

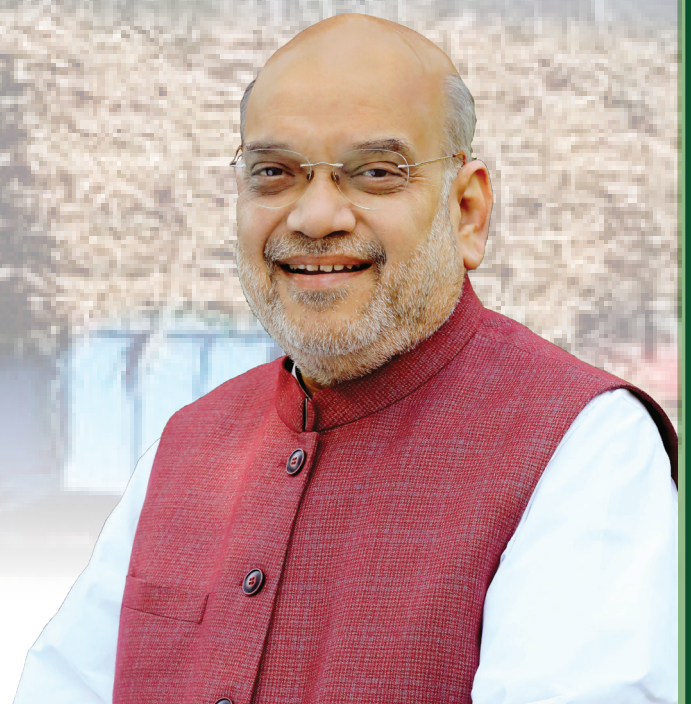
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# Sahkar Uday

Sarv Sahkar, Sarv Sakaar



## Central Boost for Cooperative Sugar Mills



Sarv Sahkar, sarv Sakaar

# Sahkar Uday

September 2023, Issue-6, Year-1

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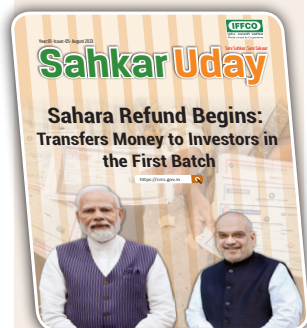
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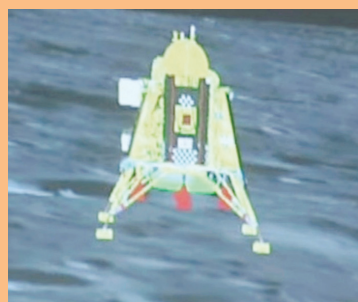


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## Chandrayaan-3 Mission Ignites New Space Era

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is over the moon because India is on the moon. The success of the Indian space mission "Chandrayaan-3" has created history. Decades ago, our scientists carried rocket parts on bicycles and bullock carts.

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## Central Boost for Cooperative Sugar Mills



The Union government has extended its support to the distress-ridden cooperative sugar mills across the country. With the government's support, it is now expected that sugarcane farmers will feel a sense of relief.

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## Government of India Working as 'Kisan Mitra'

During the recent "Sahakar Kisan Sammelan" organized by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in Gangapur, Rajasthan, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, highlighted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's role as a "Kisan Mitra".

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## New Nano DAP Plant for Sustainable Agriculture

## From the Editor's Desk

In his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 77th anniversary of the country's Independence, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that 'cooperatives' form a large part of a country's social economy. Adopting the path of "Sahakar Se Samridhi", a separate Ministry of Cooperation has been created to strengthen the cooperative movement, modernize it and empower this largest unit of democracy in every corner of the country. The newly constituted ministry is spreading a network of cooperative institutions across the country so that the poorest of the poor get heard, all their needs get fulfilled and they can also contribute to the development of the nation.

Timely government intervention has brought the sugar sector out of crisis. India has a history of sugarcane and sugar production since ancient times. Sugarcane has been projected as a crop of the future, contributing to the production of not only sugar but also as a renewable source of green energy in the form of bio-fuel, bio-electricity and many bio-based products. There could not be a more ideal time for the sugar industry than now to move towards "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" through a sugarcane-based bio-economy.

To realize the basic mantra of "Sahakar Se Samridhi", new schemes are being implemented for the development of Indian cooperative sugar mills under the leadership of the first Minister for Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. These schemes have been introduced to ensure that cooperative sugar mills become more prosperous in the coming days. Today, the condition of sugarcane farmers in India have also improved a lot.

The sugar sector has seen so much growth during recent years that India has emerged as the world's largest sugar producer and consumer and the second-largest exporter of sugar after Brazil. The cooperative sugar industry in India has been central to socio-economic development in rural areas by mobilizing rural resources and generating employment. The cooperative sugar industry is an important agro-based industry that provides livelihood to sugarcane farmers in villages and directly employs workers in sugar mills. Along with this, employment is also created in various supporting activities related to the sugar industry, such as transportation, trading, machinery servicing and activities related to the supply of agricultural inputs. Presently, 316 sugar mills are established in the cooperative sector in the country. Today, the entire country is witnessing a radical change in the sugar cooperative sector.

The strong fundamentals of the sugar sector and adequate sugarcane and sugar production in the country have ensured that every Indian consumer has easy access to sugar. India is estimated to produce 330 lakh metric ton (LMT) of sugar during the current sugar season (October-September) 2022-23. Apart from this, the interests of the sugarcane farmers are also being taken care of by ensuring fair and remunerative prices. It has been possible only due to the efforts of the present government that India is leading the world in sugar production today. The Indian government not only secured the revival of cooperative sugar mills but also ensured timely payment of sugarcane prices to the sugarcane producers.

This month's "Sahkar Uday Patrika" contains detailed coverage of the 'Cooperative Sugar Industry' along with other important thematic information. Inspired by the increasing popularity of our Patrika and positive messages from the readers, we are committed to making the magazine more effective and interesting. Hope you will like this issue of our magazine.

**Thanks and regards!**

**'Jai Sahkar'**





When it came to the bigger goals for a “Viksit Bharat”, we decided to give a bigger push to cooperatives. During the “Amrit Kaal”, the role of the cooperative sector in the growth of villages and farmers is going to be big.

Shri Narendra Modi, PM



Under the guidance of Modi ji, the Ministry of Cooperation is continuously working towards making the country “Aatmanirbhar” by empowering crores of farmers associated with the cooperative sector. To fulfill the resolution of “Sahakar Se Samridhhi”, benefits are being extended to the smallest of farmers by creating a strong system from PACS to the apex.

Shri Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



Inaugurated ‘Banana Fiber Training Centre’ in Bharuch district by GUJCOMASOL in the presence of Shri Acharya Devvrat, Governor of Gujarat. With the Gujco Green Banana Fiber Project, Bharuch will become a source of inspiration for banana farmers in other states.

Shri Dileep Sanghani

President, NCUI & IFFCO



Honourable Prime Minister Shri @NarendraModi Ji, in his Independence Day address to the nation from Red Fort, told the nation about nano fertilizers such as Nano Urea and Nano DAP. It is a matter of pride that with the help of nano fertilizers, our country is rapidly moving towards “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. IFFCO is dedicated to the upliftment of agriculture and farmers in India through continuous research and innovation.

Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi

MD & CEO, IFFCO



Rural cooperative banks are being empowered to fulfil Shri Modi’s vision of “Sahakar Se Samridhhi”. Rural cooperative banks are being empowered by removing the obstacles before them.

