350,000 families
- Farmers will get remunerative prices from NCOL & NCEL

since its founding in 1976, Sabar Dairy has expanded its capacity to produce 2,050 tonnes of animal feed. He also highlighted the growth in milk consumption in India, which was only 40 kg per person annually in 1970, but has risen to 167 kg per person per year by 2023.

## Natural Farming for Farmers' Prosperity

Shri Amit Shah encouraged farmers to adopt natural farming, stating that it would become the key to their prosperity in the future. He emphasized that natural farming could also help reduce the prevalence

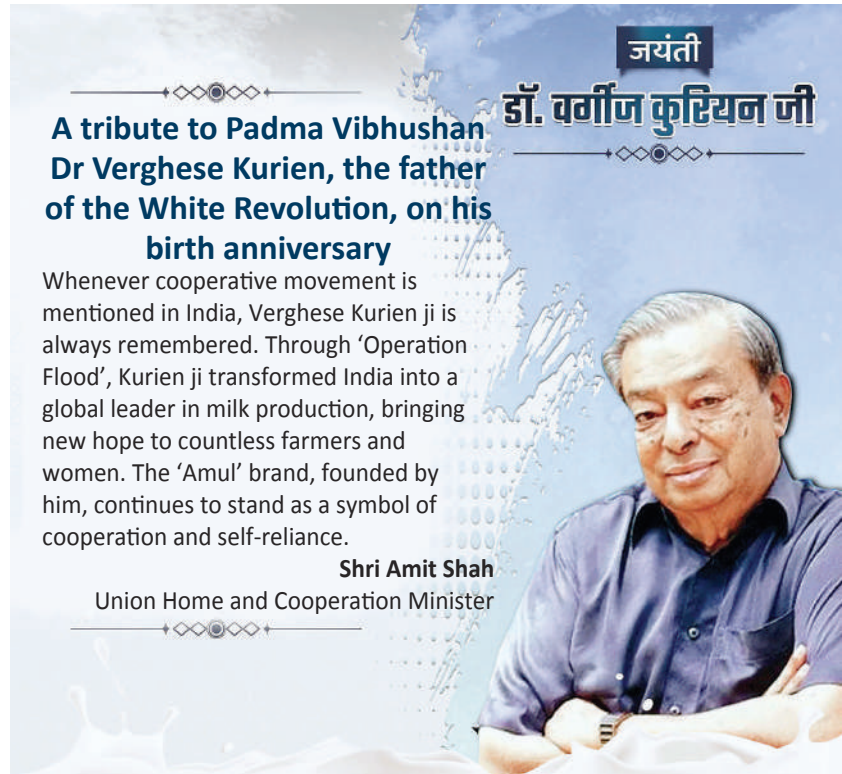
of diseases like cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure, benefiting both the nation's citizens and the world. Shri Shah explained that natural farming is simple and can significantly improve the health and income of society, while also enhancing nutrition. He further noted that the initiative started with the establishment of Sabar Dairy and has now grown into a livelihood for over 350,000 families, much like a banyan tree. Women involved in animal husbandry are living with dignity, thanks to Sabar Dairy and its milk business. He attributed this success to the White Revolution initiated by Amul ◆◆◆

# Dr Verghese Kurien: Father of White Revolution

## Sahkar Uday Team

**D**r Verghese Kurien is often referred to as the father of India's White Revolution. As the founding chairman of the National Dairy Development Board from 1965 to 1998, his efforts made it possible for all people in India to have access to sufficient milk by 1970. At a time when milk production was low and the population was high, milk was scarce. However, due to the visionary leadership of Dr Kurien, the White Revolution transformed the country, making it self-sufficient in milk production. In recognition of his significant contributions to the dairy industry, Dr Kurien was awarded the Rochdale Pioneers Award by the ICA in 2001.

