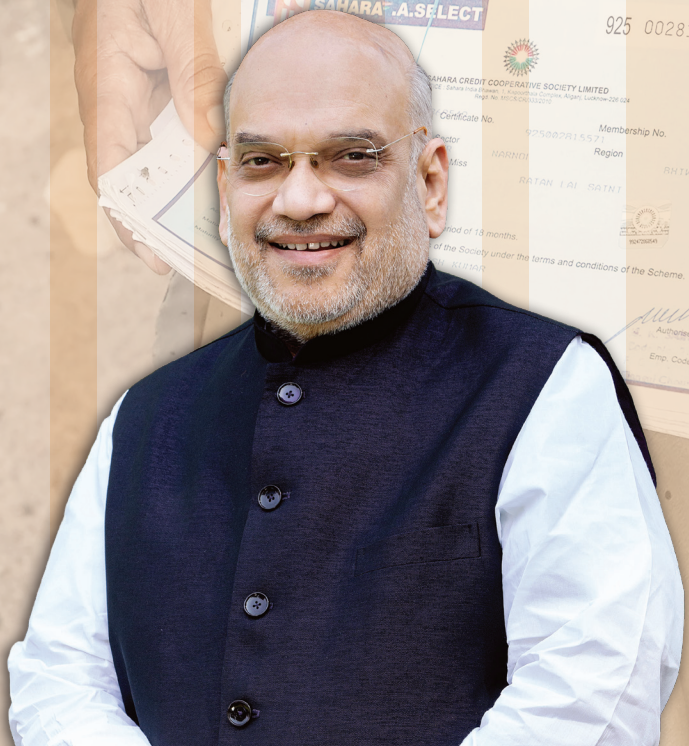
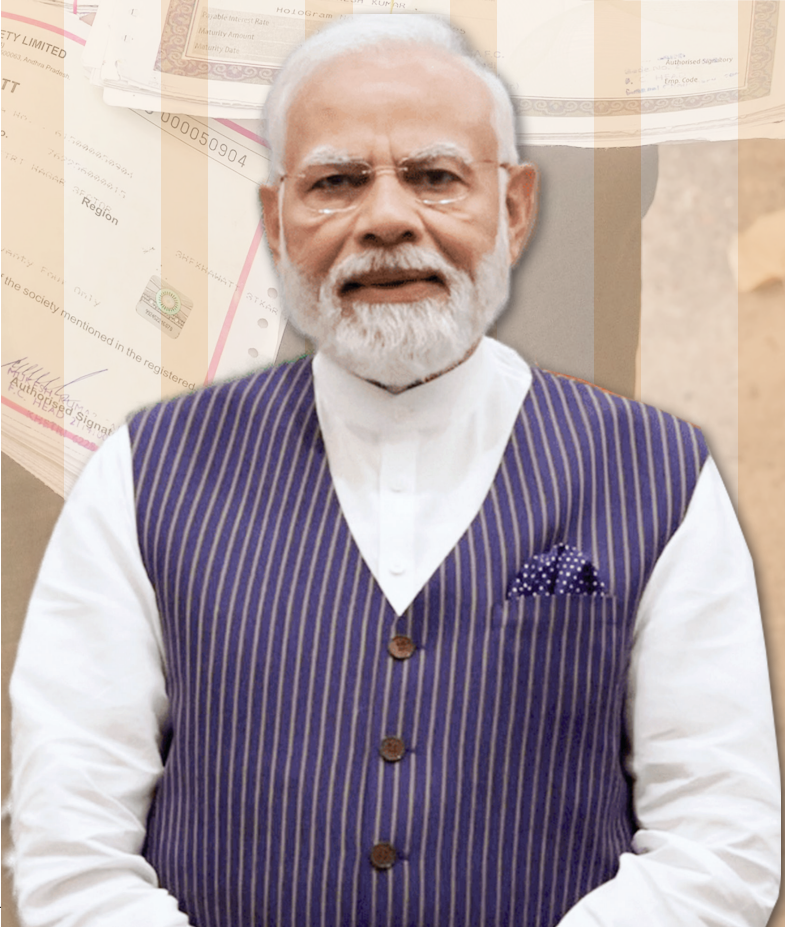


Sahkar Uday

Sahara Refund Begins: Transfers Money to Investors in the First Batch

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Sarv Sahkar, sarv Sakaar
**Sahkar
Uday**

August 2023, Issue-5, Year-1

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Publisher: Indian Farmers
Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.
Printer: Royal Press
Okhla, New Delhi.



PM Addresses Indian Diaspora in France: India's Progress and Potential

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressing the Indian diaspora in France, said that approximately 415 million Indians have been lifted out of the poverty line during the last decade, and extreme poverty in India is now on the verge of being eradicated.

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On July 18, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched the CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal. The portal aims to assist millions of depositors associated with the Sahara Group in retrieving their funds.

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Investors to Receive Up to ₹10,000 in the First Phase

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Modi Govt Transforms Cooperative Landscape

From the Editor's Desk

The impact of the campaign against corruption is evident throughout the country. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has strongly urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to take decisive action against corrupt individuals, regardless of their power or influence.

“No corrupt person should be spared. There should be no laxity in our efforts. This is the wish of the country, the wish of the people of the country. The country, law and constitution are with you,” the PM said.

As part of the government’s resolve to combat corruption in the cooperative sector, the Union Ministry of Cooperation formulated an effective strategy and launched a campaign against such cooperatives.

Notably, four multi-state cooperative societies of the Sahara Group siphoned off over Rs 86,000 crore by duping ten crore small investors. These cooperatives ignored the payment claims of the depositors and kept the matter pending in court. The desperate depositors ran from pillar to post but didn’t get any redressal. After the new Ministry of Cooperation was formed, Shri Amit Shah intervened in this matter, determined to get the poor investors’ money back. After reviewing the entire issue, he found little scope for recovering the funds stuck in court and legal disputes. Taking this as a serious challenge, he ran a marathon of meetings in the Ministry of Cooperation to find a solution and, in consultation with eminent jurists, appealed to the Supreme Court on this matter.

Taking advantage of being a multi-state cooperative society, the managers of Sahara Group suspended the matter by obtaining stay orders from different High Courts. However, the Supreme Court intervened, ordering the Sahara group to release ₹5,000 crore to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) to facilitate the return of the depositors’ money.

The government was also asked to make concrete legal provisions. A high-level committee was constituted under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the Supreme Court. The Telangana and Delhi High Courts were directed to transfer their pending cases to the Supreme Court. The Delhi High Court has already transferred its case, but the Telangana case is still waiting to be transferred. Many people, such as daily labourers, shopkeepers, and street vendors, fell victim to this fraudulent scheme. They had collectively deposited thousands of crores into four major multi-state cooperative societies owned by the Sahara Group. Shockingly, a large number of depositors, around 1.25 crore, had deposited amounts less than ₹5,000, and many of them had contributed as little as ₹10 per day.

Out of the ten crore investors who were deceived through these cooperative societies, around 70% had originally deposited ₹30,000 or less. The Supreme Court ordered the Sahara-SEBI refund account to return ₹5,000 crore to investors. Following the apex court’s orders, the government has made concrete arrangements.

A portal has been initiated for Sahara refund, where investors can submit their deposit details to request a refund. Recently, numerous investors registered on the portal to make their claims and request information. The principal amount of the depositors will be credited to their bank account within 45 days of giving complete information on the portal. With the completion of this first phase, the government will seek the Supreme Court’s permission to start the second phase.

Thanks and regards!

‘Jai Sahkar’



In the last few years, we have laid special emphasis on the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). FPOs are going to give great power to small farmers. These are means of making small farmers a big force in the market.

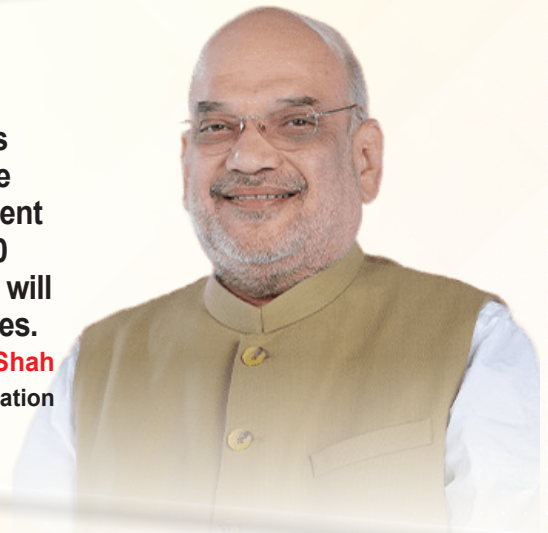
Shri Narendra Modi, PM



PACS will now be able to function as Common Service Centres and will be able to deliver the benefits of government welfare schemes along with more than 300 services to even the smallest of villages. This will make it easier for people to get public services.

Shri Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



IFFCO Kisan Drone will be used as a spray solution for Nano Urea and Nano DAP. Along with this, IFFCO will train 5,000 rural entrepreneurs to operate drones. In addition, IFFCO is procuring 2500 electric three-wheelers (loaders) to transport the agri-drones to the farmers' fields.