Shri BL Verma

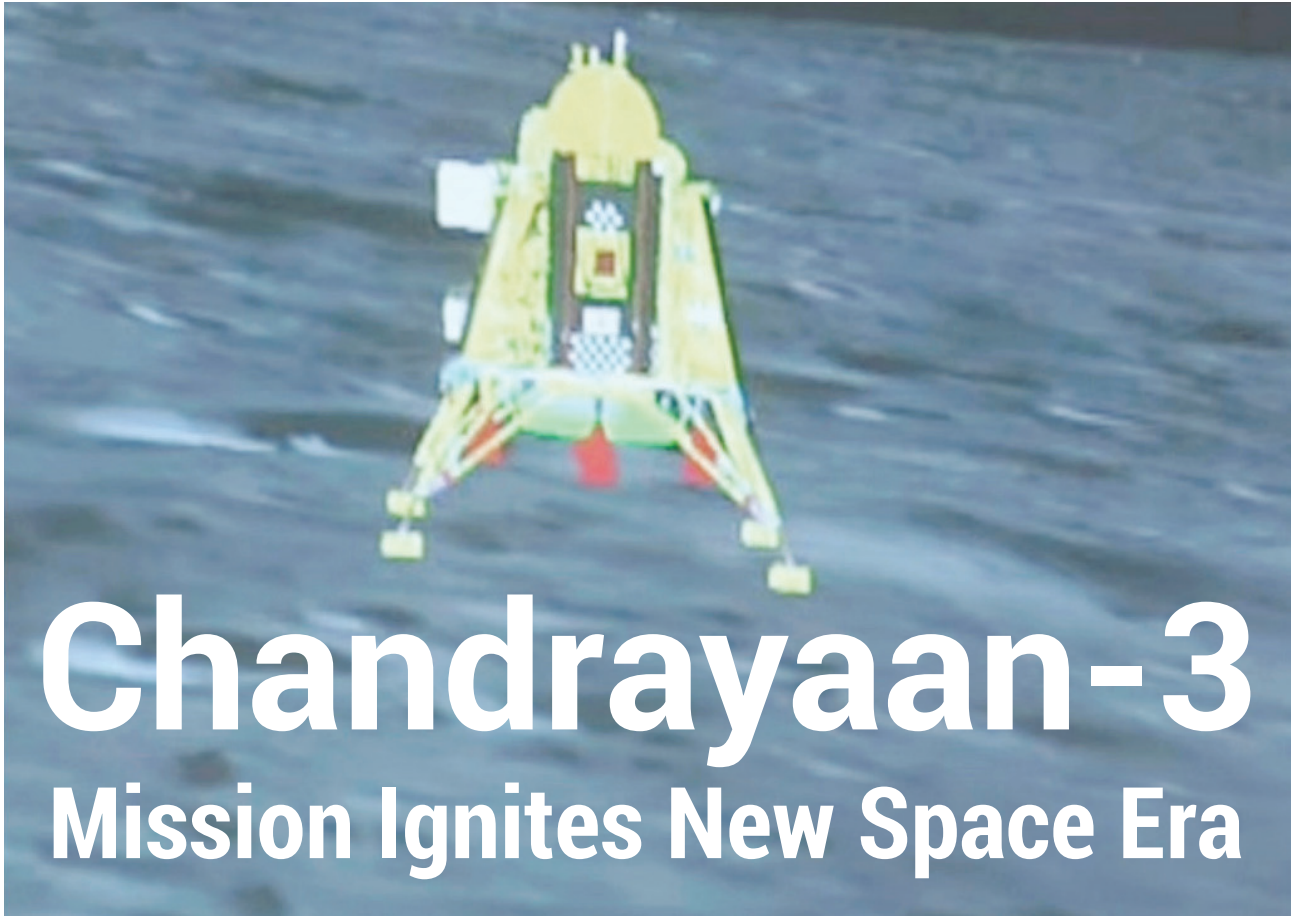
Minister of State for Cooperation, Government of India



Sugar mills in the cooperative sector pay more than ₹36,000 crore to their member sugarcane farmers every year. This helps in strengthening the rural economy.

Ministry of Cooperation





# Chandrayaan-3

## Mission Ignites New Space Era

### Sahkar Uday Team

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hailed India's moon mission and said it is a matter of pride for the entire humanity. He said the success of the Indian space mission "Chandrayaan-3" has created history.

Decades ago, our scientists carried rocket parts on bicycles and bullock carts. Today, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has etched its name in history for being the first country that has soft-landed on the lunar south pole. On this glorious achievement, Shri Modi hailed the success of "Chandrayaan-3" as a reflection of

- ISRO has etched India's name in history for being the first country that has soft-landed on the lunar south pole.
- The private sector also got an opportunity due to policy reforms in the space sector: Shri Amit Shah

the aspirations and potential of 140 crore Indians.

With pride and joy in his voice, he remarked, "The whole world is acknowledging India's scientific spirit, technology and temperament. 'Chandrayaan Maha Abhiyan' is a success not only for India but also for the entire humanity. The explorations of the mission will provide fresh opportunities for moon missions of all nations. This will not only unveil

the moon's mysteries but also assist in resolving the challenges of Earth." Congratulating the scientists and all the members associated with the campaign, Shri Modi emphasized that today, India has become the fourth country to have successfully landed on the moon. India has become the fifth-largest economy in the world. Institutions such as ISRO have played a major role in bringing India from the third row to the first row. "Make



in India” has been taken to the moon. The PM exclaimed, “India’s young generation is full of zeal for science and innovation, hence the success of such space missions. *Chandrayaan’s* name is on the lips of every Indian child. These children now aspire to be scientists.” He declared August 23, the day India hoisted the tricolour on the moon, as “National Space Day”. Now, every year, the country will celebrate the spirit of science, technology and innovation on this day.

Emphasizing the importance of leading in science and technology in the 21st century, Shri Modi said India has become the youngest talent factory. “From the depths of the ocean to the heights of the sky,

to the depths of space, there’s a lot for the young generations to do,” he said. The PM also highlighted opportunities ranging from ‘Deep Earth’ to ‘Deep Sea’ and the next generation computer to genetic engineering.

“New opportunities are constantly opening up for you in India,” he added. During the last four years, space-related startups have increased from four to approximately 150. This clearly shows so many infinite possibilities are awaiting for India.

**‘Private Sector got Opportunity due to Policy Reforms’**

The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, congratulated the countrymen,

**Chandrayaan’s landing point will now be known as ‘Shiv Shakti’. ‘Shiv’ stands for the welfare of humanity and ‘Shakti’ gives us power.**

scientists and engineers of the “*Chandrayaan*” team for their undeterred efforts to make this mission a historic success.

Expressing his gratitude to Shri Modi for introducing a new space policy, he said that during the





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**‘Chandrayaan Maha Abhiyan’ is a success not only for India but for the entire humanity. The area that our mission will explore will open new avenues for moon missions for all countries. This will not only reveal the secrets of the moon but will also help in solving many challenges on Earth. For this success, I congratulate all the scientists, technicians, engineers and other members associated with ‘Chandrayaan Maha Abhiyan’.**

**-Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister**

”

“Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal”, our country has achieved great success in the field of space. He tweeted, “India becomes the first nation to touch the south pole of the moon with the success of the ‘Chandrayaan-3’ mission. The new space odyssey flies India’s celestial ambitions to newer heights, setting it apart as the world’s launchpad for space projects. Unlocking a gateway to space for Indian companies will create a plethora of employment opportunities for our youth.”

In 2020, the Central government made several policy reforms in the space sector to increase private participation. Under the government’s new space policy, 55

spacecraft and 50 launch vehicle missions have been carried out in the last decade. In September 2014, India achieved the distinction of being the first country to reach Mars in its first attempt and in 2017, India set a record for launching 104 satellites simultaneously into space.

#### **Chandrayaan-3 Mission will Reveal the Secrets Hidden in the Lunar South Pole**

Shri Shah said that “Amrit Kaal” is proving auspicious for India. The success of the “Chandrayaan-3” mission will give rise to newer possibilities for space research and exploration. It will be able to give us concrete information about the structure of the moon. Through

“Chandrayaan-3”, India can obtain unique information in the interest of humanity. The energy we will get from the moon will be safe and free from pollution caused by oil, coal and nuclear waste. Now, it will be possible to investigate natural resources like chemical elements and particles of soil and water on the moon’s surface. The seismometer sent along with the “Chandrayaan” will be able to provide information about earthquakes, temperature and other elements of the atmosphere there. Now, our scientists can also get information about the possibility of life on small planets orbiting the moon and other planets outside our solar system. ♦♦♦





# Central Boost for Cooperative Sugar Mills

Sugarcane farmers to prosper with the government's support.

NCDC has created a fund of ₹10,000 crore for assistance.

## Sahkar Uday Team

The Union government has extended its support to the distress-ridden cooperative sugar mills across the country. With the government's support, it is now expected that sugarcane farmers will feel a sense of relief. The reforms in the income-tax system have also brought cheers to the cooperative sugar mills, which were drowning in losses. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah has removed many anomalies in the cooperative sector to fulfil Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's pledge of "Sahakar Se Samridhi". The obstacles hindering the cooperative sugar industry have been resolved, allowing it to soar to new heights.