Dr Verghese Kurien, widely known as the 'Milk Man of India', was born on November 26, 1921, in Kerala to a father who was a civil surgeon. After earning his engineering degree from GC Engineering College in Chennai, he worked briefly at TISCO in Jamshedpur. Later, the Government of India awarded him a scholarship to study dairy engineering, which he completed at the Imperial Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. In 1948, he graduated with a mechanical engineering degree from Michigan State University, with a focus on dairy engineering. Dr Kurien introduced several innovations in the dairy industry, leading to a major transformation in milk production in India. He launched the Operation Flood programme to boost the dairy sector, which resulted in a significant rise in milk production. By 1998, India surpassed the United States to become the world's top



## Laurels for Dr Kurien

- **Dr Kurien received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1963**
- **Padma Shri Award was given by the Government of India in 1965**
- **He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan Award in 1966**
- **Kurien was bestowed with the Krishi Ratna Award in 1986**

milk producer. As the architect of the White Revolution, he established around 30 institutions, including Amul, GCMMF, RRMA and NDDB. In 1965, Lal Bahadur Shastri appointed Dr Kurien as the Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board.

Dr Verghese Kurien, recipient of several prestigious awards including the Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, and the Ramon Magsaysay Award, passed away on September 9, 2012, at the

age of 90 in Gujarat. In honour of his contributions, his birth anniversary, November 26, is celebrated annually as National Milk Day in India. Kurien was the founder of Amul, India's largest milk-producing cooperative, and also served as its chairman. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) was established based on Amul's operational model. Under his leadership, Operation Flood was launched in 1970, which became the world's largest dairy development programme. ♦♦♦

# Dr US Awasthi Gets Rochdale Pioneers Award for Promoting Cooperatives

## Sahkar Uday Team

**D**r Uday Shankar Awasthi, Managing Director of India's leading fertilizer cooperative, has been awarded the highest honour in the cooperative sector. He received the Rochdale Pioneers Award at the Global Cooperative Conference, presented by the International Cooperation Alliance (ICA). Dr Awasthi is only the second Indian to receive this prestigious award. Before him, Dr Verghese Kurien, the father of the White Revolution and Amul, was honoured with this award in 2001. Established in 2000, the Rochdale Pioneers Award recognizes individuals or cooperative organizations that have made significant contributions to innovative and financially sustainable cooperative activities, benefiting their members. The award was presented by ICA at the India Pavilion during the conference.

Dr US Awasthi was presented with the Rochdale Pioneers Award by ICA President Ariel Guarco at the Global Cooperative Conference, which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Cooperation, IFFCO Limited, and ICA. Dr Awasthi began his career with IFFCO as a chemical engineer in 1976. During his tenure, the cooperative's production capacity grew by 292%, and its net assets increased by 688%. Under his leadership, IFFCO expanded into various business ventures and developed indigenous Nano fertilizers. Upon receiving the award, IFFCO's Managing Director, Dr Uday Shankar Awasthi, expressed his pride in the recognition, attributing it to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sahakar



## IFFCO's Achievements

- ○ IFFCO has achieved significant milestones, including the production of 44 lakh bottles of Nano DAP liquid and the sale of over 2.06 crore bottles of Nano Urea.
- ○ To promote the use of these fertilizers among farmers, IFFCO organized 80,000 regional exhibitions and provided training to over 80,000 farmers and 1,500 rural entrepreneurs.
- ○ IFFCO's total fertilizer production reached 88.95 lakh tonnes, which comprised 45.85 lakh tonnes of urea and 40.10 lakh tonnes of NPK, DAP, WSF, and special fertilizers.
- ○ In the last financial year, domestic and international sales amounted to 112.26 lakh tonnes, contributing to a rise in the usage of both organic and chemical fertilizers.