Shri Dileep Sanghani

Chairman, IFFCO



The popularity of IFFCO Nano Urea and IFFCO Nano DAP liquid is increasing day

by day. Farmers are voluntarily purchasing them in large quantities keeping in mind the increase in agricultural production, quality of produce and pollution control. We are realizing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Krishi, Aatmanirbhar Bharat. We at IFFCO are scaling new heights in the field of fertilizers through continuous research using Nanotechnology.

Dr Uday Shankar Awasthi

MD & CEO IFFCO



Lakhs of investors who deposited their money in the Sahara cooperative societies before March 22, 2022, and March 29, 2023, can recover their stolen money from the Central Registrar-Sahara Refund Portal. The government of PM Shri @NarendraModi ji is the saviour of the interests of the poor, the deprived and the victims.



Shri BL Verma

Minister of State for Cooperation, Government of India



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri @AmitShah has launched the 'CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal'. The new portal will allow depositors of the Sahara Group of cooperative societies to easily and remotely file their refund.

Ministry of Cooperation

PM Addresses Indian Diaspora in France

India's Progress and Potential



- Improving the standard of living of more people than Europe's entire population.
- India will soon become a \$5 trillion economy country.
- India's changing position at the international level.

Sahkar Uday Team

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, addressing the Indian diaspora in France, said that approximately 415 million Indians have been lifted out of the poverty line during the last decade, and extreme poverty in India is now on the verge of being eradicated. Citing various reports of the United Nations (UN) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said that this improvement in people's lives will benefit not only India but will also positively impact humanity as a whole.

Referring to the government's plans to lift more people out of poverty than the entire population of the US, Shri Modi

said that the country has been saved from slipping into extreme poverty through the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana" (PMGKAY). The government has fulfilled the basic needs of the people through its schemes.

He said that the world's development criteria have altered due to India's progress, which has led to overall improvement. Additionally, it gives other underdeveloped nations hope that the situation might improve and that poverty can be alleviated.

Government subsidies to the beneficiaries from various schemes are being deposited directly into their bank

accounts (Direct Benefit Transfer or DBT). The problem of middlemen has been eliminated. Referring to the power of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI), he said that India's influence and position are changing very rapidly. The Prime Minister added that due to the UPI agreement between India and France, now Indians will be able to pay with UPI at the Eiffel Tower.

India is currently the president of the G20. This is the first time that more than 200 conferences are being held in every nook and corner of the country under that country's chairmanship. He said that the entire G20 is watching and is mesmerised by India's potential. The



world is moving towards a new world order and a new era.

Shri Modi said, "India's history of thousands of years, India's experience, the scope of India's endeavours for the welfare of the world is vast. India is the 'Mother of Democracy' and a 'Model of Diversity'. This is our great strength." He asked, "Who wouldn't be filled with pride upon learning that India has advanced from being the 10th largest economy in the world to the 5th in just a decade?"

"The world is convinced that India will soon become a \$5 trillion economy," he said, brimming with pride for our country.

The land of India is witnessing a significant transformation today. The reins of this change lie in the hands of its citizens. "It is with the sisters and daughters of India and the youth of India," the Prime Minister said.

He added, "The world is full of new hope and aspirations for India. India is working towards the goal of developing

“
India's message to the world is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' which means the whole world is one family. With this feeling, we can build a better society, a better world. It is in this spirit that India and France are tackling the many challenges of the 21st century.

**-Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister**
”

in the next 25 years. This expectation is turning into concrete results. One of India's greatest strengths is its citizens. India's human resource is full of determination and courage. It is marching ahead firmly with the democratic values of India. Today, every global agency is saying that India is

progressing. There is an opportunity to invest in India."

According to Shri Modi, his trip to France is significant because he was invited to attend the French National Day or Bastille Day festivities as a special guest. Referring to the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries, he said, "Rooted in deep trust and commitment, India and France have close cooperation in various fields including defence, space, civil nuclear, blue economy, trade, investment, education, culture and people-to-people ties. We are also working together on regional and global issues."

Addressing the Indian community, the Prime Minister said that 'Namaste France' Festival is celebrated in France, and people in India enjoy 'Bonjour India' Festival. He also recalled his 2015 trip to France, where he paid tribute to Indian soldiers who had sacrificed their lives for France during World War I, a century



ago. “The brave soldiers of the Punjab Regiment, who had sacrificed their lives in the First World War, are now going to participate in the National Day Parade of France,” he said.

Shri Modi said that about 100 languages are taught in different parts of India. He added, “What can be a greater pride than knowing that Tamil, the world’s oldest language, is the language of India, the language of Indians?” He remembered when Wimbledon posted a picture of tennis legend Roger Federer with the caption “Thalaiva”, a term in the Tamil language used for Rajinikanth in India.

He said, “Coming to France is like coming home. Indians create a mini India wherever they go. When I hear the slogans of ‘Bharat Mata Ki Jai’, I feel like I am home. I have a 40-year-old love for France and I will never forget it. About 40 years ago, a French cultural centre was established in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The first member of this centre is speaking to you.” ◆◆◆

India Becomes World's Fifth Largest Economy

Sahkar Uday Team

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently distributed more than 70,000 appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in various government departments and organizations. While narrating the development story of India in his speech, he said, “India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world in



PM Mudra and SVANidhi Schemes

Referring to the “Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana” (PMMY), Shri Modi appreciated the role of banks in providing financial assistance to young entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (SHGs). By saving the industries of more than 1.5 crore entrepreneurs, the jobs of millions of people were preserved. Banks also played an essential role in making the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi” (PM-KISAN) scheme successful by sending money directly to the bank accounts of the farmers. He also recalled that more than 50 lakh street vendors have been helped under the “Prime Minister Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi” (PM SVANidhi) scheme due to banks.

the property of those who robbed banks. This is the reason why public sector banks before 2014 used to be discussed for the loss of thousands of crores. But after 2014, Shri Modi underlined, the same banks are being discussed for record profits.

Reiterating the contribution of the banking sector, he said that about 50 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts were opened. Because of these bank accounts, the government was able to send money directly to the accounts of crores of women. ◆◆◆

the last nine years. Soon, India will join the club of the world’s top-three economies. This will be a proud achievement for our country. This means employment opportunities and citizens’ per capita income will also increase.” Shri Modi expressed satisfaction over the banking sector’s important role in expanding the economy. He said, “Today, India is among the countries whose banking sector is considered to be the strongest.” He also added that digital and mobile banking has greatly benefited the country’s strong banking system. Emphasizing the reforms done in the banking sector in the last nine years, the PM outlined the steps taken after 2014 to get the country and the banking sector out of trouble. He talked of enhancing the management of government banks, emphasizing professionalism and consolidating small banks into large banks. He also mentioned that by insuring deposits up to ₹5 lakhs, over 99% of deposits are now secure, which has resulted in renewed confidence in the banking system. Taking another important step, banks were protected from losses by acts like the Bankruptcy Code. Provisions were made to confiscate



Sahara Refund Begins: Transfers Money to Investors in the First Batch

Sahkar Uday Team

On July 18, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, launched the CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal. The portal aims to assist millions of depositors associated with the Sahara Group in retrieving their funds. Strengthening Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's campaign against corruption, Shri Shah has begun the process of recovering all the investors' money back from Sahara Group cooperative societies. The Union Minister said that a staggering 1.78 crore small investors, whose funds up

- More than 32 lakh registrations for payment of dues.
- Every single penny will be refunded to all investors soon.
- The government's initiative of helping small depositors bears fruit.
- More than 10 Crore Investors to Recover Money through Sahara Refund Portal

to ₹30,000 are frozen, would receive their money back, which is a wonderful accomplishment.

Millions of small investors, who are waiting for their hard-earned savings, are set to benefit from the Centre's

decision to refund ₹5,000 crore held in four cooperative societies of the Sahara Group. The government announced on March 29, 2023, that it will refund the money of 10 crore investors in nine months. Shri Shah said that a new appeal



Steps taken by Centre to get Sahara Investors' Money Returned

- In three meetings, several rounds of discussions took place with all the stakeholders involved.
- The government lobbied strongly, and the stay was lifted from the High Court.
- The Supreme Court constituted a high-level committee on the matter.

invested money in the four multi-state Sahara Group cooperative societies, namely Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited, Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited, and Stars Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited. Sahara Group got these four cooperative societies registered between March 2010 and 2014.

During the portal launch, Shri Shah discussed its significance in depth. He emphasized the necessity of addressing the concerns of those who have invested their hard-earned money in these four cooperative societies, making this project vital. Multi-agency seizures frequently occur in such situations, yet no agency considers the investors.

He said that millions of people do not have any money but want to contribute to the country's growth. The Centre's aim behind reviving the cooperative movement and forming a separate Ministry of Cooperation is to help out such people. According to Shri Shah, the cooperative movement is the sole means by which significant projects can be undertaken by combining small resources to generate substantial capital. Referring to the scams by the multi-state cooperative societies of Sahara, the Union Minister for Cooperation said that those who invested in them lost their money. The case went on for years in the Supreme Court, and the investigating agencies sealed their properties and bank accounts. There was a danger of other cooperatives losing their credibility, along with the fraudulent cooperative societies. The government made tireless efforts to deal with these adverse circumstances and recover the stolen

“

We called all the stakeholders involved in the Sahara case — SEBI, Directorate of Enforcement (ED), income-tax department, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and lawyers. I was representing the investors. All the agencies together filed a petition in the Supreme Court, which resulted in a significant ruling. The apex court said that if all the agencies agree, a committee headed by a former Supreme Court judge will be formed and payments will be made in a transparent manner.

-Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation

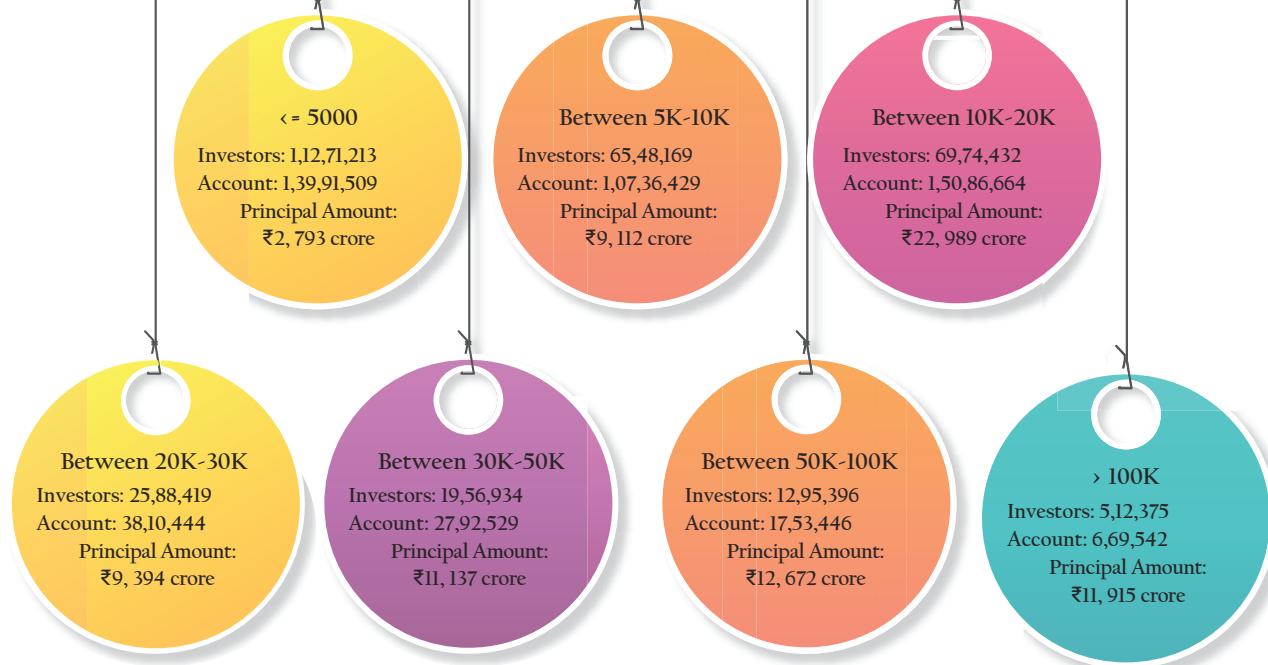
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will be filed in the Supreme Court to recover the money for other investors after the ₹5,000 crore refunds are settled in full. “The portal will initially benefit about one crore depositors,” he said. The Ministry of Cooperation filed a petition with the Supreme Court to resolve the complaints of genuine investors in the Sahara Group-led cooperative societies.

The top court ordered the transfer of ₹5,000 from the “Sahara-Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Refund Account” to the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) on March 29, 2023, to pay the legitimate dues of the depositors.

The portal has been created to address the genuine claims of depositors who had

INVESTMENT IN SAHARA'S COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES



money of the poor investors. The new Ministry of Cooperatives took several important steps in this regard. Shri Shah said all the agencies have filed a joint petition in the Supreme Court regarding the cases pending in the Telangana and Delhi High Courts, pleading for speedy justice. A bench of Supreme Court Justices MR Shah and CT Ravikumar has ordered the investors to return their money within nine months.

As ordered by the apex court, Justice R Subhash Reddy, a former judge, is supervising and monitoring the entire payment process with the aid of Shri Gaurav Agrawal, a knowledgeable attorney and Amicus Curiae. In consultation with the Central Registrar, Justice Reddy has worked out the modalities for returning the money.

₹24,500 crore in the SEBI-Sahara Refund Account

In August 2012, the top court ordered Sahara India Real Estate

Payment Just 5 Steps Away

In the first fortnight itself, more than 10 lakh people applied online for a refund of money deposited in Sahara's cooperative societies. The refund of depositors started on August 4. On the 17th day of filling out the application forms, the Union Minister of Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah got 100 depositors refunded. The recovered money reached their bank accounts. Payment is being made on the lines of 'first come first serve'. The recovery of stolen money is only five steps away. For this, the depositors have to go to the allocated website and enter their bank account, Aadhaar and mobile number details in the application form. Then, they have to upload the requested documents. After taking the application form's printout, they need to paste their photo on it and sign it. They have to then upload it again. The filed application will be sent online to the concerned Sahara cooperative societies where it will be verified. The records will be matched and pre-appointed auditors will verify the details. Along with all four cooperatives, a separate senior officer on special duty (OSD) has been appointed, under whose supervision the verification of the documents will be completed. Lastly, all approved applications will be sent to the Central Registrar where payment will be confirmed.

Corporation Limited (SIRECL) and Sahara Housing India Corporation Limited (SHICL) to reimburse investors. As a result, the Sahara-SEBI account

was established. Following the court's order, Sahara deposited over ₹15,000 crore into this account, which has now grown to ₹24,000 crore with accrued

Sr. No.	Name of the Society (Year of Registration)	Area of Operation	No. of Investors	Total Deposits (in Crore)	Amount Invested in Aamby Valley (in Crore)
1	Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited (2010)	22 States/UTs	4 Crore	₹47,245	₹28,170
2	Hamara India Credit Society Limited (2012)	15 States/UTs	1.8 Crore	₹12,958	₹10,255
3	Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Limited (2014)	17 States/UTs	3.71 Crore	₹18,000	₹17,945
4	Star Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited (2014)	14 States/UTs	37 Lakh	₹8,470	₹6,273
Total	4	NA	9.88 Crore	₹86,673	₹62,643

interest. Till December 2022, only ₹133 crore was refunded from the SEBI-Sahara refund account. At present, ₹23,937 crore is left in the account. In its application, the Central government has said that the CRCS has forwarded 1.21 lakh claims till June 2022 to the four Sahara group firms, for which a total of ₹375 crore will be required.

Sahara Cooperative Societies' Scam

Over the past 20 years, the four cooperative societies belonging to the

Sahara group have accepted deposits from investors. However, even after the deposit policy reached its maturity date, the investors' money was not returned. The scams of these cooperative societies started coming to the fore when a large number of investors from all over the country began complaining about the non-repayment of their deposits. But neither any concrete action was taken against these societies of Sahara Group, nor any investor's

money was refunded. No control could be imposed on the Sahara Cooperative Societies, and all four societies were successful in depositing ₹86,000 crore from across the country. The Sahara group continued to take advantage of the lack of coordination between the investigating agencies. However, these societies of Sahara Group were closely monitored by the market regulator SEBI, Supreme Court and Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SGIO). ♦♦♦

₹87,000 Crore Robbed from 10 Crore Investors

Sahara Credit Cooperative Society Limited was spread across 22 states, and four crore investors deposited ₹47,245 crore in it. The Sahara Group management team invested ₹28,170 crore from this huge amount in its Aamby Valley project in Maharashtra. In 2012, Hamara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited was founded two years after the establishment of the first society. This cooperative had investors from 15 states, with a total of 1.8 crore individuals depositing ₹12,958 crore. Additionally, ₹10,255 crore from this cooperative was invested in Aamby Valley. Then Sahara established its third cooperative, Saharayn Universal Multipurpose Society Limited, in 2014, which was spread across 17 states. A total of 3.71 crore individuals deposited ₹18,000 crore in this cooperative. Unfortunately, ₹17,945 crore from this society was stolen and invested in Aamby Valley. In the same year, Sahara Group founded the Star Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, which was expanded to 14 states. This cooperative society had 37 lakh investors who deposited ₹8,470 crore. A portion of this amount, which was ₹6,273 crore, was again invested in the Aamby Valley project. In this way, out of ₹86,673 crore raised from 9.88 crore investors, Sahara Group stole ₹62,643 crore for Aamby Valley.



Government's top priority is to refund poor investors' money

- Investors to Receive Up to ₹10,000 in the First Phase.
- Aadhar card must be linked with a mobile number.
- Money will be refunded directly to the bank account within 45 days.



Sahkar Uday Team

The Sahara Refund Portal has been launched to initiate the process of refunding investors' money from the four cooperative societies of the Sahara Group. After the portal's launch, Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the investors who have deposits of ₹10,000 or more will be paid ₹10,000 in the first phase.

Complete data of all four cooperative societies is available online on the portal. The entire process has been made transparent so that investors will not suffer injustice or disturbance. Shri Shah said that no one can stop investors from receiving their hard-earned money back.