## Prosperity Returns to Sugarcane Farmers

With the encouragement of the government, there has been prosperity in the lives of more than two crore sugarcane farmers associated with the cooperative sugar industry. The cooperative mills will produce ethanol and electricity, along with sugar, to increase their income, which will help the mills recover from losses and farmers will also get dividends. Due to the initiative of Shri Shah, the long legal dispute between the cooperative sugar mills and the income-tax department has been resolved, due to which the mills have a profit of more than ₹10,000 crore. Arrears of income-tax have been pending on these mills since 2016-17. To rescue the mills going through losses and financial crises, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has set up a fund of ₹10,000 crore, which will provide loans to these mills at concessional rates for setting up ethanol and power generation plants. Given the financial condition of the cooperative sugar mills, they could not get loan assistance from the financial institutions. With the government's initiative, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made a provision of many concessions.

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the cooperative sugar industry due to the rationalization of the tax system. After the government's intervention, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has taken the initiative to revive the ailing sugar mills. The happiness of more than two crore farmer families and lakhs of employees of the sugarcane growing states is directly related to the cooperative sugar mills. Yet, they were facing difficulties on many fronts due to a dearth of investment. The Ministry of Cooperation has taken a special initiative for these sugar mills. Many special schemes are on the anvil to improve the condition of sick cooperative sugar mills.

“  
**The remunerative price for sugarcane farmers has been increased to a record ₹315 per quintal. This will directly benefit more than five crore sugarcane farmers and lakhs of workers working in sugar mills.**  
**-Shri Narendra Modi Prime Minister**  
 ”

Fulfilling Shri Modi's resolution of "Sahakar Se Samridhi", the dangling sword of the income-tax

department on cooperative sugar mills, has been finally removed through the initiatives of Shri Shah. The Finance Ministry has made such provisions in the general budget for the financial year 2022-23 itself, due to which cooperative sugar mills have made a profit of ₹10,000 crore. The outstanding tax for the last many years has been removed, a tax that was being called unnecessary by the cooperative sector for a very long time.

Cooperative sector sugar mills have a 35% stake in the sugar industry with a turnover of ₹1.25 lakh crore. Incidentally, the sugar industry is the second-largest after cotton among the agro-based industries. The cultivation of sugarcane, which is not

## Highest FRP declared in the interest of farmers

In view of protecting the interests of sugarcane farmers, the Central Government has declared the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane at a record ₹315 per quintal for the crushing season starting from October 1, 2023. This will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and their dependents, which also includes two crore farmers of cooperative sugar mills. Apart from this, 5,00,000 workers in sugar mills and related activities will also directly benefit from it. The FRP of sugarcane for the crushing season of 2014-15 was ₹210 per quintal. Keeping in mind the interests of sugarcane farmers, the Central Government has increased the FRP of sugarcane.



too tedious for farmers, also gives them substantial profit compared to cultivating other crops. Presently, India boasts a total of 730 sugar mills, comprising 312 cooperative mills, 375 private mills and 43 public sector mills. Out of these, 530 sugar mills are actively operational, with phased crushing scheduled to commence on October 1. Of these, only 190 sugar mills of the cooperative sector are in working condition and producing sugar.

Cooperative societies operate sugar mills in the cooperative sector. Each cooperative sugar mill generally has 20,000 to 25,000 cooperative members. The profit share of the mills goes directly to the bank account of these members.

The managing director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, Prakash Naiknavare, claims that the 'cooperative sugar family' is the largest. Sugarcane is used to produce a variety of

## New Scheme for Cooperative Sugar Mills

For the revival of sugar mills, the Union government has started a scheme to set up distillery plants. In this, there is a scope for more profit for the mills of the cooperative sector. Financial assistance is provided by up to 95% from the Central government for setting up new plants. 397 sugar mills have embraced this opportunity, with 180 falling within the cooperative sector. As per the scheme, the ethanol produced at these facilities will be marketed to oil companies.

products, including ethanol, alcohol, cardboard, electricity, biofertilizer, biogas and potash, among other chemicals. According to him, the cooperative sugar industry has benefited the most from this. Among these, India is a 100% importer of fertilizers such as potash. The share of cooperative sector sugar mills in sugar exports is 32%. In recent years, sugar export from cooperative sugar mills has also reached 55%. The share of cooperative sugar mills in

the total sugar export has risen to ₹40,000 crore from ₹22,000 crore.

### Move to Assist Sugar Mills in Overcoming Challenges

The crisis of cooperative sector sugar mills is of a different kind. The challenges have become serious due to political interference, wavering administrative capacity of mill management, delay in decision making, investment dearth, continuous increase in the cost of sugar production, losing out in



“

A scheme named 'Grants-in-aid' has been launched by NCDC to strengthen cooperative sugar mills. Under this, NCDC will provide loans up to ₹10,000 crore to cooperative sugar mills with the financial help of the Central Government for setting up ethanol plants, cogeneration plants and working capital.

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

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competitive markets, etc. Sugar mills in states where the cooperative sector has been able to meet these challenges have performed well. Except Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka, cooperative sugar mills in other states are running in losses. Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana and Punjab are prominent among them. Due to the non-modernization of the cooperative sugar mills in these states, their cost of production was not reduced. The sugar of such mills was not able to survive the market competition. Many changes have been made to deal with these difficulties and challenges, including devising a new cooperative policy.

#### Financial Assistance for Modernization

The government has taken a step to modernize sugar mills in the cooperative sector. Currently, most sugar mills in this sector are not modernized, which results in high production costs. Meanwhile, private sugar mills are modernizing at a rapid pace. According to the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCFSF), the production cost of sugar

## Ethanol Production will Improve the Financial Status of Sugar Mills



Ethanol production will improve the financial health of cooperative sugar mills.

To improve the financial condition of sugar mills in the cooperative sector and bring them out of losses, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has said that under the concessional scheme of the Ministry of Cooperation, all sugar mills should set up plants for ethanol production. Cooperative sugarcane and sugar societies should bring transparency to their functioning.

Shri Shah was speaking at a program related to cooperation in Maharashtra. He said that if sugar mills start manufacturing other co-products along with sugar, it will not only help them to recover from losses but due to their increased productivity, the mills can attain huge profits.

The confidence of members can be increased by making the functioning of cooperative societies transparent. That is why the Union Ministry of Cooperation has started the process of reforms at many levels. These deficiencies can be rectified by implementing model bylaws in primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS).

Shri Shah said that to expand the ambit of work of primary level societies, they have been associated with many types of tasks. For those sugar mills which were not able to get loan facilities from banks and other financial institutions, the Ministry of Cooperation has prepared a special scheme. Under the scheme, they are being provided loan facilities at concessional rates for modernizing their mills, increasing their crushing capacity, setting up ethanol plants, etc. For this, a provision of ₹5,000 crore has been allocated during the current financial year 2023-24.

in private sugar mills is ₹27 to ₹30 per kg, while the production cost of sugar in the cooperative sector of northern states is ₹40 to ₹45 per kg. The sugar production cost in cooperative mills in Punjab has reached a staggering ₹60 per kg.

### Policy Reforms in the Cooperative Sugar Industry

A strong need is being felt for the revival of sugar mills in the cooperative sector so that they recover from losses and operate properly. Such sugar mills can be improved by bringing them under the ambit of the 'Multi-State Cooperative Society'. To reduce the production cost of the sugar industry, there is a need for modernization and increasing its crushing capacity to 5,000 tonnes per day. The capacity of more than 60% of the sugar mills in the cooperative sector in the country is less than this, due to which they are not able to recover from the losses. According to the changing environment, the management of cooperative sugar mills will have to make rapid changes so that their costs can be reduced and the mills can become profitable again.

### Sugar Mills Get Many Options

Apart from manufacturing sugar, these mills have the option of producing green fuel and they can make good profit by producing ethanol. Under the scheme of ethanol production in 2003, the price of ethanol was only ₹27 per litre, which increased to ₹48 per litre in 2017-18. Whereas for the current ethanol season, the price has reached ₹58 per litre. Apart from biofuel, many other products are being made from sugarcane, due to which the mills can recover from losses. However, cooperative mills that have failed to adapt to the changing times are facing difficulties, especially in the northern states. ♦♦♦

# Reviving Cooperative Sugar Sector

Following the textiles sector, the sugar industry is the second-largest sector within the agro-based industries. The livelihoods of approximately five crore sugarcane farmers and over 5,00,000 individuals in the country directly depend on this sector for employment opportunities. The sugar industry holds a significant position in the nation's economy.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, the cooperative sugar sector has faced a decline for various reasons. Recognizing these challenges, the Central government has taken a noteworthy initiative to identify and rectify these

shortcomings. A comprehensive strategy has been formulated to address the issues confronting the cooperative industry, which plays a pivotal role in sugar production and export. These efforts include securing sufficient funding and implementing necessary legal reforms.