Se Samridhhi' and acknowledging the significant contributions of IFFCO under the guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah. Dr Awasthi highlighted IFFCO's commitment to sustainable agriculture, especially through the development of nano fertilizers like Nano DAP and Nano Urea (Liquid). These innovations have revolutionized farming practices,

provided environmentally friendly solutions, and reduced India's dependence on fertilizer imports. Nano urea has also improved soil health and boosted farmers' profitability. The product is now widely used by farmers across most Indian states and other countries have shown interest. Nano fertilizers are set to be exported to 25 additional countries in the future. ◆◆

# Renowned Global Cooperatives Attend Conference in New Delhi

- Bhutan Agrofood Jinlab receives warm recognition from India

## Sahkar Uday Team

Bhutan holds deep affection for India, a sentiment expressed by the President of Bhutan in his speech at the inauguration of the ICA Global Cooperative Conference. Cooperatives from Bhutan, Iran and Mongolia participated in the five-day conference organized by the ICA, showcasing their products. Bhutan's agro cooperative, Jinlab Agro Products, presented its range of organic products in India, including turmeric, lemongrass oil, honey, kiwi chutney and more. Through the cooperative conference, Jinlab's partners aim to grow their business in India as well. Similarly, artists from Iran and Mongolia also showcased the products of their respective cooperatives.

Jinlab's CEO, Kalyan Mahat, shared that Agro Cooperative of Bhutan is providing healthy food options to people. Speaking at the Global Cooperation Conference at Bharat Mandapam, he mentioned that the company has already built a strong consumer base in India, with their products now available from Mumbai to Pune. Mahat said he is keen to expand further in India through the conference. He highlighted the warmth and support they have received and said that he believes



Business-to-business (B2B) connections will further strengthen the relationship between the two nations.

## Unique Handmade Artwork of Iranian Artist

At Cooperative Haat, we also had the pleasure of meeting Gulbahar Hayati, an Iranian artist known for her stunning artwork made from cloth clippings. Hayati, who has earned numerous international accolades, has been captivating

people with her handmade creations for years. In 2015, she established a cooperative to expand her craft. Her handmade carpets and artefacts are priced between five thousand and ten thousand rupees. Gulbahar shared that her artworks have been well-received in India, and she is thrilled to participate in the Global Cooperative Conference. She believes that increased cooperation between the two countries in this field would bring mutual benefits. Gulbahar's work has earned global



recognition, and she explained that creating each piece takes over six months. The higher price of her pieces reflects the meticulous artistry and attention to detail involved in the process.

### Mongolia's Jute Garners Interest

Mongolia's jute products also garnered a lot of attention at the event. The Mongolian Woollen Handmade stall attracted significant interest, as the National Association of Mongolian Agriculture primarily produces items made from jute and cotton, known for their warm wool. The participation of international cooperatives in the global conference aims to expand cooperation, create employment opportunities, and strengthen business partnerships, which was one of the main goals of the ICA conference. Betamin, a woman from Mongolia who set up the stall, explained that most of the women in her community are employed in jute work. To bring their handmade woollen products to the international market, they launched them at the Cooperative Haat, providing artisans with access to a broader market. This initiative not only makes their art

more accessible to people but also improves the livelihoods of the artisans.

### SEWA Cooperative Empowers Women

The women of the SEWA Cooperative Federation, Gujarat, showcased their stall at the Global Cooperative Conference. For years, SEWA Cooperative has been dedicated to empowering women, expanding the market for their crafts and improving their livelihoods. The handmade artefacts created by the women are being exported globally through the cooperative. These handicraft items are also supplied to stores like Fab India and Khadi Village Industries.