Arrangements have been made in the Common Service Centre (CSC) regarding filling out the online application for a refund. Hence,

online registration should be done only through CSC. There are two key conditions in this process. The Aadhaar card of the investor

should be linked to his mobile and bank account. If the claim is applied properly, the money will be deposited in the investors' bank

Deposits by Poor Investors

In the four cooperative societies of Sahara Group, 1.13 crore small investors have deposited less than ₹5,000. The money of these poor investors is likely to be returned in the first phase. A total of ₹2,793 crore will be needed to pay these investors. There are 65.48 lakh investors who have deposited amounts ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, totalling ₹9,112 crore across 1.07 crore accounts. As many as 69.74 lakh investors, who deposited between ₹10,000 to 20,000, have deposited a total of ₹22,898 crore in 1.50 crore accounts. Similarly, 25.88 lakh investors, who deposited between ₹20,000 to 30,000, have deposited a sum of ₹9,394 crore in 38.10 lakh accounts. Further, 19.56 lakh investors, who deposited between ₹30,000 to 50,000, have deposited a total of ₹11,137 crore in 27.92 lakh accounts. In addition, 12.95 lakh investors, who deposited between ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh, have deposited a total of ₹12,672 crore in 17.53 lakh accounts, and 5.12 lakh investors, who have deposited more than ₹1 lakh, collectively have a corpus of ₹11,915 crore deposited in 6.70 lakh accounts.



Payment is to be Done Within One and a Half Months

The entire payment process is digital and paperless. The portal designed for the submission of claims is user-friendly, efficient and transparent. Necessary provisions have been made in the portal to ensure that only bona fide depositors are refunded the valid amount. The portal can be accessed through the website of the Ministry of Cooperation. The bona fide depositors of these societies will have to submit their claims by uploading the online application form available on the portal, along with the necessary documents. The depositors will be verified through the Aadhaar card to ensure their identity. Funds, subject to availability, will be transferred directly to their Aadhaar-linked bank account. The transfer of funds will occur 45 days after depositors submit their online claims, following verification by cooperative societies, auditors, and the Officer on Special Duty (OSD). Once the claims and associated documents have been verified, the transfer will take place.

“



With transparency under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, investors have started getting back their money trapped in scams. This is a huge achievement.

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

”

account within 45 days. A total of ₹86,673 crore is deposited by a total of 9.88 crore investors in the four cooperative societies of the

Sahara Refund Portal: How to Apply

- Membership Number of Investment in Sahara
- Depositor's account number
- Aadhar-linked mobile number
- Depositor's passbook
- Pan card (if the amount is more than ₹50,000)
- To get Sahara's refund, you must first register on CRCS-Sahara Refund Portal - (<https://mocrefund.crcs.gov.in/>)
- Depositor/Register).
- Enter the last four digits of your Aadhaar and your mobile number linked with your Aadhaar.
- Click to get a One-time password (OTP).
- OTP will come on the mobile number, which has to be filled in.
- The form will open.
- Download the form, fill it out, scan it and upload it on the portal.

Sahara Group. The extent of these cooperatives is in almost all the states and Union territories. Of the total deposits of ₹24.50 thousand

crore in the Sahara-Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Refund Account, ₹5,000 crore has currently been received. ♦♦♦



Amit Shah Lauds NABARD's Role as Rural Backbone

Sahkar Uday Team

On the 42nd Foundation Day of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the villages are becoming self-sufficient under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The agricultural economy, considered the rural economy's mainstay, is growing rapidly. Cooperative institutions and NABARD play a vital role in bringing the changes occurring in the country to rural areas. Without NABARD, Shri Shah said, it would be impossible for Indian villages to prosper and develop.

Under the leadership of Shri Modi,

- NABARD's major contribution to reviving the rural economy
- The prosperity and development of villages cannot be imagined without NABARD.

the Central government is moving towards achieving the goal of a "Viksit Bharat" with the mantra "Sahakar Se Samridhi". The government is taking many initiatives for rural India's economic, social and technical development.

NABARD gave 20 Lakh Crores in 42 Years for the Development of Villages

For the past four decades, NABARD has served as the backbone for the nation's rural economy, infrastructure, agriculture, cooperative institutions, and self-help groups (SHGs). Shri Shah

said that NABARD is more than just a bank; it aims to improve the nation's rural infrastructure. The establishment of the SHGs, made possible in large part by NABARD, allowed all members of the village, particularly mothers and sisters, to become self-sufficient and gain respect in the community. He said that NABARD has refinanced ₹20 lakh crore in the rural economy over the past 42 years with a growth rate of 14%, which is a remarkable accomplishment.

The largest microfinance programme

in the world, NABARD has assisted about one crore SHGs across the nation. He mentioned that all farmers will now be included in the Kisan Credit Card program as part of the “PM Kisan Yojana”. At the time, NABARD provided Micro-ATM cards to milk societies along with RuPay Kisan Credit cards to their members.

NABARD should Target Development for the Next 25 Years

Calling upon NABARD to give direction to the country’s development by developing villages and making villagers self-reliant, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation said that NABARD should establish its objectives for the next 25 years in consideration of the country’s requirements. Additionally, NABARD should assess its mission every five years to evaluate the success of our goals. He said that when every five-year target is reviewed annually, it will be easier for us to achieve our development goals. He also mentioned that he motivated NABARD to have the courage and foresight to accomplish these goals.

Along with Cities, Villages are also becoming Self-Sufficient

Reiterating the resolve of the Central government to build an “Atmanirbhar aur Viksit Bharat”, Shri Shah said that under the Prime Minister’s leadership today, cities and villages in India are becoming self-reliant. Cooperatives have a natural contribution to the agricultural economy. He said that in 1982, the short-term loan for agricultural finance was ₹896 crore. However, NABARD has significantly increased this amount to ₹1.58 lakh crore. Similarly, in the same year, the long-term agricultural loan was ₹2,300

NABARD’s Gift to Rural Women Micro ATMs, RuPay Kisan Credit Cards

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched a pilot project on the occasion of 42nd Foundation Day. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, in collaboration with DCCB and NABARD, distributed Micro ATMs and RuPay Kisan Credit Cards to the members of Panchmahal and Banaskantha Milk Cooperative Societies in Gujarat. The availability of finance will now be easy in rural areas with the help of these credit cards and rural women will be able to shop by swiping cards. District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCBs) and NABARD issued credit cards and plans to distribute 1,631 Micro ATMs so that cash can be given at any time when needed by rural people. Two chairmen of the Milk Committee (Jetha Bhai and Sabji Bhai) have been made Bank Mitra to provide small and micro loans in rural areas. Bank Mitra keep cash with them which makes it easily available at a much lower rate. Rural people can easily shop too by swiping their RuPay Kisan Debit Card. Earlier, women depended on moneylenders for microfinance or cash, who lent them money at higher interest rates. A woman from Banaskantha had written a letter to Shri Shah about the problem and as a solution, the government launched RuPay Kisan Credit Card.

crore, which has now been increased to ₹1 lakh crore by NABARD.

Resolution for Centenary Year during ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’

The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation said that during this year of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”, Shri Modi has set a target in front of us. No one except NABARD can achieve the target of rural economy development, agriculture, cooperatives finance and SHGs and rural infrastructure expansion. He said that ₹5 lakh crore have been sanctioned under the Rural Infrastructure Development

Fund, and the irrigation facility has reached 41 million hectares of land through NABARD, which is 60% of the total irrigated land. He said NABARD has financed warehouses with a 13 million metric tonnes capacity. He also informed that NABARD has about 7,000 Farmer Producer Groups (FPOs) across the country to ensure the farmers get a good price for their produce. Shri Shah said that the Cooperative Development Fund, which was established in 1992-93 with only ₹10 crore, has grown to ₹293 crore today. ♦♦♦

Empowering Farmers with 1,100 New FPOs through PACS



- Important role of the cooperative movement in agriculture and rural development
- Initiative to enrich the marginal farmers of the country
- Emphasis on adopting modern methods instead of traditional methods in agriculture

Sahkar Uday Team

During the launch of the action plan for the establishment of 1,100 new Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah emphasized the need to shift from conventional farming practices towards modern agricultural methods that can enhance the prosperity of small and marginal farmers.

The initiative aims to start by creating FPOs through PACS. To ensure the success of these FPOs, the

“
Cooperation in the field of agriculture and rural development is the only movement which can make everyone prosperous.
-Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation
”

Central government has undertaken comprehensive measures to offer

support at every stage, ranging from production to marketing of their products.

The “*Sahakar Se Samridhi*” goal of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is being fulfilled through the implementation of the action plan at the grassroots level. FPOs created through PACS have a greater chance of bringing financial success to farmers. Through PACS, FPOs, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Cooperatives will collaborate to promote rural development and prosperity.



Government Giving a New Direction to the Cooperative Movement

Shri Shah believes that cooperatives are crucial for the development of villages and can serve as a valuable tool for the economic advancement of underprivileged individuals. If agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries are strengthened through cooperatives, employment opportunities and the country's gross domestic product (GDP) will also increase. India's economy relies heavily on three core industries: agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing. These sectors collectively contribute to 18% of the country's GDP. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership was responsible for raising the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat by 51% and the MSP of paddy by 55%. This is the first government since Independence to mandate at

“ We need to accept FPOs to make the living conditions of farmers better, similar to those engaged in the service sector.

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

least a 50% increase in profit over farmer costs.

Cooperative Movement is the Means of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi"

According to Shri Shah, the cooperative movement in our country has a long history. However, upon reflection, it's evident that despite 75 years of Independence, the movement has become highly fragmented.