Statistics indicate a concerning trend in the cooperative sugar mill sector in the country during the 2002-03 period. Over the span of two decades, from 2002-03 to 2022-23, the number of cooperative sugar mills saw a substantial decline, dropping from 269 to 190, while

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah was honoured in a function organized by the cooperative sugar industry in Maharashtra. Sugar industry officials praised Shri Shah, saying he has changed the face of the cooperative sugar industry. The sugar industry can touch new heights in the coming years.



private sector sugar mills experienced growth, increasing from 214 to 341.

Similarly, in 2010-11, sugar production was recorded at 108 lakh tonne in cooperative sector mills and 135 lakh tonne in private sector mills. However, by 2022-23, there has been a notable shift, with sugar production in cooperative sector mills decreasing to 102 lakh tonne, while sugar production in private sector mills has surged to 225 lakh tonne.

#### Major Reasons for Decline in Cooperative Sugar Industry

##### Low Productivity of Sugarcane:

Low sugarcane productivity per hectare increases the cost of sugar production. A shortage of improved varieties of sugarcane also severely affects the sugar industry.

##### Decreased Crushing Capacity:

Due to the sugarcane shortage, cooperative sugar mills' decreased crushing capacity is also affecting their business. The financial condition of the mills has also deteriorated due to limited crushing. Generally, the crushing season in cooperative mills is only four to seven months. Sugarcane is also a cash crop like other cash crops such as cotton, oilseeds, paddy, etc. However, the fluctuations in the prices of these crops in the market also affect the mills' crushing season.

##### Low Recovery Rate of Sugar:

An even bigger challenge is the low recovery rate of sugar in sugarcane, which, if not improved, increases the cost of sugar for cooperative mills. Cooperative sugar mills are incurring losses due to less crushing than their installed capacity. The production cost

## Record FRP announced

Cooperative sugar mills are increasing their strong presence in the domestic as well as global markets. The strong presence of the domestic sugar industry at the international level makes India the second largest sugar producing country in the world.

Farmers associated with cooperative sugarcane societies are getting direct benefits. The share of sugar mills in the cooperative sector in the country's sugar production and sugar export is 33%.

Fulfilling Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's pledge of "*Sahakar Se Samridhi*", Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah has initiated efforts to take the cooperative sugar industry to new heights.

After Independence, the sugar mills of the cooperative sector were in very good condition for 20 to 25 years. The number of sugar factories in the cooperative sector was also on the rise gradually. Sugar factories were being set up year after year. To improve the economic condition of sugarcane farmers in the states of the western region of the country, the state governments encouraged the setting up of sugar factories through cooperatives. That is why in the first five-year plan, there were 143 sugar factories in the country, but their number increased to 295 during the seventh five-year plan. In the year 2014, the NDA government led by Shri Modi came to power at the Centre and he took stock of the sugarcane industry. The process of identifying and correcting the deficiencies in the country's cooperative sugar industry was initiated. To overcome losses, a plan was made to modernize these mills and provide all possible help to other products along with sugar.

The productivity of cooperative sugar mills has increased under the leadership of Shri Shah. Cooperative sugar societies have started producing ethanol, electricity and other products from sugar. Also, the benefits of sugar mills in the cooperative sector have started reaching the bank accounts of sugarcane farmers directly.

of mills is also increasing due to the use of old technology.

**Regional Imbalance:** There is a regional imbalance in sugar production. 50% of sugar mills are located in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. These three states produce 60% of the total sugar. The rest of the sugar is produced in Tamil

Nadu, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat.

**Improper Planning:** A general lack of proper planning in cooperative sugar mills is also making their challenges more serious. These mills do not produce refined sugar worth exporting. Inadequate investments and non-availability of required staff was also a big challenges. ◆◆◆





## Government of India Working as '*Kisan Mitra*'

### Sahkar Uday Team

During the recent “Sahakar Kisan Sammelan” organized by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) in Gangapur, Rajasthan, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, highlighted Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s role as a “Kisan Mitra”. He emphasized how the Prime Minister has been supporting farmers nationwide by facilitating an annual transfer of ₹6,000 directly to their bank

- Many benefits are given to farmers through digital means.
- Manifold increase in agriculture sector budget.

accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

The Union Ministry of Cooperation is working on a war footing to fulfil Shri Modi’s resolve of “Sahakar Se Samridhi” to bring prosperity to the lives of farmers. Shri Shah highlighted the government’s commitment to farmers’ welfare by emphasizing

its various digital initiatives. He pointed out that under the Modi government, the agriculture budget has seen a substantial increase from approximately ₹22,000 crore during the previous administration to a remarkable ₹1,25,000 crore, marking a six-fold rise.

Moreover, he mentioned the significant boost in agricultural

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IFFCO is working to strengthen cooperatives in the country through more than 35,000 cooperative societies. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has decided to create two lakh new Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) in the country. PACS will be formed in every panchayat.

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

”



loans provided to farmers by the PM. Previously, farmers had access to loans worth ₹7 lakh crore, which has now been raised to an impressive ₹20 lakh crore. Shri Modi established a dedicated Ministry of Cooperation in the country two years ago to address a long-standing demand from farmers. Under his leadership, the cooperative sector is undergoing significant reforms, implementing 20 new schemes aimed at fortifying the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the nation. The government's foremost priority is to enhance the well-being of rural communities and farmers through cooperative initiatives.

At the “*Sahakar Kisan Sammelan*” organized by IFFCO,

the world's leading cooperative organization in the field of fertilizers, thousands of farmers and PACS representatives participated. While talking to the farmers, Shri Shah underlined that the Prime Minister has provided every possible facility to encourage farmers to produce more food grains. He noted that food grain production in the country has increased from 265 million tonnes to 323 million tonnes. The Central government has also increased the purchase of wheat from farmers from 251 lakh metric tonnes to 433 lakh metric tonnes. The government has increased wheat's minimum support price (MSP) from ₹1,400 to ₹2,100 and mustard MSP from ₹3,050 to ₹5,400 in the interest of farmers.

Meanwhile, three new cooperative societies have been established to make farming profitable and improve the lives of farmers. According to the Minister for Cooperation, the government aspires that these cooperatives will enable farmers to access high-quality seeds, explore export opportunities for their produce and support the advancement of farmers engaged in organic and sustainable farming practices.

IFFCO Managing Director Dr Uday Shankar Awasthi informed the farmers about Nano Urea and DAP. He said that IFFCO's Nano range of products not only enhances the quality and productivity of the crops but is also cheaper than the cost of a bag of conventional urea. ♦♦♦



### Sahkar Uday Team

Addressing the G20 Ministers of Digital Economy meeting in Bengaluru, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that the Digital India campaign launched in 2015 has led to an exceptional digital revolution in the country in the last nine years. He stressed that it is driven by India's steady faith in innovation and commitment to the speedy application of policies and spirit of inclusion.

The widespread impact of digital changes has started appearing in the form of major changes on the economic-social plane. Referring to India's 850 million Internet users, Shri Modi underlined the scope and pace of this transformation. He also highlighted that India's diversity and digital public infrastructure are conducive to testing and providing practical, secure and resilient answers to global challenges.

Referring to the country's extraordinary diversity, the Prime Minister noted, "India is home to every religion and innumerable cultural practices from around the world. There are dozens of languages and hundreds of dialects in the country. From ancient traditions to the latest technologies, India has something for everyone, also the solutions that work in India can be easily implemented anywhere in the world." Shri Modi mentioned leveraging technology to transform governance and make it more efficient, inclusive, faster and transparent. He cited "Jan Dhan" bank accounts, Aadhaar and mobile as examples of the country's digital base covering over 1.3 billion people. They

# PM Modi Showcases India's Digital Success on Global Stage



- Unprecedented changes in the country due to the Digital India initiative, the public getting the benefit of the schemes.
- DBT saved more than \$33 billion by plugging loopholes in the system.



have revolutionized financial inclusion and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment system, where about 10 billion transactions take place every month and 45% of the world's real-time payments happen in India.

#### **The Pace of Implementation of Schemes**

The PM referred to the Direct Benefits Transfer scheme, highlighting that more than \$33 billion has been saved by plugging loopholes in the system. He also touched upon the CoWIN portal, a major tool for the Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country and informed that it facilitated the delivery of over 2 billion vaccine doses with digitally verifiable certificates. He mentioned the "PM Gati Shakti" platform, which charts infrastructure and logistics through technology and spatial planning, thus reducing costs and increasing the speed of delivery.

