

Year:02 -Issue:-22- January 2025

IFFCO
पूर्णतः सहकारी स्वामित्व
Wholly owned by Cooperatives

Sarv Sahkar, Sarv Sakaar

Sahkar Uday

**2025 Brings New Hopes**

Cooperatives Set to Embrace More Reforms

**Government Prioritizes Economic
Growth, Employment in Villages 12****PACS to Double Up as Sale
Centres for Organic Products 14**

Table of Contents

Sarv Sahkar, Sarv Sakaar

Sahkar Uday

January 2025, Issue-22, Year-02

Editorial Board

(Editor in Chief)

Santosh Kumar Shukla

Editor

Rohit Kumar

Assistant Editor

Ank Anjalideep**Members**

Madhavi M. Vipradas

Vivek Saxena

Hitendra Pratap Singh

Rashid Alam

If you have any suggestions, feedback, or articles related to Sahkar Uday, please email us at:

sahkaruday@iffco.in

The final decision on publication will be taken by the editorial board.

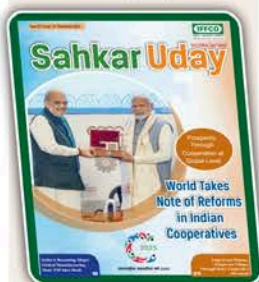
General Manager

(Cooperative Development)

IFFCO Sadan, C-1, District Centre,

Saket Place, New Delhi 110017

You can also reach us at:

**iffco.coop****IFFCO_PR****iffco_coop**

Publisher: Indian Farmers

Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.

Printer: Royal Press, B-81,

Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I,

New Delhi-110020



Cover Story

2025 Brings New Hopes Cooperatives Set to Embrace More Reforms

The year 2025 brings new hopes for the cooperative sector, poised to transform rural India. The tangible impact of revolutionary reforms implemented in recent years will become evident.

Page No **06**|| Page No **16**

Shri Amit Shah Lauds Initiatives to Strengthen Cooperatives in Tripura



Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, recently emphasized that prosperity, happiness, education and healthcare should be accessible to every family and individual in the country. He stressed that cooperatives are the key to achieving this goal.

Page No **26**

Increased Involvement of Cooperatives in Healthcare

Page No **27**

Footwear Engineer Charts Success Story Through Organic Farming

Page No **29**

Dr Awasthi Bags Prestigious 'Fertilizer Man of India' Award

Page No **17**

A Slew of Measures to Improve Living Standards of Bru-Reang Community

Today, Tripura is progressing peacefully along the development path outlined by Prime Minister Shri Modi.

Page No **18**

Railway Projects in J&K, Telangana & Odisha are Progressing Rapidly, Says PM

Page No **22**

Modi Govt Invests ₹68,000 Crore on Delhi's Infra in Last 10

Page No **23**

FPOs Emerge as Key Link in Vegetable Supply Chain

From the Editor's Desk

The year 2025 ushers in a renewed sense of energy and optimism for India's cooperative movement. In recent years, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the nation's first Union Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, have introduced many transformative initiatives aimed at enhancing transparency and efficiency within cooperative institutions. Structural and policy reforms have been implemented through various policies and schemes, paving the way for significant progress in the cooperative sector.

These reforms encompass enhancing the role of cooperatives in agricultural product storage, promoting the cooperative model of Farmer Producer Organizations, digitalizing cooperatives, launching the 'Sahakar Se Samridhhi' initiative, introducing the Multi-State Cooperative Society (Amendment) Bill, creating a National Cooperative Database, advancing the fisheries and dairy sectors, establishing three new multi-state cooperatives, and fostering women entrepreneurship in cooperatives. These initiatives are providing improved opportunities and resources to small farmers, artisans, and rural entrepreneurs.

The tangible impact of these efforts is now visible at the grassroots level. Cooperatives are not only empowering the rural economy but are also serving as catalysts for reforms. In the coming year, further significant reforms and initiatives are anticipated, aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector. Key focus areas include bolstering cooperative banks, integrating advanced technologies, and expanding marketing and storage facilities, which will make the sector even more robust and effective.

The United Nations has declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, under the theme "Cooperatives Can Build a Better World." This theme underscores the cooperative model as a vital solution to address numerous global challenges while playing a crucial role in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The combined efforts of central and state governments, cooperative organizations, and society at large are set to unlock new opportunities and milestones for cooperatives in India during this significant year.

Sahkar Uday extends its warm New Year greetings to its esteemed readers. This edition features in-depth articles on various cooperative schemes, along with other engaging and informative content. We are confident that this issue will serve as both inspiring and valuable to you. ♦♦♦

Thanks and Regards!