According to him, the nation can be divided into three categories from the perspective of cooperatives — the states where the cooperative movement has succeeded in growing and strengthening itself, the states where the cooperative movement is still active, and the states where the cooperative movement is on the verge of extinction. He added that in such a large country, where about 65 crore people are engaged in agriculture, it has become essential to revive the cooperative movement, modernize it, bring transparency, and scale it to new heights. He said that in the cooperative sector, even a person without capital can become prosperous based on his courage and hard work.

Rejuvenation of Cooperatives with a New Initiative

Shri Shah said that the Ministry of Cooperation has launched numerous



projects under the Prime Minister's leadership over the past two years. After becoming Prime Minister, Shri Modi implemented FPO as a measure to improve agriculture and benefit farmers. This initiative has proven to be beneficial for farmers. He claimed that if PACS were to attain FPO status, all its farmers would benefit. FPOs established through PACS have the maximum potential of bringing farmers prosperity. He added that the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) can assist PACS in achieving its goal of becoming an FPO.

According to Shri Shah, approximately 65% of Indians rely on agriculture and its associated industries. Additionally, these industries employ around 55% of those working in agriculture. Agriculture also indirectly supports all other services in rural areas. He also said that 86% of the nation's

farmers now are small and marginal, with less than one hectare of land.

India is the only nation in the world, which did not allow small farmers to become labourers and they are the owners of their land. PACS as FPOs is the way of the future for modernizing agriculture, obtaining fair pricing for the produce and making farming viable.

Campaign to Uplift the Lives of Farmers

The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation said that the government and the cooperative sector are responsible for ensuring that everyone involved in agriculture has a comfortable life, much like those working in the services industry.

According to him, the FPO was originally proposed by the Yogendra Alagh Committee back in 2002-03 during the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. He also mentioned that once Shri Modi became the Prime

Minister, he decided to implement the FPO recommendation. As a result, there are currently 11,770 FPOs functioning in the nation. These have helped lakhs of farmers increase their revenue. In the budget, the government has laid out plans to establish 10,000 additional FPOs by 2027. An allocation of ₹6,900 crore has been dedicated to achieving this ambitious goal.

The Union Minister highlighted that Shri Modi envisions a comprehensive system where agriculture production to marketing operates under FPOs. The Prime Minister's proposal emphasizes that FPOs should oversee the entire process, from input to output, including manufacturing, processing, grading, packaging, marketing, and storage.

According to Shri Shah, FPOs have successfully introduced various facilities such as storage, drying, cleaning and grading, along with providing market intelligence,

technological distribution, and aggregation of inputs for production and innovation.

Moreover, they have played a crucial role in devising plans for brand development, packaging, labelling and standardization procedures, ensuring quality control and securing better prices for farmers through collaborations with corporate entities and institutional customers.

Appeal to Connect PACS with FPO

Amit Shah has encouraged all FPOs in the country to maintain their operations and continue integrating PACS. A new hybrid model must be created to implement a more comprehensive system for information sharing, profit sharing, and marketing based on the agreements between the PACS and FPOs.

He said that the Modi government has provided loans to FPOs worth over ₹127 crore in addition to the already disbursed 6,900 crore. As many as 922 FPOs have been established in tribal districts to work on projects involving forest produce. He added that Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Punjab have done excellent work in the field of FPOs.

Youth Should be Connected to Agriculture

Shri Shah said that we need to convince young people that agriculture is a lucrative industry that should be practised in a modern way with effective marketing. He asserted that if the nation's 12 crore farmers are given this kind of assurance, agricultural production will rise, along with the country's GDP. It will not only make the 12 crore farmers "Atmanirbhar" but also the nation. Shri Modi has taken

Under the FPO scheme, each FPO is provided financial assistance of ₹33 lakh. This will benefit small and marginal farmers. Financial assistance of ₹25 lakh per FPO is given to Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) for promoting and managing FPOs.

numerous initiatives in this direction, and the government will now advance in the direction of turning farmers into businessmen and entrepreneurs through cooperatives and FPOs.

Agricultural Budget Increased 5.6 Times in the Modi Government

According to the Union Minister, the agricultural sector's budgetary allotment has increased by 5.6 times under the Prime Minister's leadership. Specifically, the agricultural budget has grown from ₹21,000 crore in 2013-14 to ₹1.15 lakh crore in 2023-24, demonstrating the Modi government's prioritization of agriculture.

Farmers' Welfare is the Priority of the Government

Shri Shah said that the nation produced 324 million tonnes of food

grains in 2022–2023 compared to 265 million tonnes in 2013–2014. The MSP for wheat has increased by 51%, while the MSP for paddy has increased by 55% in the past ten years. The Modi government has practically doubled paddy procurement (at 88%) and boosted wheat procurement by roughly two-thirds at 72%.

The Modi government is actively promoting organic farming, providing micro irrigation to 60 lakh farmers on 72 lakh hectares of land, and launching initiatives such as the National Edible Oil Mission. They have also established funds for agricultural infrastructure and mechanization, with a total worth of ₹24,000 crore. Furthermore, the government has worked towards connecting approximately 1,260 mandis through the e-NAM platform.

Expanding PACS' Business Scope will lead to Rural Development

Shri Amit Shah highlighted the remarkable transformations in the agriculture and cooperative sectors during the tenure of the Modi government. One noteworthy achievement has been the formulation of PACS bylaws, which have been successfully implemented in 26 states. Furthermore, the Central government has taken an important measure by incorporating PACS with 22 distinct functions. He highlighted the importance of having strong PACS. He emphasized that the key to progress in rural and agricultural areas is through the harmonious collaboration of FPOs, PACS and SHGs. When these organizations work together seamlessly, development in rural communities can truly flourish. ♦♦♦



Modi Govt Transforms Cooperative Landscape

Sahkar Uday Team

Under the able leadership of the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the government constituted the Ministry of Cooperation on July 6, 2021, to accelerate the development of cooperatives in the country. The ministry has taken more than 45 major decisions during its two years in office to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi", promote a cooperative-based economic development model and strengthen the cooperative movement in the country to reach the grassroots level.

PACS have been Strengthened

The Modi government framed model bye-laws to make Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) multipurpose and expand its business scope. After consultation with all the states, Union territories, national associations and other stakeholders, the bye-laws prepared were implemented on January 5, 2023. As many as 26 states and Union territories have adopted it to date. This will enable PACS to create new employment opportunities in

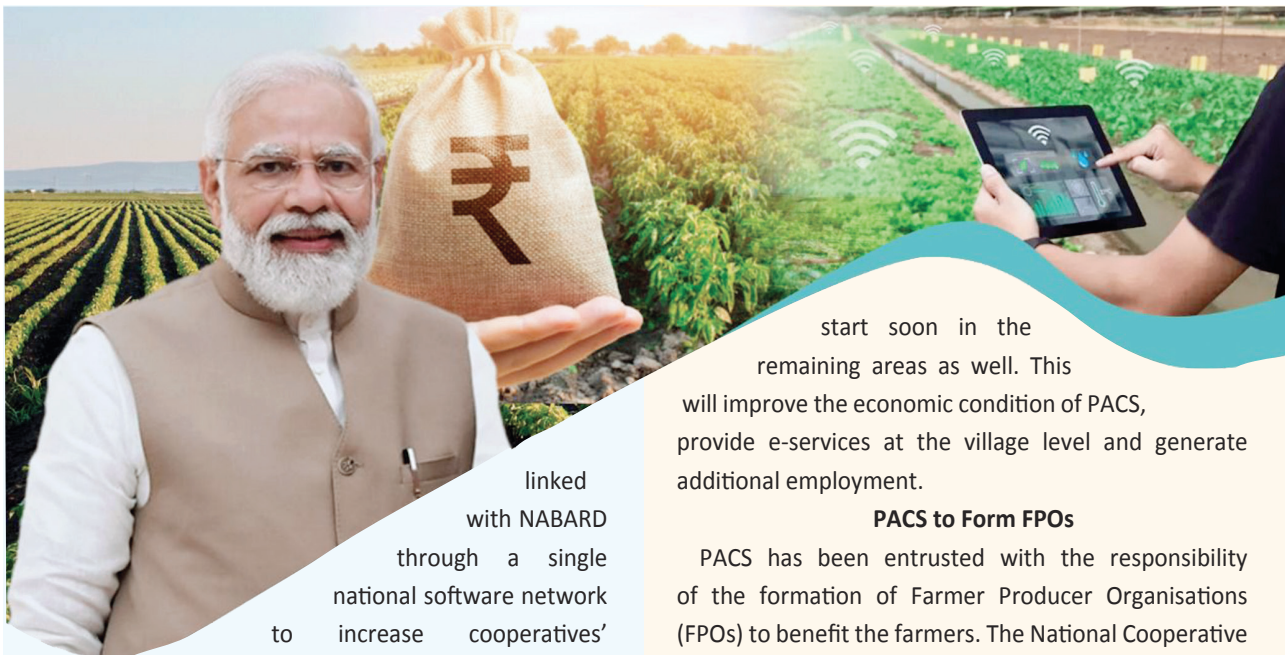
- There are about 8.54 lakh registered cooperative societies in India with more than 29 crore farmer members.
- Cooperative societies contribute 25% in fertiliser production, 35% in fertiliser distribution, 35% in sugar production, and 15% in milk production in the country's economy.

more than two dozen new sectors.

A total of more than one lakh PACS, Large Area Multipurpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS), Farmers Service Societies (FSS), 619 State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDB) and Primary Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDB) are functioning in the agriculture sector.