Shri Modi remarked that transparency and integrity have been brought into the process through the online public procurement platform - Government e-Marketplace. He further highlighted that e-commerce is being democratized through the Open Network for Digital Commerce.

"The digital taxation system is promoting transparency and e-governance," he added. He mentioned the development of "Bhashini", an AI-powered language translation platform that will help in digital inclusion across all the diverse languages of India.

#### **Digitization is the Solution to Global Challenges**

The PM said India is ready to share its experiences with the world. Citing

**Shri Modi launched the Digital India programme on July 1, 2015, to provide digital services to citizens in the country. This programme has proved to be highly successful. The Central government has recently approved the expansion of the Digital India programme and allocated an amount of ₹14,903 crore for it. This will boost the country's digital economy, provide digital access to services and support India's information technology and electronics ecosystem.**

the example of the CoWIN platform for global welfare during the Covid-19 pandemic, he emphasized that India has created the India Stack, an online Global Public Digital Goods Repository, to ensure no one is left behind. Shri Modi also noted that how we are currently engaged with technology assures inclusive and sustainable development for all. He emphasized that the G20 countries have a unique opportunity to lay the foundation for an inclusive, prosperous and secure global digital future.

He said, "Financial inclusion and productivity can be enhanced through digital public infrastructure." The PM also advised designing a framework for building a global digital health ecosystem, encouraging farmers and small companies to employ technology and creating guidelines for the appropriate and safe use of artificial intelligence.

The Prime Minister asserted that an entire ecosystem of technology-based solutions can be created to meet the challenges faced by humanity. He

said we all need the four Cs: conviction, commitment, coordination and cooperation. On the growing security threats and challenges with the global spread of the digital economy, he emphasized the importance of building a consensus on the G20 High-Level Principles for a secure, reliable and resilient digital economy.

#### **Everyone will Benefit from Becoming a Digital Ecosystem**

Shri Modi expressed happiness over the G20 Virtual Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository that is being built by the working group. According to him, development towards a standard format for digital public infrastructure would contribute to the development of a transparent, accountable and equitable digital ecosystem for all. He commended the establishment of a virtual skill centre for digital skills and the development of a framework to enable cross-country comparison of digital abilities. He emphasized that these are crucial steps to prepare a workforce for the future. ♦♦♦



# PM Modi Proposes Innovative Initiatives at BRICS Summit

## Sahkar Uday Team

Referring to India's diversity, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized at the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Summit that it was conceivable to approach BRICS nations' concerns from an Indian perspective. In India, the answer to any issue comes from the test of diversity. Hence, these solutions are simple to deploy anywhere in the world. He stated that we would be pleased to share all of these platforms created in India with our BRICS allies. Serving as G20's president, he remarked that India is

- Innovations are bringing positive changes in the lives of citizens of BRICS countries.

attempting to advance by enlisting the help of all the other nations and giving the maxim "One Earth, One Family, One Future" top priority.

In his address, Shri Modi said India has also suggested that the African Union be granted permanent membership in G20. He voiced his belief that everyone will support India's proposal since every BRICS member is also together at the G20. Giving all of these initiatives a distinct place inside BRICS will boost the self-confidence of nations in the

Global South. He underlined that India welcomes the growth of the BRICS membership and completely supports it as long as everyone is on board. He recalled how, in 2016, while serving as BRICS chairman, India characterized it as responsive, inclusive and focused on developing group solutions.

According to the PM, India sees BRICS as a group that can break down barriers, revitalize economies, spur innovation, open new opportunities and shape the future in 2023. India



will continue to make a significant contribution, as will the other BRICS members. The grouping of the world's five developing economies has been on a long and illustrious path for almost two decades. At the 15th BRICS Summit in South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Ethiopia and Egypt joined as new members. Shri Modi has welcomed them to the BRICS family.

Referring to the historical ties between South Africa and India, he stated that Mahatma Gandhi constructed the Tolstoy Farm here 110 years ago. Mahatma Gandhi, he continued, had established a strong foundation for our unity and mutual peace by uniting the great concepts of India, Eurasia and Africa. He expressed pleasure and underlined that tremendous progress had been made on the themes India had proposed to give the BRICS agenda a

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A digital platform called DIKSHA has been created to provide education to the children of remote and rural areas in India. 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs have been established across the country to promote innovation among school students. An AI-based language platform Bhashini is being used in India to remove language barriers. A digital platform named CoWIN has been created for vaccination. Access to public services is being ensured through Digital Public Infrastructure.

**-Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

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## Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receives the ‘Order of Honor’ award in Greece

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Honor. He received the award from Katerina Sakellaropoulou, the President of Greece during a meeting in the Greek capital Athens.

Shri Modi has received such special honours in 17 major countries across the world. He thanked the people of Greece and President Sakellaropoulou for the honour. In a Twitter post, he said the award shows the respect the people of Greece have towards the people of India.

The Grand Cross of the Order of Honor is awarded by the President of Greece to Prime Ministers and other prominent personalities of other countries. The honour said the Prime Minister has tried hard to make his country make a mark in the world. It stated that he has carried out major reforms to take India on the path of economic progress. It also added that the PM is a statesman who has made environmental protection an international agenda.

new direction. India has suggested a railway research network across the BRICS countries, better cooperation

between micro, small and medium-sized businesses, an online BRICS database and a startup forum. ♦♦♦





# India is the Mother of Democracy, A Model of Diversity

- Shri Modi underlined that the government is developing 75,000 “Amrit Sarovar”, thus fulfilling the resolve taken during the “Amrit Mahotsav” of Independence.

## Sahkar Uday Team

In his address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 77th anniversary of the country's Independence, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that India is the mother of democracy and a model of diversity. Cooperatives form a large part of the social economy of a country with many languages, dialects and diversity of dress. The newly constituted Ministry of Cooperation is spreading a network of cooperatives across the country, which will prove helpful in ensuring

that the poor and underprivileged do not go unheard and all their needs get fulfilled.

Adopting the path of “Sahakar Se Samridhi”, a separate Ministry of Cooperation was created to strengthen the cooperative movement, modernise it and empower this largest unit of democracy, ensuring its reach extends to every corner of the nation.

To encourage the agricultural sector, cheap urea is provided to farmers at just ₹300 per bag,

otherwise sold at ₹3,000 in the international market. Separate ministries for fisheries, animal husbandry and dairy have also been set up to help the weaker sections of society.

### Journey from Nano Fertilizer to Organic Farming

The Prime Minister praised the unique invention of Nano Urea and DAP by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), through which organic farming is also being promoted. The government is also forming new Farmer Producer

Organizations (FPOs).

### **Environmental Protection through ‘Amrit Sarovar’**

Shri Modi underlined that the government is developing 75,000 “Amrit Sarovar”, thus fulfilling the resolutions taken during the “Amrit Mahotsav” of Independence. At that time, the government decided to develop 75 Amrit Sarovar in every district and about 50,000-55,000 Amrit Sarovar were conceived. But at present, about 75,000 Amrit Sarovar are being constructed.

He stressed that to develop India by 2047, we should embody the mantra of “Shreshtha Bharat”. The government’s goal is to promote the overall development of society so that every region in India has the chance to reach its full potential.

### **Economy Getting Stronger**

According to the PM, when a nation economically thrives, its citizens are more empowered. The Centre is supporting the welfare of the poor by increasing financial outlays. As many as 13.5 crore citizens of our country have emerged out of poverty in the past nine years and become the new middle class.

India, which was ranked number 10 in the world economy in 2014, has now secured the fifth spot. The nation will join the top three world economies in the following five years. This new India is confident and working hard to realise its resolutions. The government is making a lot of efforts to eliminate corruption through technology.

### **Women-led Development**

According to Shri Modi, women-led growth will have additional



## **The Country is Embracing Modernity**

Shri Modi underscored that in the last nine years, there has been a lot of emphasis on development in coastal areas, tribal areas and hilly areas. These sections of society are being empowered through schemes such as “Parvatmala” and “Bharatmala and Eastern India has also been connected with gas pipelines. Hospitals and MBBS seats have been increased so that children can fulfil their dream of becoming doctors. Education is being imparted in the mother tongue. Yoga and AYUSH have become world-renowned in the health sector.



power and propel the nation forward. More girls than boys are now taking up science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the country is progressing under women's leadership.

"Today, India can proudly say that if any country in the world has the maximum number of women pilots in civil aviation, it is our nation. Whether it is the progress of Chandrayaan or the moon missions, women scientists are leading," he added.