SEWA (Gujarat State Women's SEWA Cooperative Federation Limited) was founded in 1992 with the aim of making women economically self-sufficient. Over the past 27 years, more than three lakh women have joined SEWA, engaging in business through nearly 100 primary cooperative societies. In the current financial year, SEWA Cooperative achieved an annual turnover of around ₹300 crore. Through initiatives like SEWA Artisans and SEWA Rehab, the federation is creating employment opportunities

for women. The handmade products, such as aprons, decorative items, jute wall hangings, bags, door mats and patchwork are exported to both local and international markets. Madhu Sood, the coordinator of SEWA Cooperative, who attended the event in Delhi, shared that in addition to providing a wide market for women's products, SEWA also offers training workshops to help women enhance the quality of their products to international standards. These workshops and live demonstrations allow women to directly access the market, ensuring they receive fair prices for their products and eliminate middlemen. The block-printed sarees, embroidery, and patchwork designed by SEWA women have gained a distinctive reputation. By obtaining craftsmanship certificates, these women can easily sell their products at events like Hunar Haat and Handicraft Fair. Suman, an artisan at the stall, shared her personal story. Having been part of SEWA Cooperative for 10 years, she explained that she used to sew clothes for her local community for a living. However, after joining SEWA, she began receiving more work and earning higher wages, greatly improving her quality of life. ♦♦♦

# A Moment of Pride for Indian Cooperatives



Chairman of the Global Cooperative Conference Organizing Committee Santosh Kumar Shukla, ICA President Ariel Guarco, Prime Minister of Bhutan Shri Tshering Tobgay, and IFFCO Chairman Dileep Sanghani.

## Dileep Sanghani

The spirit of cooperation in India flows freely, with no boundaries. Wherever it goes, it plants the seeds of development or financial support, whether on a small or large scale. I can confidently say that in our country cooperation is not just a word, it plays a significant role in our social upliftment as well. In this process, we are all involved, united and cooperative. The trust that the kings had in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's dedicated efforts to strengthen the princely states and the public support that Gandhiji received for his Quit India Movement are also forms of social cooperation. Therefore, it can be said that cooperation is inherent in us.

India's cooperative tradition dates back to ancient times, with its roots and culture embedded in the economic system. According

to Kautilya's 'Arthashastra', the financial structure of villages is based on a cooperative model, providing employment and contributing to family and social development. The Government of India has focused on making cooperative policies more accessible to the public and expanding these activities to reach the masses. For the first time since Independence, a new Ministry of Cooperation has been established under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This is further reflected by veteran cooperator Shri Amit Shah who is handling this ministry as the Minister of Cooperation. Following the formation of the new Ministry, several initiatives have been launched within the cooperative framework of the country, guided by the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi'. We have all witnessed these developments.

In July 2024, I had the privilege of participating in the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) meeting at the United Nations headquarters in the US, alongside the cooperative delegation from India. During my speech at this meeting, I proposed that IFFCO host the ICA Global Cooperative Conference in India, a suggestion that got approved by the ICA Board. The Global Conference which has been held for 132 years, was hosted by IFFCO at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, with cooperative leaders from 107 countries in attendance. At such a significant time, amidst various active responsibilities in the cooperative sector, having the opportunity to manage the arrangements and responsibilities of an international conference organized by India was the proudest moment of my life. ♦♦♦

Chairman, IFFCO and NCUI



Rishiraj Sisodia

# Indian Cooperatives Gain Global Recognition and Appreciation

The Global Cooperative Conference took place from November 25 to 30 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. During the event, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi officially declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives and commemorated the occasion by issuing a special postage stamp. Under the leadership of Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, cooperatives have seen substantial growth in a brief period. Organized by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited) in partnership with the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), this conference has significantly amplified the global recognition of Indian cooperatives.

Last year, IFFCO Managing Director Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi was invited to Brussels for a conference supported by the Ministry of Cooperation and co-hosted by 17 other Indian cooperative federations, an invitation which he accepted with enthusiasm. ICA President Ariel Guarco and Director General Jeroen Douglas engaged with representatives from numerous countries to ensure the event's success. Shri Dileep Bhai Sanghani, who serves as both the President of the National Cooperative Union of India and IFFCO, played a pivotal role in making the event successful.

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was founded on August 19, 1895. For the first time in its 130-year history, India was chosen to host the global conference. The inaugural World Congress of ICA took place in London in 1895, and following

that, the event has been held biennially or quadrennially in various countries around the world. However, this year marked the first time it was organized in India. Prior to this, the last global conference was held in the Philippines in 2023.