Computerisation of PACS

A total of 63,000 active PACS and LAMPS are being



linked with NABARD through a single national software network to increase cooperatives' efficiency and transparency. The Centre has received proposals for the computerisation of 58,383 PACS from 24 states and four Union territories. The government has released a total of ₹450 crore to the states in this regard.

Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies

On February 15, 2023, the Central government decided to spread cooperative societies from village to village. There is a target to set up two lakh new multipurpose PACS and Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies in the next five years. NABARD and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) have prepared an action plan for setting up new committees.

Grain Storage Scheme

The Central government has prepared the world's largest scheme for grain storage. This scheme of the cooperative sector will play a significant role in the interest of farmers and employment in rural areas. Under this plan, godowns, agricultural machinery assistance centres, and processing units will be set up. The pilot project for this plan has already commenced.

PACS as Common Service Centres

More than 17,000 PACS have started functioning as Common Service Centres (CSC) in coordination with the Ministry of Cooperation, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, NABARD and CSC e-Governance Services India Limited. Work will

start soon in the remaining areas as well. This will improve the economic condition of PACS, provide e-services at the village level and generate additional employment.

PACS to Form FPOs

PACS has been entrusted with the responsibility of the formation of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to benefit the farmers. The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will help PACS to form 1,100 FPOs in the cooperative sector. This initiative will help member farmers of cooperatives to strengthen the chain from seed to market.

PACS To Get LPG Distributorship

Existing PACS, having wholesale petrol and diesel dealership licences, have been given a one-time option to convert their bulk consumer pumps into retail outlets. PACS has also been given priority in the allotment of new petrol and diesel dealerships to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country. PACS will also be able to get LPG distributorship.

PACS as Jan Aushadhi Kendra

The Central government has allowed 2,000 PACS across the country to open "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras" (PMBJK) by the end of December this year. This move aims to make medicines available at affordable prices to the public, increase the income of PACS and create employment opportunities.

PACS as Fertilizer Distribution Centres

PACS have been brought under "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendras" (PMKSK) and will act as fertilizer retailers and drone entrepreneurs for spraying fertilizers and pesticides. Drones can also be used for property surveys. These efforts will ensure the availability of fertilizers to the farmers at the PACS level and create new business opportunities for PACS.



PACS in PM-KUSUM Scheme

A solar power plant will be set up at the village panchayat level by expanding the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan” (PM-KUSUM) scheme. Farmers connected to PACS can replace agricultural diesel pumps with solar agricultural water pumps.

Income Tax Relief for the Cooperative Sector

The Central government has decided to reduce the surcharge on cooperative societies from 12% to 7% for those with a total income between ₹1 crore and ₹10 crore. This will allow cooperatives to have more capital to work with for the benefit of the members.

Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) Reduction

The government has reduced the Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) for cooperative societies from 18.5% to 15% to provide a level playing field between cooperative societies and companies. This will help enhance the income of cooperative societies and their members, mostly from rural and farming communities.

Many more Concessions in the Budget

An announcement was made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to increase the limit from ₹20,000 to ₹2 lakh per member for cash deposits and loans by PACS and PCARDBs.

Lowering Tax Rate for New Cooperatives

An announcement was made in the Union Budget 2023-24 to charge a flat lower tax rate of 15%, compared with the current rate of up to 30% plus surcharge, for new cooperatives commencing manufacturing activities till March 31, 2024. With this, the cooperative sector will get concessions along the lines of the corporate sector.

Increase in Limit for TDS

The annual cash withdrawal limit for cooperatives has been increased from ₹1 crore to ₹3 crore per year without being subjected to tax deducted at source (TDS).

Tax Relief to Dairy Cooperative Societies

Cash transactions of more than ₹2 lakh in dairy cooperative societies will not attract an income-tax penalty. During holidays in state and district milk union banks, member milk producers will be able to take payment in cash from their distributors and have the convenience of paying in cash too.

Measures to Bolster Cooperative Banks

Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) will now have the opportunity to open new branches to expand business. They will also be able to offer one-time settlements (OTS) of loans on par with commercial banks.

Relief to Sugar Cooperative Mills

The Ministry of Finance has provided a major relief to sugar cooperative mills by clarifying that mills will not be subjected to additional income-tax for paying higher sugarcane prices to farmers.

Resolution of Issues of Sugar Cooperative Mills

The Union Budget has given income-tax relief of around ₹10,000 crores to the sugar cooperative industry, resolving a long-standing tussle between the sugar mills and the income-tax department. The cooperative sugar industry of Maharashtra had been fighting a case with the income-tax department about the categorisation of the payment made to the sugarcane farmers over and above the fair and remunerative price (FRP) fixed by the Central government.

Preference for Purchase of Ethanol

Under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme, the Ministry of Petroleum will ensure that cooperative sugar mills are given priority for ethanol procurement at par with other private companies. Plants are being set up to generate electricity from sugarcane bagasse. This will increase the business of cooperative sugar mills.

Three New National Multi-State Cooperatives

Three national multi-state cooperatives, the Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society, Multi-State Cooperative Organic Society and Multi-State Cooperative Export Society, are being established, which will increase employment opportunities in rural areas. It will also increase the income of farmers associated with PACS. While the Multi-State Cooperative Seed Society will work towards reducing the gap between the demand and supply of advanced seeds for farming, the farmers will also get a good price for their produce due to the increasing demand in the market.

National Cooperative University

The world's largest cooperative university is being established to meet the growing demand for human resources in the cooperative sector. It will promote cooperative education, training, research and development.

A New Scheme for Cooperative Training

The scheme has been designed to make cooperatives a strong economic institution, broaden and strengthen the cooperative movement, promote quality research and studies on important areas of cooperatives, capacity building of faculty of Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) and Junior Cooperatives Training Centres (JCTCs), etc.

New National Cooperative Policy

A new cooperative policy draft has been prepared to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi". Soon after the approval of Parliament, it is likely to be implemented. A multidisciplinary and national-level committee of 49 members has been formed under the leadership of former Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu for its preparation.

National Cooperative Database

A comprehensive and authentic National Cooperative

Database is being developed in a phased manner by the Ministry of Cooperation in collaboration with the state governments. Under the first phase, a database of about 2.64 lakh PACS, dairy and fisheries was created in February 2023. The database of national cooperative societies and federations was created in the second phase. Under the third phase, all the other 5.8 lakh cooperative societies have been included in the database. The database is now nearing completion.

Cooperatives as 'Buyers' on the GeM Portal

The Union Cabinet has approved the registration of cooperative societies as 'buyers' on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) from June 1, 2022. Cooperatives can procure from around 60 lakh authenticated vendors and service providers across the country on a single GeM platform. So far, more than 550 cooperative societies have been onboard.

National Cooperative Development Corporation

New schemes for cooperatives launched by NCDC in various sectors, such as 'Swayamshakti Sahkar' for self-help groups (SHGs); 'Deerghavadhi Krishak Sahkar' for long-term agricultural credit; 'Dairy Sahkar' for dairy and 'Neel Sahkar' for fisheries, etc. have been initiated.

CRCS Office goes Digital

The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office is being computerized to create a digital ecosystem for multi-state cooperative societies to facilitate their activities. A new portal software is being developed to support this initiative.

Amendment of The MSCS Act, 2002

The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022, is listed in the Monsoon Session, 2023, of Parliament to strengthen multi-state cooperative societies, enhance transparency and accountability.

Computerization of Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks

Ministry of Cooperation is taking up the project to digitise Agriculture and Rural Development Banks to strengthen the long-term cooperative credit structure. The implementation of computerization will provide various benefits to these banks, such as improved efficiency, quicker loan disbursement, lower transaction rates, enhanced transparency, and reduced balance of payments. ◆◆◆



IFFCO Kisan Drone: Agriculture Revolutionized with Smart Solutions

Hitendra Pratap Singh

Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) has launched a nationwide campaign and procured 2,500 “IFFCO Kisan Drones” as spray solutions for its revolutionizing products Nano Urea and Nano DAP. This is yet another step towards modernization in the agriculture sector and will give a new dimension to realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of “*Sahakar Se Samridhi*”.

IFFCO plans to provide free training and support to 5,000 rural entrepreneurs to operate drones. These drone pilots will receive certification through the Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO), a centre

■ ‘Kisan drones’ will spray IFFCO Nano Urea and Nano DAP

■ Huge initiative by IFFCO to realise PM’s vision of “*Sahakar Se Samridhi*”

recognized by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. This initiative aims to create job opportunities for rural youth.

Along with the Kisan drones, IFFCO has also procured 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader type) under the L-5 category to transport these drones, nano fertilizers, and related supplies to farmers’ fields. These EV three-wheelers also aim to promote environmental protection.

The management of IFFCO hired a well-known consultant, Drone Federation of India, based in New Delhi, to evaluate their technological capabilities, production capacity, manufacturing process, quality processes, training curriculum, and infrastructure. After assessing the specifications, the Drone Federation of India confirmed that the agri drones purchased by IFFCO meet industry standards in terms of their technical requirements.

IFFCO Enters the Agri-Drone Segment through 'IFFCO Kisan Drone'

- IFFCO brings the biggest smart agriculture solution ever by procuring 2,500 agriculture drones to easily use Nano Urea and DAP.
- IFFCO will also train 5,000 rural entrepreneurs in spray-related solutions.
- IFFCO is procuring 2,500 electric three-wheelers (loader-type) to carry drones to farmers' fields.