Shri Modi stated that today, ten crore women are involved in women's self-help groups (SHGs) and the government is targeting two crore Lakhpati Didis in rural areas.

As many as 15,000 women SHGs are being created, which will be provided with drones. The SHG women will receive skill training to operate and maintain these drones. This will further utilise the potential of village women, boost Agritech and help realise the goal of a reliable drone training mission.

"When I introduced women-led development in the G20, the whole G20 group acknowledged its importance. And by acknowledging its importance, they are giving a lot of emphasis on it," the PM said.

### **Public Welfare Schemes getting Priority**

The PM underscored that the amount of funds transferred from the Centre to the states has increased from ₹30 lakh crore ten years ago to ₹100 lakh crore in the last nine years.

Through "PM Kisan Samman Nidhi", ₹2.5 lakh crore have



been deposited into the farmers' accounts. Under the "Jal Jeevan Mission", ₹2 lakh crore have been spent to provide clean drinking water to every household. Under the "Ayushman Bharat Yojana", the Centre has set aside ₹70,000 crore to provide medical treatment to the poor in top-class hospitals. He reminded that ₹40,000 crore was spent to provide free vaccines during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shri Modi said that the people are being provided cheap medicines at Jan Aushadhi Kendra, with prices ranging from ₹10-20, as opposed to the market price of ₹100 for the same medications. Around ₹20 crore have been saved for sick people through 10,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendra across the country.

### **Now, the Target is to Establish 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendra**

The Prime Minister pointed out that earlier, ₹70,000 crore were being spent on developing local bodies, which has now increased to more than ₹3 lakh crore. The expenditure on building houses for the poor has also been increased from ₹90 thousand crore to more

than ₹4 lakh crore.

Under "Mudra Yojana", more than ₹20 lakh crore have been allocated to provide self-employment and business opportunities to the country's youth. Around eight crore people have already set up businesses and are further employing others.

### **G20 Showcasing India's Diversity**

According to Shri Modi, India's potential and opportunities will reach new heights of confidence. Numerous events have taken place across the country since India got the chance to host the G20 Summit. It has made the potential and diversity of the nation known to the world.

### **India's Rapid Development**

The PM emphasized that the nation is progressing and has various capabilities. Indians are influencing a changing world and India has earned a spot among the world's top three startup economies. The nation is currently focussing on green hydrogen and renewable energy, expanding its space capability and progressing successfully with the deep ocean mission.

The nation's railways are becoming more sophisticated and services ranging from Vande Bharat to Bullet trains are operational in the country. Every village is getting paved roads and electric buses and Metro routes are being built in the country.

Today, the Internet is there in the remotest of villages. Electricity is being provided to 18,000 villages, Jan Dhan bank accounts have been opened and toilets for women have been constructed. ♦♦♦



# Cooperatives Getting Stronger in Every Village: Shri BL Verma

## Sahkar Uday Team

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central government is making multi-pronged efforts to improve the standard of living of villages, the poor and farmers who are deprived of mainstream development. The Ministry of Cooperation, formed two years ago under Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah's leadership, is working on a war footing on this issue. Referring to the review meeting of the Ministry, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri BL Verma stated that they are working towards expanding Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to reach every village and panchayat.

He remarked that during the meeting, Shri Shah deliberated on the action plan to establish new dairy and fishery PACS in all the villages and gram panchayats of the country to realize Shri Modi's vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhi". He, along with senior officials, critically evaluated the status of PACS in all the states and gave necessary instructions for the future strategy. Shri Verma stated that a campaign to modernize and connect cooperatives with technical and communication



- The government is working on the expansion plan of cooperative societies in all the villages and panchayats of the country.

resources is happening at the national, state and district levels. PACS have also been expanded as Common Service Centres and "Jan Aushadhi Kendra". These new roles have restored the confidence of common people towards cooperatives at the grassroots level.

The Union Minister stated that the government aims to make cooperatives a true people-based movement and is developing a cooperative-based economic model in the country through policy and functional decisions. It is drafting a new National Cooperative Policy, which, once implemented, will herald a new era for cooperatives. The government is striving to ensure

that every cooperative member works with a sense of responsibility and becomes instrumental in everyone's progress along with growth.

The Ministry is committed to making all cooperative procedures simple and transparent to ensure 'ease of doing business'. Extensive work is in progress towards strengthening cooperatives through multi-state cooperatives. The new Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act will ensure cooperatives function without favouritism and corruption. The Central government is aspiring to provide access to the development of the underprivileged in rural areas. ♦♦♦

# New Nano DAP Plant for Sustainable Agriculture

- Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the Nano Fertilizer Plant of IFFCO at Gandhidham.
- A remarkable achievement of the cooperative sector is limiting the import of fertilizers.
- Cooperation is the best medium for the prosperity of the 15 crore farmers of the country.



## Sahkar Uday Team

While laying down the foundation stone of the IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) plant at Gandhidham in Gujarat, the Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, emphasized that the upcoming plant will generate more DAP than IFFCO's current plant, which produces 3 million tonnes of DAP per year.

While stating this, he underlined the "Sahakar Se Samridhi" vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to uplift 15 crore farmers across the country.

Shri Shah highlighted that IFFCO's unique invention, the Nano

liquid fertilizer, is advantageous for both the economy and agriculture, as it will minimize land and water pollution, bolster soil fertility, enhance agricultural yield, facilitate natural farming and promote land preservation. He also added that since Nano DAP does not seep into the ground, it will remain on the crop and continue to provide it with nutrients. Shri Shah informed that the IFFCO plant will begin producing Nano DAP within a year and will provide two lakh Nano urea bottles of 500 ml each across the country and the world.

This will limit the import of 60 million urea bags and save fertilizer

subsidies of about ₹10,000 crore, which will return to the farmers. Also, around ₹3,500 crore of foreign exchange spent on fertilizers' import will be saved. Praising IFFCO's new venture, he said that it is built on zero liquid discharge and will further conserve the environment and reduce the cost of fertilizers.

### Basis of Agricultural Revolution

The Union Minister said that the cooperative sector is a strong force leading the country's agricultural revolution in the production and sale of fertilizers.

It will lead to the prosperity of farmers as fertilizers will be

**Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that the government has formed a multi-state cooperative society for marketing organic products. The government will purchase the products from farmers after certifying the land and products. These products will be sold in markets across the country under renowned brands and the profits will be deposited directly into the bank account of the farmers.**

available in proper quantity and price. He also acknowledged the remarkable achievement of IFFCO in introducing Nano fertilizers to the world, which will prove significant in achieving the goal of turning India “*Aatmanirbhar*” in the fertilizer sector.

#### **Need for New Green Revolution**

Emphasizing the need for natural farming in the interest of humanity, Shri Shah said, “The country once again needs a green revolution under Shri Modi’s leadership. This green revolution will be of a different kind and its goal will not be just production but also showing the world the way of natural farming.”

He underlined that this will help farmers increase their yield per acre and get better profit for their crops. Sharing the key elements of the new green revolution, Shri Shah introduced three goals, which are as follows:

- ▶▶ To become self-sufficient in all food grains, including wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds.
- ▶▶ To conserve land and increase the yield per acre by promoting natural farming.
- ▶▶ To bring prosperity to farmers by exporting natural agricultural products.

## **30 Lakh Tonnes of DAP to Roll Out from IFFCO's Kandla Plant**

### **Sahkar Uday Team**

**A**fter the invention and production of liquid Nano Urea and DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate), Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) is setting up another plant to manufacture liquid DAP. The unit, being set up on 17 acres of land at a cost of about ₹325 crore, will generate many employment opportunities. The production

capacity of the new Nano DAP fertilizer plant will be 30 lakh tonnes of conventional DAP and it will fill 60 million 500 ml bottles with DAP liquid.

This IFFCO initiative will provide convenient DAP access to the farmers in the country and reduce import dependence. Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, while laying the foundation stone of the IFFCO Nano

- The cost of the plant to be built in an area of 17 acres will be ₹325 crores.

- There will be new employment opportunities along with self-reliance in the field of fertilizer.

DAP plant in Gandhidham-Kandla, Gujarat, termed it a major achievement for the country in the world of cooperatives.

IFFCO has already set up Nano DAP manufacturing units at Kalol in Gujarat and Paradip in Odisha. The Kalol plant will produce 60 million bottles of Nano DAP this year, equivalent to 2.5 million tonnes of granular DAP. IFFCO aims to produce 18 crore DAP bottles by the financial year 2025-26 from all three Nano DAP plants.