The International Cooperative Alliance is the premier global body for the cooperative movement, preserving and enhancing the cooperative philosophy through the trials of two world wars. India has had a strong connection with ICA since its establishment. In 1960, India provided a strategic location in New Delhi for the ICA Asia and Pacific Regional Office, which has been operational there for the last 64 years. With the creation of the Ministry of Cooperation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the appointment of India's first Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, India's cooperative efforts have gained significant international recognition. Cooperatives principles advocate for the development of all, promoting equality and democracy. The global cooperative community has its eyes on India's recent cooperative accomplishments, including 54 key initiatives led by PM Modi, such as the 2023 Multi State Institutions Act amendment, model bylaws, PACS computerization, and expanding PACS into various business sectors, all of which have bolstered rural employment. Additionally, the establishment of three multi-state cooperative societies has elevated India's profile in global cooperative circles. In September 2024, Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah presented a three-year report on the

Ministry of Cooperation, detailing initiatives like forming cooperative institutions in Gram Panchayats, and promoting cooperation through efforts like the White Revolution and other cooperative ventures.

White Revolution I demonstrated to the world how to achieve nutritional self-sufficiency, generate employment, and supply global agricultural inputs, thereby reinforcing democratic structures within cooperatives. White Revolution 2.0 is poised to enhance employment opportunities and empower women further, as women now hold significant control over dairy cooperatives in India. India's advancements in animal husbandry and milk cooperatives have gained international acclaim.

The inauguration of the Global Cooperative Year 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi sends a profound message globally, foretelling a period dedicated to the advancement of cooperatives. This era will see cooperatives taking on new dimensions, with new cooperative societies being established in areas where they have not yet been implemented, including urban settings where youth will be increasingly involved. Women's roles in cooperatives will be fortified through self-help groups. By the close of 2025, the cooperative movement we discuss in December 2024 will have transformed and strengthened, ensuring that Indian cooperatives play a pivotal role on the world stage. ♦♦♦

**The author is the director of IFFCO and an official of Sahakar Bharati, Madhya Pradesh**



Ms Maria Amparo Merino Segovia, Secretary of State for Social Economy of Spain, along with senior officials and representatives of the Spanish Embassy, met the Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Muralidhar Mohol. The Ministry of Cooperation under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah was praised for empowering women and vulnerable communities through various initiatives.



The President of the IFFCO Employees Association and President of IFFCO Officers Association, on behalf of IFFCO officers, collectively congratulated Dr US Awasthi on being conferred with the prestigious Rochdale Pioneers Award 2024 by the ICA. Dr Awasthi expressed his gratitude to the IFFCO family and said it was a proud moment.



Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Krishanpal Gurjar met the women of Self Help Group in the aspirational district of Katihar, Bihar and encouraged them. These women are becoming 'Aatmanirbhar' by learning skills related to various cottage industries and are also contributing to the country's economy.