Reduction in Subsidy Burden on the Government

'IFFCO Kisan Drone' will also support the "PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth" (PM-PRANAM) scheme of Shri Modi by reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and enabling states to get more significant funding under the scheme. Through this scheme, it will reduce the subsidy burden on the government and promote the use of IFFCO Nano Urea and Nano DAP. The availability of agriculture drones at the village-farmer level at a reasonable cost will boost the use of nano fertilizers. IFFCO has introduced and funded agro-drone marketing, rural e-commerce, digitally enabling farmers and farms, IoT, and other ground-breaking technologies. IFFCO aspires to be the face of contemporary Indian agriculture by appealing to innovators and forward-thinking rural entrepreneurs who are committed to sustainable farming. Modernization of the country's agriculture sector is one of the top agendas of the Modi government. Along with advanced agriculture, the dream of a progressive farmer will also come true with 'IFFCO Kisan drones'.

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah recently tweeted that the 'IFFCO Kisan drone' is a significant step toward the improvement of rural economies. He also highlighted that it is a positive

step towards sustainable agriculture and cooperative development.

To strengthen this nationwide campaign, IFFCO has also ordered modern equipment like tractor-mounted boom sprayers,

tractor-mounted hose reel sprayers, HTP power sprayers, portable sprayers, Niyo sprayers etc. These drones and sprayers can be used to spray fertilizers on any crop. ♦♦♦

Deputy Manager (Marketing) IFFCO

Drones will Cover 20 Acres per day

A single drone with backup can cover 20 acres per day for spraying IFFCO Nano Urea, DAP, WSF, bio-stimulants like Sagarika, Agrochemicals, and more. IFFCO has embarked on providing Nano Urea & Nano DAP to the farmer's field through these smart high-tech solutions.



Amul Completes 50 Years of Unprecedented Success

Sahkar Uday Team

As many as 3.6 million Gujarat dairy farmers celebrated the golden jubilee of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) Amul on July 10. Founded in 1973, GCMMF is India's largest food fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) organization, with an annual turnover of ₹72,000 crore under the brands Amul and Sagar in India. Due to efficient leadership and management, the cooperative made constant progress and became the reason for the 'White Revolution' in the country.

The 18-member unions of GCMMF, with over 36 lakh farmer members in 18,600 villages of Gujarat, are procuring an average of 270 lakh litres of milk per day. The GCMMF unions have established a network of 98 dairy plants in major metropolitan cities of India. According to the International

Farm Comparison Network (IFCN), GCMMF ranks 8th among the top 20 dairy companies in the world. Amul is also the strongest dairy brand, as per Brand Finance 2022 report, UK. It distributes 2,000 crore packs of products annually across India.

GCMMF constantly strives to fulfil Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah's vision to make India the 'Dairy Capital of the World'. It aims to raise its global market share from 23% to 45% by 2047 to provide sustainable livelihoods for 90 million families, particularly women. Tweeting on the Golden Jubilee of GCMMF, former MD of Amul, R.S. Sodhi, wrote, "I feel the reason for the success of GCMMF (Amul) is consistency in leadership and purity of the organization."

India's first dairy cooperative was started in Gujarat in 1946 when a group of farmers under the leadership of Shri Tribhuvandas Patel, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Dr Verghese Kurien (Father of the White Revolution) established the Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers Union Limited (KDCMPUL) in Anand, Gujarat.

KDCMPUL effectively provided fair prices to farmers and soon became a model for other cooperative societies. In 1973, GCMMF was established. It sold



Dr Verghese Kurien, Father of 'White Revolution'

the cooperative's milk under the brands Amul and Sagar, which eventually became known for their high-quality milk products throughout India.

Amul has reported a provisional turnover of ₹55,055 crore for the financial year ending March 31, 2023. This represents an 18.5% increase in annual turnover. GCMMF saw a 21% increase in sales of fresh products, which accounted for 50% of their overall turnover. The ice cream line also experienced significant growth, with a 41% increase. Consumer products, including cheese, butter, UHT milk, milk beverages, paneer, cream, buttermilk, and curd, had a 23% growth rate, with individual products growing at 20-40%. GCMMF will increase distribution across the top 400 cities in terms of population. With this, GCMMF aims to increase its network of 82 branches and warehouse infrastructures to more than 100 by 2023-24. ♦♦♦

GCMMF Leadership till Date

- Late Dr V Kurien: 1972-83
- Late Shri JJ Baxi: 1983-1996
- Shri BM Vyas: 1996 -2010
- Shri RS Sodhi: 2010-2023
- Shri Jayen Mehta: 2023 till now.

Sahakar Ganga Gram to Double Farmer's Income



Sahakar Ganga Gram Project launched to Empower Farmers along the Ganges

Sahkar Uday Team

Sahakar Bharati recently inaugurated the “Sahakar Ganga Gram” Project in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Development of North East Region, Shri BL Verma, presided as the Chief Guest of the multi-purpose project launch.

IFFCO Managing Director Dr Uday Shankar Awasthi, Vice-Chairman Balvir Singh, Director Vijay Shankar Rai, Director Smt Sadhna Jadhav and Marketing Director Shri Yogendra Kumar also attended the event.

In his address, Shri Verma stressed the joint efforts of each Indian citizen to realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of “Sahakar Se Samridhhi”. Talking about the importance of the “Sahakar Ganga Gram” Project, he said that it will help promote the interests of farmers, facilitating the marketing of organic and natural products under the brand Ganga through the creation of market linkages, and promoting people-river connections through economic bridges, among other things.

During the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” period, “Sahakar Ganga Grams” are being set up in all states linked to the Ganga river. In order to preserve the river’s natural water flow and encourage overall development in local communities, numerous villages situated along the banks of the holy river Ganga have been identified as “Ganga Grams”. The villages cover approximately 600 sq km and are located 5 km apart on either side of the 60-km stretch downstream of the Ganga river, near the border of Banaras. The project aims to promote natural farming among Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives in the Gangetic states. The project endeavours to implement an integrated approach that facilitates the comprehensive development of villages along the Ganga river, with active engagement and participation from the local villagers.

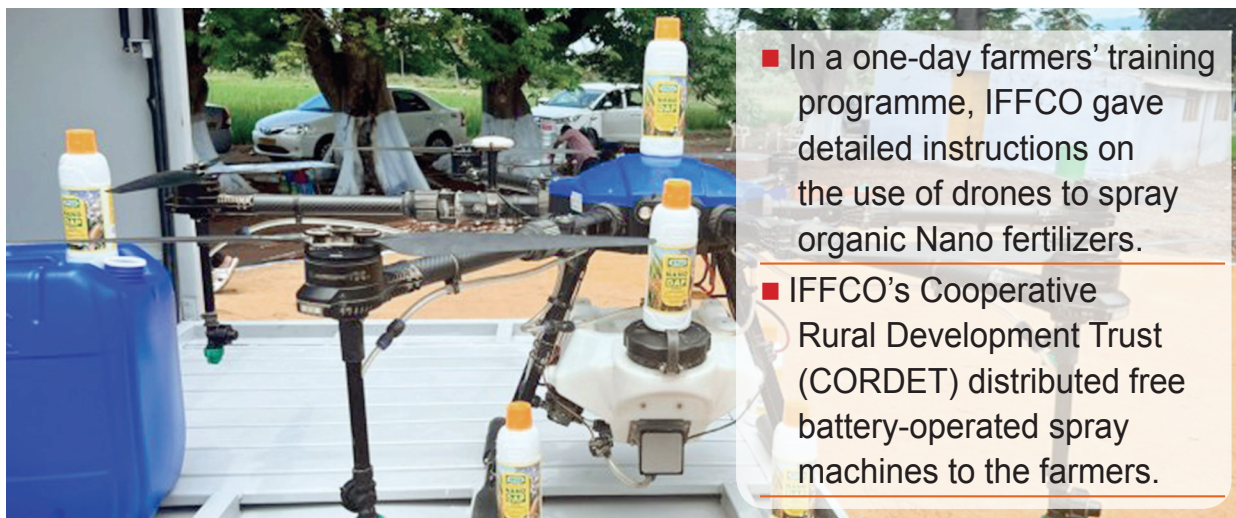
The Central government is on the path to conserving and promoting natural resources through local cooperatives’ participation. Along with

this, the poor villagers are also being empowered. To make the identified villages “Aatmanirbhar”, special emphasis will be laid on areas such as natural farming, dairy and animal husbandry, handloom, food processing, non-traditional production, etc.

Through the development and expansion of cooperation among common citizens, a new environment will be created to protect the water sector, environment and agriculture, etc. Giving special emphasis to youth and women, this initiative aims to promote employment opportunities and economic development in the villages along the banks of the Ganga.

The “Sahakar Ganga Gram” initiative, created in partnership with the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and the Indian Sustainable and Agricultural Diversification Cooperative Limited (INDCOP), aims to provide a significant boost to organic farming along the banks of the Ganga River, ultimately leading to increased income for farmers in the near future. ♦♦♦

Nano Urea by IFFCO: A Game-Changer in Sustainable Farming



- In a one-day farmers' training programme, IFFCO gave detailed instructions on the use of drones to spray organic Nano fertilizers.
- IFFCO's Cooperative Rural Development Trust (CORDET) distributed free battery-operated spray machines to the farmers.