IFFCO did not take any bank loan for its plant and instead relied solely on 100% equity, which represents the equity of four crore farmers. The profits are directly distributed to the farmers through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), while the remaining profits are distributed through cooperative societies. Shri Shah said that from this plant, two lakh nano bottles of 500 ml each will be sent across the country and the world and India will become self-reliant in the field of fertilizers. ♦♦♦





Shri Shah stressed that the Central government is fully dedicated to these three goals under Shri Modi's leadership.

Our country is past the era of importing rice and wheat. With painstaking government efforts and efficient scientific planning of the PM, India has become self-reliant in the food sector. Now, India's next step is to export organic products, which will bring in wealth from across the globe. This will be the objective of the new green revolution.

### **Farmers Adopting Natural Farming**

Shri Shah mentioned that while many farmers have turned to natural farming to protect the environment, they face difficulties due to the absence of a system for selling and certifying their organic produce.

Many people in the nation today wish to purchase affordable organic food, vegetables, wheat, rice, pulses and oil. Still, they do not consider the

produce of farmers as organic because there is no certification for organic items and even if they did, they would not want to pay a fair price for it.

### **Steps towards 'Sahakar Se Samridhi'**

The Union Minister elaborated that to tackle farmers' problems, the government has established three multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS) to not only enhance seed quality, yield and preservation but also upgrade the marketing of organic products. After procuring the produce from farmers by certifying their lands and produce, they will be given global branding and ensured premium prices, which will directly benefit farmers. Shri Shah stated that another MSCS has been established to aid in purchasing and exporting agricultural products of even the smallest of farmers to the world market and directly transferring the interest in farmers' bank accounts.

### **3 Lakh new PACS in the Next Five Years**

Describing the Central government's policy to strengthen PACS, Shri Shah said that the PM has brought about a cooperative revolution by transforming Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into apex institutions. These agricultural credit societies have been made multipurpose and can function as fertilizer shops, Jan Aushadhi Kendra, fair price grain shops, petrol pumps, Common Service Centres (CSCs), BankMitras and dairy and fishery cooperatives. The government has also introduced a monumental storage scheme for food grains under PACS, which will help farmers save majorly in transportation and storage. To meet these goals, the ministry aims to establish three lakh new PACS over the next five years, which will fortify agricultural finance and produce distribution. ♦♦♦

# Nano Urea: Fertilizer of the Future

## Sahkar Uday Team

**A** head of the BRICS Summit (comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) held at Johannesburg in South Africa from August 22 to August 24, 2023, a meeting of the representatives of the cooperative sector was organized on August 20 and August 21.

At the two-day meeting, all the countries highly appreciated India's Nano Urea and DAP and the delegates hailed this novel fertilizer as the "Fertilizer of the Future".

Nanotechnology not only reduces the burden on the shoulders of farmers but also minimizes the government's fertilizer subsidy.

Due to the dominance of just a few countries in the fertilizer industry, importing it from outside the country is a loss-making proposition. However, Nano Urea has altered the scenario and India is set to dominate the realm in the near future. Representatives from all participating countries, along with neighbouring countries of South Africa such as Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Limpopo, showed keen interest in Nano fertilizers to save their farmlands from the excessive use of chemical fertilizers. Chemical pollution of soil, air and water is a serious global issue and the delegates called for targeted efforts to curb it.

Joint General Manager of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) Santosh Kumar



- Representatives from all participating countries showed keen interest in Nano fertilizers to save their nations from the excessive use of chemical fertilizers.

### Highlights of the BRICS Cooperative Conference

- To ensure everyone gets the benefit of India-made Nano Urea and Nano DAP, which have the unique ability to save the global environment.
- Decision to form BRICS Cooperation Forum to strengthen the cooperative movement in South Africa.
- To organize an annual exhibition for BRICS cooperation, along with the Summit.

Shukla informed the forum about the rapid growth in the cooperative sector after the recent formation of

the Ministry of Cooperation by the Government of India.

He also shared various new schemes launched by the Ministry to strengthen, enhance and uplift the cooperative model in India. He stated that India, which was once dependent on other countries for fertilizers, can now provide cheaper fertilizers to all countries. Certainly, a new chapter has started in the field of agriculture. The conference aimed to achieve several objectives, including the global dissemination of cooperative benefits, the provision of training and the exchange of technical knowledge among member countries, the establishment of a dedicated BRICS Cooperative Forum and the facilitation of streamlined access to financial assistance for all member countries through the BRICS New Development Bank. ◆◆◆

## Uttar Pradesh's Role in Cooperative Movement

# Top UP Cooperatives Earn Profits Above ₹400 Crore

### Manish Kumar Mishra

Following the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation by the Central government, the cooperative movement in Uttar Pradesh has seen exponential growth. Last year, it became the first state with the highest active distribution of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC). The top cooperative institutions of the state also earned a profit of more than ₹400 crore.

In Uttar Pradesh, as much as 60% of employment is available in the agriculture sector, with cooperatives making a special contribution. Short-term and medium-term loans for agricultural purposes are made available at Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank (UPCB). Like other states, in Uttar Pradesh too, there is a three-tier cooperative credit structure for the cooperative movement. Especially for cooperative credit and rural development, UPCB is working at the state level, district cooperative bank at the district level and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) are working at the "Nyaya Panchayat" level.

After the division of the state in the year 2000, the number of district cooperative banks decreased from 67 to 50. There are 7,612 PACS active in the state, which are affiliated with



- 7,612 active PACS in Uttar Pradesh affiliated with 50 district cooperative banks.
- ₹55.8 crore for construction of godowns in 727 UP PACS.

### Other Cooperative Organizations of State

For cooperative marketing	Pradeshik Cooperative Federation (PCF)
For cooperative construction	Processing and Construction Cooperative Federation (PACFED)
For housing	Housing Cooperative Union
For cooperative consumers	Consumer Federation



## Cooperative Loans under Various Government Plans

- ○ Loan under agricultural mechanization
- Loan against pledge of warehouse receipts
- Financing for house construction/repair works
- Loan against immovable property
- Self-Help Group, Self-Employment Credit Card
- Loan for mini dairy
- Loan for non-farm sector

these 50 district cooperative banks. Apart from this, 51 cooperative banks are functioning in the state, with 1,310 branches. Banks are mainly providing banking facilities, short-term crop loans and distributing loans to the affiliated PACS under the diversification scheme.

Out of these, 7,611 PACS are at the rural level, 6,249 are resource cooperative societies, 320 are regional cooperative societies, 973 are farmer service cooperative societies, 35 are long-term multi-purpose cooperative societies and 34 are cooperative societies with limited liability. These cooperative members are given the facility of banking and loans for agricultural equipment under crop loan scheme. To achieve the goal of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi", the Uttar Pradesh government is working on a war footing to strengthen PACS. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a loan of ₹12.08 crore to convert 100 PACS of the state into

## PACS become Multi-Service Centres

- ▶▶ A loan of ₹12.08 crore has been approved by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to develop 100 PACS as multi-purpose service centres. Apart from this, the Details Project Report (DPR) of 49 PACS belonging to 13 district cooperative banks have been sent to NABARD for approval.
- ▶▶ NABARD has approved a loan of ₹55.80 crore for 727 PACS belonging to 28 district cooperative banks to construct PACS godowns under the government's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" scheme.
- ▶▶ Electricity bill collection has started for rural consumers through PACS.

multi-purpose service centres (MSCs). Distribution of electricity bills in rural areas has also been entrusted to PACS.

### Uttar Pradesh Ahead in Kisan

#### Credit Card Distribution

District cooperative banks manufactured about ₹18.69 lakh KCC cards under the NABARD scheme, against which about ₹17.43 lakh KCCs have been distributed, while about 9.96 lakh cards have been activated. With the implementation of this system, farmers got more benefits from the schemes through digital payment.

#### Cooperatives in Uttar Pradesh

- ▶▶ As many as 522 PACS at the Panchayat level, 48 "Kendriya Upbhokta Sahakari Bhandar" at the district level and "Uttar Pradesh Upbhokta Sahkari Sangh" at the state level are involved in logistics management through these cooperative societies and their affiliated shops. This network encompasses 431 shops serving the rural sector and 1,088

shops catering to the urban sector. Qualified cooperatives purchase materials at wholesale rates using private resources.