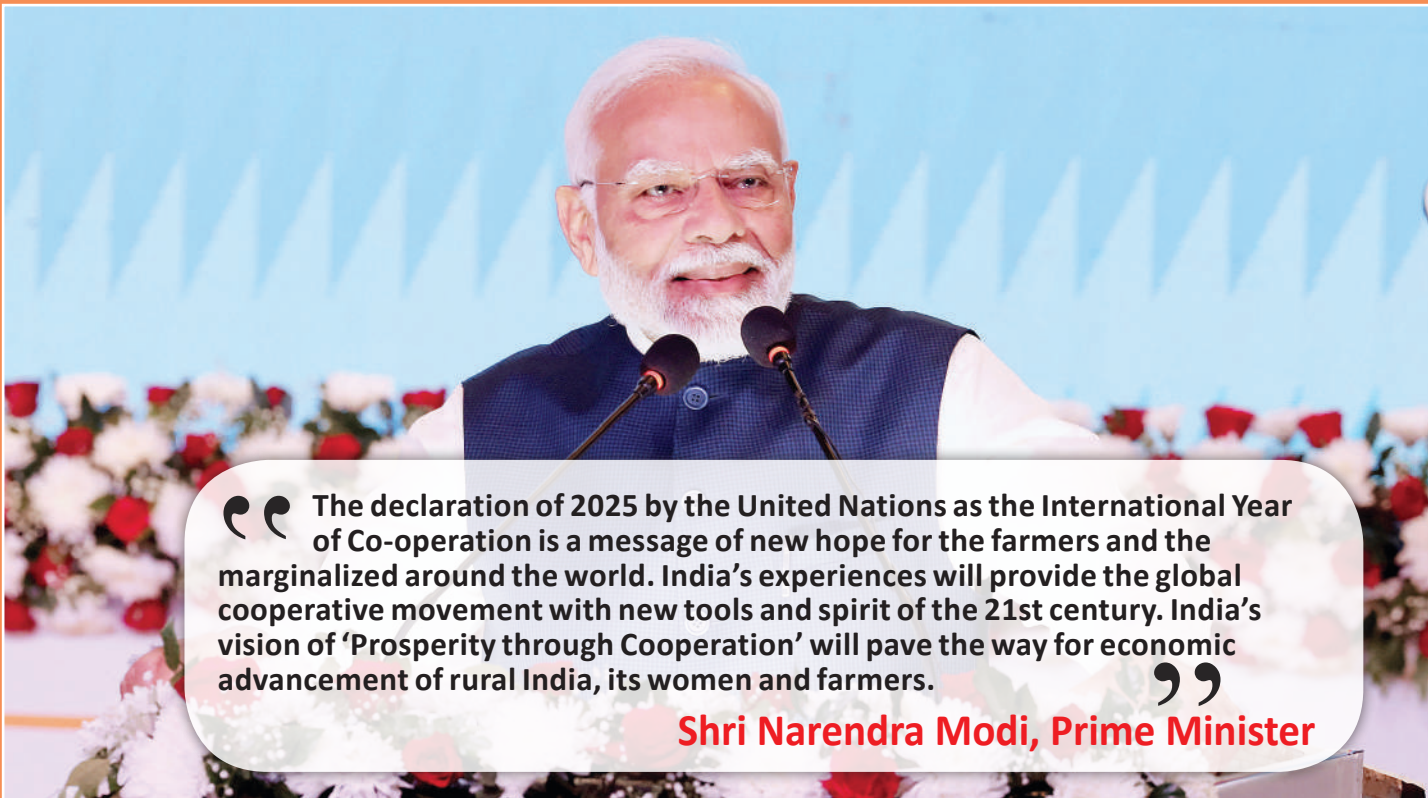
The Annual Fertilizer Association of India (FAI) Seminar on the theme 'Sustainable Fertilizer and Agriculture' was organized in New Delhi. Over 2,000 representatives from the fertilizer industry including Dr US Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO, participated in the seminar.



'CII AgroTech India-Krishi Bharat' was organized by Shri Ashutosh Mishra, Joint Director of Agriculture, Fertilizers at IFFCO stall in Krishi Bharat Exhibition in Lucknow. Farmers were provided information on nano fertilizers and the use of drones in the agriculture sector.



On the occasion of Constitution Day on 26th November, officers and employees of the Ministry of Cooperation were reminded of the values, ideals and objectives contained in the Constitution and they took an oath to maintain the unity and integrity of the nation.



“ The declaration of 2025 by the United Nations as the International Year of Co-operation is a message of new hope for the farmers and the marginalized around the world. India’s experiences will provide the global cooperative movement with new tools and spirit of the 21st century. India’s vision of ‘Prosperity through Cooperation’ will pave the way for economic advancement of rural India, its women and farmers. ”

**Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**



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