Sahkar Uday Team

Recently, the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), in collaboration with the Cooperative Rural Development Trust (CORDET), organized a one-day farmers' training programme. The primary focus was to train farmers on the efficient utilization of drones for spraying IFFCO Nano Urea (liquid) and Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) liquid fertilizers.

As part of the initiative, the farmers were generously provided with battery-operated spray machines at no cost. These machines are instrumental in enabling farmers to effectively apply organic fertilizers to their crops, further promoting sustainable and environment-friendly agricultural practices. Shri Chaudhary Sheeshpal Singh, the Chief Guest and President of CORDET, advised farmers to use Nano Urea and liquid DAP organic

fertilizers during the rainy season to increase their crop yield, improve the quality of their crops and boost their income. About 250 farmers were also presented with the above fertilizers, along with lemon plants.

Shri Rakesh Puri, Senior Executive Director of the Amla unit, informed the farmers about the excellent quality and benefits of Nano Urea. He said that the organic fertilizer will reduce the cost of traditional and commercial farming and increase their income. He envisioned the trained, confident farmers or 'Green Pilots' who will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and progress towards "*Sahakar Se Samridhhi*" amidst flourishing crops, improved yield and increased income.

The State Marketing Manager and Chief Speaker of IFFCO Lucknow, Shri Abhimanyu Rai, urged farmers to enhance their productivity and make their soil fertile by utilizing Nano Urea

(liquid). IFFCO Lucknow Fertilizer Expert (DGM Marketing) Shri RK Nayak informed the farmers about the high quality of IFFCO products. During a discussion on Nano Urea, Shri Mukesh Khaitan, Deputy General Manager of IFFCO, informed farmers that Nano Urea and DAP (liquid) are affordable and are available in 500 ml bottles, equal in capacity to one sack of urea. Shri Kartik Singh of the marketing department at IFFCO also emphasized the easy access to Nano fertilizers.

The organizer of the training programme, CORDET, Amla In-charge, Shri Bantu Ram, expressed gratitude to all the participating farmers and senior officials of IFFCO. Senior General Manager Shri SC Gupta, Dr Indira Rathore, Dr Rajesh Gupta, Shri Vipul Kumar, Shri Arun Shukla, Public Relations Officer Shri Vineet Kumar and many senior officers were also present. ◆◆◆

Indian Cooperative Makes Waves in Jordan

Sahkar Uday Team

According to the 10th annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) has secured the top spot among the world's top 300 cooperatives in 2021. The successful operations of Indian cooperatives have set an example for the whole world.

Cooperatives in India have taught that a small amount of capital and joint efforts can lead to major accomplishments for India's economic and holistic development. Other countries also want to implement the Indian cooperative model's collective strength, leadership ability and management.

Sometime back, IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani visited Jordan, where the progress of the Indian cooperative movement was discussed. He was welcomed by the former Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan and Chairman of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (PLC), Professor Mohammad Thanibat.

During the visit, officials from Jordan expressed their interest in adopting the cooperative model used in India. The



■ Jordan India Fertilizer Company (JIFCO) is a joint venture between IFFCO and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC)

Indian delegation accepted the offer and agreed to a joint venture. Jordan will now implement the cooperative movement and cooperation in their country, following the example set by India. The cooperative movement in Jordan is still in a fragile state. Cooperatives have been formed, but they have not been able to work on a broader scale like the way in India. Management of cooperatives on a massive scale involves a fine balance that can be learned only through India. Jordanian officials were also curious about how the Indian cooperatives could set up large cooperative enterprises with little capital.

Shri Sanghani visited JIFCO, a joint venture between IFFCO and Jordan, and visited the Jetty in Aqaba. JIFCO exports phosphoric acid and imports sulphur as part of its industrial activities. The IFFCO Chairman also inspected the storage area and operating system of the plant at the JIFCO phosphoric acid storage tank complex near the port in Aqaba.

During his visit to Jordan, he toured JIFCO's Phosphoric acid plant in

Eshidiya and was accompanied by the plant head. He took the time to visit every section and interacted with the officers and employees, discussing the intricacies of plant operation. He even shared his experience on social media, mentioning the visit in one of his tweets.

In May, Dr Uday Shankar Awasthi, the Managing Director of IFFCO, participated in a Board of Directors meeting for JIFCO in Amman, Jordan. During his visit to Jordan, Shri Sanghani toured the JIFCO plant and visited several iconic sites, including the city of Petra. This city is renowned for its archaeological sites in the southwestern desert of Jordan.

Following the MD's visit to Jordan, the IFFCO Board members visited the JIFCO plant as part of four different teams. JIFCO is a joint venture between Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and IFFCO. Based in Eshidiya, Jordan, the company has an annual capacity to produce 4.75 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid. In the year 2022, JIFCO produced 4.87 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid. ◆◆◆



R Ramachandran

Harnessing Urban Cooperatives for Sustainable Growth

Cooperatives are designed to be citizen-owned businesses, and it is thought that a strong cooperative movement may greatly help harness social capital's positive potential for the benefit of society as a whole. Hence, the scope of cooperatives can be much wider. A national strategy can be adopted for the cooperative movement in our country to strengthen the role of cooperatives in enhancing decent work and productivity in different economic sectors in the country.

A team of senior officials from IFFCO – farming, forestry, fisheries and livestock – recently visited Jordan. In addition to the exchange of information and ideas regarding cooperatives, IFFCO also witnessed many urban cooperatives in Jordan. The same model can be implemented in India as well. Some time ago, under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, an excellent initiative was taken to computerize all Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies (PACS). This effort can also be implemented in a better way in urban cooperation.

Academic and cooperative platform developers can collaborate to test an alternate platform paradigm called digital 'platform cooperativism' for urban cooperatives. For example, digital cooperative book societies can be established. There are a few bookstores on Ansari Street in Delhi

where second-hand books are available. However, knowing whether the old book one wants is available at a particular shop is difficult. For this, a cooperative can be formed by the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) of that area or by the students coming from outside Delhi to study here. Such students' cooperatives can be provided with a register or a digital medium for maintaining book titles.

Now, if someone wants to understand the difference between Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas and the Kamba Ramayana of Tamil, cooperative societies can be helpful again. Although scholars and researchers can easily find out about it, urban cooperative libraries can help the common man who doesn't have enough time for a deeper study. Urban cooperatives can serve as a platform for sharing such information.

Every year a large number of people migrate from rural areas to cities. There is potential to effectively utilize their skills through a collaborative model to address this influx of human resources to the cities. There can be other practical models too in the urban cooperative sector. For example, the government can establish an urban honey cooperative society and install honey boxes in cities through self-help groups (SHGs). Honey can be delivered door to door with these boxes' help. One can choose certain areas to set up small beekeeping operations with minimal human intervention, such as disputed lands that are seldom visited

by the public.

We could establish a cooperative society for growing bonsai trees, and instead of giving cut flowers, we could gift these trees. This approach could encourage people to participate in protecting the environment collectively. We could use the city's unused terraces, whether government or private, for such purposes. Though solar power awareness exists in India, rooftop farming is rarely seen. Rooftops can be utilized for vegetable farming in an urban cooperative model. As a kind gesture, we can share some vegetables from our kitchen gardens or cloud kitchens with Zomato delivery personnel when they come to deliver food.

Similarly, old vehicles, lorries and buses lying around unused in police stations, courts and government offices can be utilized by urban cooperatives to grow saplings. This experiment offers two benefits: the proper utilization of old vehicles and the potential for vibrant greenery to boost the energy levels and productivity of those who work in these places. During their visit, the senior IFFCO officials went to an exhibition featuring a series of paintings by regional artists in the Jordanian capital, Amman. A group of artists or intellectuals can come together to form a cooperative and showcase their creations. This can help promote art and also provide them with a sustainable source of income. ◆◆◆

Director, IFFCO



Union Minister of State for Cooperatives Shri BL Verma inaugurated the e-library at the Institute of Cooperative Management (ICM), Thiruvananthapuram and also participated in the countrywide tree plantation drive.



IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani inaugurated the IFFCO Krishi Drone Pilot Program in Mysore. The program was attended by rural youth, various officials and cooperative representatives.



In a project of Village Service Cooperative Society, Pulasar, and Krishi Udyog Utpadan Cooperative Society, Sarsar, Rajasthan, Nano Urea was sprayed on groundnut and millet crops.



Under the IFFCO Nano Fertilizer Experiment Project, Nano DAP was sprayed on cotton crops in Akkasar village of Bikaner district, Rajasthan.



A farmers' seminar was organized by IFFCO at Maharajanj, UP. Farmers were told about the use and benefits of IFFCO Nano Urea and Nano DAP in the seminar.



IFFCO organized a training camp on the use of IFFCO Nano Urea and IFFCO Nano DAP at Vijayanagar, Karnataka, in which 75 officials were trained.

The issues related to the cooperative sector which were pending for years are being resolved at a rapid pace. Our government has also strengthened cooperative banks.

**-Prime Minister
Mr. Narendra Modi**

IFFCO Nano Urea (Liquid) and IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid)



**IFFCO Nano's Vow,
Profit More, Price Low.**



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Postal Registration No.: DL(S)-17/3559/2023-25

Published on 16-08-2023 Applied for RNI Registration/Exempted for Six Months vide ADG Posts Letter No.22-11/2023-PO, dt.21-04-2023