- ▶▶ To encourage nano urea in the state, 66 lakh bottles were distributed during farmer seminars across all the development blocks. The aim was to replace 25% of traditional urea consumption in the state with nano urea.
- ▶▶ PACS are being converted into multi-purpose service centres in a phased manner.
- ▶▶ Under the rejuvenation scheme, the state government has made a budget allocation of ₹22 crore for 2022-23 for renovating PACS buildings.
- ▶▶ About 15,000 fixed assets of cooperative societies have been digitized and enabled with GPS so that the land can be monetized.

**Faculty Member, Indira Gandhi Institute of Cooperative Management, Lucknow ♦♦♦**



R Ramachandran

# Small Cooperatives to Fulfil Social Concerns

**T**he more I try to understand cooperatives, the more the scope of my imagination increases. The cooperative movement is progressing rapidly in the country, but there are still very few cooperatives that fulfil social concerns. So many areas, even in our daily lives, need our attention and can be tackled easily through cooperatives. The cooperatives that bind these subjects together will certainly be effective in giving a new direction to society and its requirements.

A great idea for a cooperative came to mind during my morning walk in a park in Rajkot. Near the entrance, a grain vendor was selling maize and millet to feed the pigeons. This trend of feeding pigeons is rapidly increasing in cities. Similarly, while passing by the Yamuna River, I saw many people offering something, probably grains, after offering their prayers to the river. Certainly, if the water of the Yamuna were not flowing, this 'puja' would not have been performed. Since rivers have been the focal point of our faith for centuries, a large number of worshippers and sellers of puja items can be easily seen around these rivers. This can be turned into a lucrative grains and millet cooperative of just five to six people, contributing only ₹10 each.

If these millet grains are scattered on any soil or land, they can be made fertile. Miyawaki Gardens can be very effective in this context, which is growing rapidly in many cities of the country. In this concept, various native plant species are grown closely together to receive sunlight only from the top and grow upwards rather than sideways. One can grow dense plantations by following this method and environmental balance is maintained.

I mean to say that before forming a cooperative, we should also keep in mind that the ecosystems favourable for living beings on Earth are not affected. The idea of cooperatives should be such that it can help maintain biological balance. Cooperative organizations or residential institutions can work very well on this.

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Similarly, a small cooperative can be formed of 'Pandits' who perform puja. If they join an organized cooperative or forum, such cooperatives will create new opportunities for income in urban areas. Instead of worshipping at one place, the priests will get to worship at different places, thus increasing their work scope.

It is possible to form cooperatives to train street dogs. In some residential societies, parks and public places, pets are not allowed. In such situations, pet owners can form a cooperative to train their dogs as guard dogs, which can help resolve the issue. During my visit to Lucknow, I saw some monkeys creating a nuisance during field cultivation. One of the farmers signalled a dog to drive away the monkeys to nearby trees. Similarly, the overpopulation of pigeons and crows in cities is a huge problem that is becoming impossible to control. Dogs can easily be trained to tackle this. This way, the problem can be contained and harmony can be restored between birds and animals.

With such cooperatives on social concerns, we can strengthen the fabric of society and along with cooperation, social awareness can also be increased. Despite the ever-new development of cooperatives, there are still several areas where cooperatives are yet to emerge. ◆◆◆

Director, IFFCO





In the Annual General Meeting of Shree Chital Group Seva Sahakari Mandali in Gujarat, ideas on Nano Urea and DAP were shared with farmers. On this occasion, IFFCO Chairman Shri Dilip Sanghani, Committee Chairman Shri Sanjay Bhai Limbasia etc. were present.



On the 77th Independence Day, Minister of State for Cooperation Shri BL Verma hoisted the flag in his hometown Ujhani and inaugurated the newly constructed building of the school. He remembered the virtues of the heroes who sacrificed everything for freedom.



'Banana Fiber Training Centre' was inaugurated in Bharuch district by GULCOMASOL in Gujarat. Farmers from other states will benefit from the project. IFFCO Chairman Dilip Sanghani was also present on this occasion.



IFFCO Managing Director Dr Udai Shanker Awasthi inaugurated the new RO water treatment plant at Udayanagar Township during the IFFCO Kandla visit. This will help in providing better quality drinking water to all in the township.

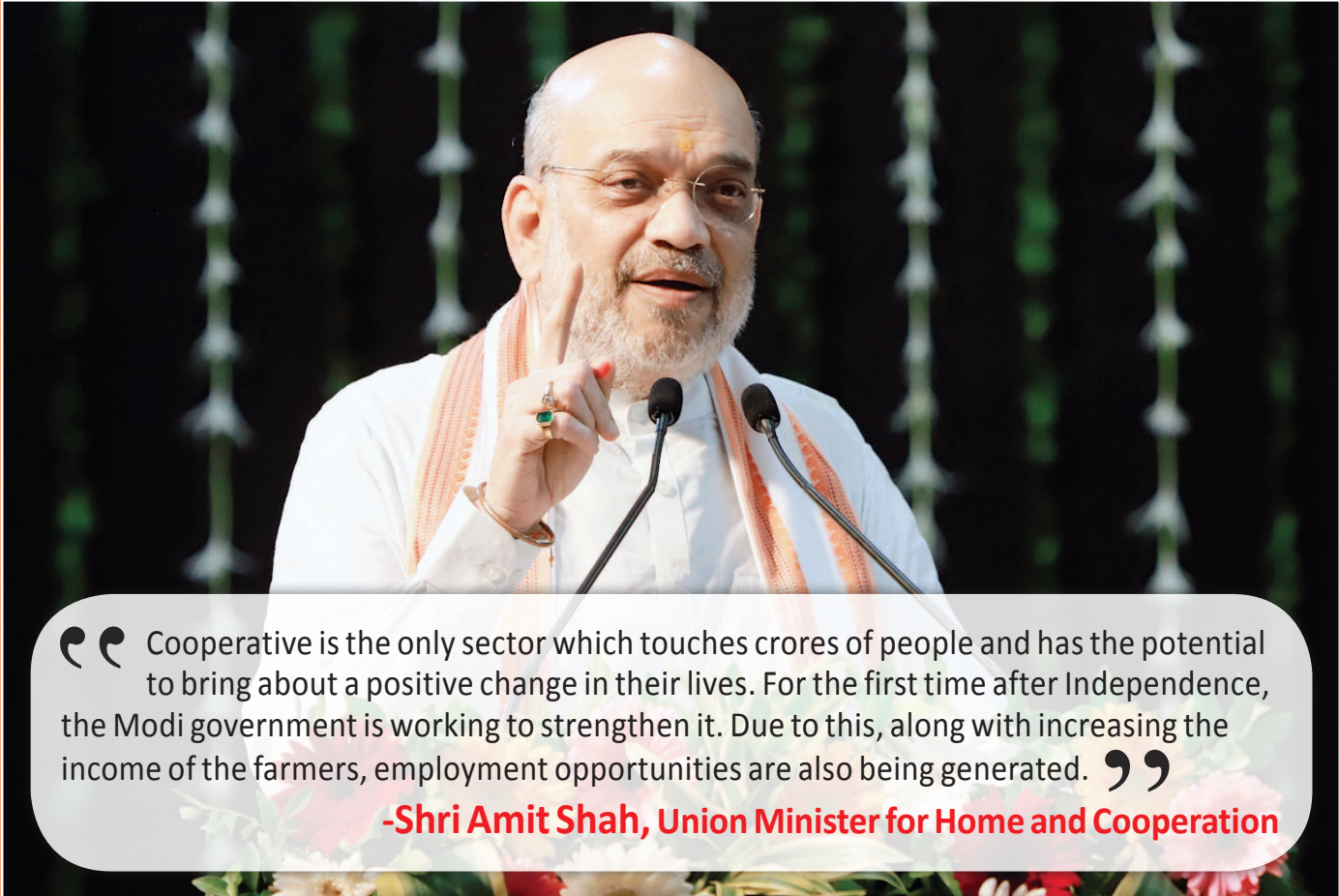


Kisan Sabha was organized in Jharkhand's Saher Lamps Samiti premises. IFFCO Nano DAP was discussed for root treatment of plants and better yield at the time of paddy transplanting.



Drones were used to spray Nano Urea, Nano DAP and Sagarika in the sugarcane fields of Sitapur. More than 200 acres were sprayed by drones in ten days. Many officers were present on the occasion.





“ Cooperative is the only sector which touches crores of people and has the potential to bring about a positive change in their lives. For the first time after Independence, the Modi government is working to strengthen it. Due to this, along with increasing the income of the farmers, employment opportunities are also being generated. ”

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

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



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



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Wholly owned by Cooperatives



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