'Jai Sahkar'

Cooperative Voice



The first decision of the new year is dedicated to crores of farmer brothers and sisters of our country. We have approved increasing the allocation for crop insurance scheme. This will provide more security to their crops and mitigate concerns about any damage.

Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of India

The farmer-friendly Central Government, which has alleviated the concerns of crores of farmers regarding crop losses, has sanctioned ₹69,515.71 crore for the continuation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana'.

Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation



The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 with a total budget of ₹69,515.71 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Shri Murlidhar Mohol
Union Minister of State,
Ministry of Cooperation,
GoI



PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras aim to provide farmers with information about soil, seeds, fertilizers, etc in one place. These centres should also be linked with custom hiring centres to make small and big agricultural equipment available to farmers.

Shri Dileep Sanghani
President, NCUI & IFFCO



IFFCO Nano DAP (Liquid) is an efficient source of Nitrogen and Phosphorus for all crops. Along with protecting crops from pests and diseases, it also boosts productivity.

Dr Uday Shanker Awasthi
MD & CEO, IFFCO



National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) is making significant efforts to boost the export of Indian cooperative products and services by introducing them to international markets and securing optimal prices.

Ministry of Cooperation,
Government of India

Phased Plan to Support Families Affected by Naxal Violence, Says Shri Amit Shah

Sahkar Uday Team

Chhattisgarh government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has developed a phased plan for the welfare of villages and marginalized communities affected by Naxalism. These development initiatives have received strong backing and cooperation from Prime Minister Shri Modi. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah shared these details in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh while reaffirming his commitment to completely eliminate Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026. At Amar Shaheed Vatika, he paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the martyr memorial. Shri Shah honoured the soldiers who died during the Naxal campaign by laying a floral wreath at the Amar Jawan Stambh. Afterwards, he wrote in the visitor's book, acknowledging the sacrifice of the security forces and stating that the nation will forever be grateful to them.

During his visit, Shri Amit Shah also met with the families of the martyred soldiers and the victims of Naxalite violence. He stated that the memorial established by the Chhattisgarh government would honour the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice in the prolonged and courageous battle serving as an inspiration for future generations. The names of all 1,399 martyrs are inscribed on the memorial. Additionally, Shri Shah participated in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (Podla Uraskna) campaign by planting a Peepal tree on the site. He mentioned that the Indian Government has approved the construction of 15,000 houses for areas affected by



Naxalism. Every village is being given priority for 100% implementation of government welfare schemes with special attention to families impacted by Naxal violence. He emphasized that the Central Government's effort to eliminate Naxalism is receiving strong support from the affected families. When the government was formed last year, it committed to ending Naxalism as soon as possible and is providing all necessary assistance to those affected.

The state government is playing a significant role in the campaign to eradicate Naxalism. Shri Amit Shah emphasized that the government is welcoming those who have surrendered and abandoned Naxalite activities back into society. Besides, it is arresting those who continue down the path of violence and punishing those determined to harm others. He

stated that no family should lose its members due to Naxalism and that the government is working diligently on all fronts to eradicate the issue from its roots. Shri Shah praised the state government's strategy over its one-year tenure and added that the police forces, working together under a clear plan, have achieved remarkable success in reducing Naxal influence in the region. This resulted in the deaths of 287 Naxalites, the arrest of around 1,000 and the surrender of 837 individuals. Shri Shah expressed confidence that by March 31, 2026, there would be no further bloodshed in the name of Naxalism in the land of Mother Danteshwari. He also predicted that once Naxalism is eradicated, tourism will increase with people coming from Kashmir and saying that Bastar has transformed completely. ♦♦♦

Cover Story

2025 Brings New Hopes

Cooperatives Set to Embrace More Reforms

Sahkar Uday Team

The year 2025 brings new hopes for the cooperative sector, poised to transform rural India. The tangible impact of revolutionary reforms implemented in recent years will become evident. With legal advancements and infrastructure development, cooperative institutions are set to operate more actively across all states and union territories.

This year may witness the approval of a new National Cooperative Policy and the establishment of National Cooperative university to address the demand for skilled human resources. Efforts to establish Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in villages untouched by cooperative initiatives will accelerate. Plans to ensure an adequate supply

- National Cooperative Policy to be announced, promoting cooperative federalism
- National Cooperative University to be established to ensure skilled human resources
- Formation of 200,000 new PACS, including fisheries and dairy, to be expedited
- 20,000 PACS to be linked with Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited
- Focus on connecting 1 crore farmers to expand organic farming
- World's largest grain storage scheme to transition from pilot project to nationwide implementation

of high-quality seeds, facilitate the purchase of agricultural produce, and boost exports through cooperative frameworks. Additionally, the world's largest grain storage scheme is expected to be rolled out nationwide in

2025.

To connect every village with the cooperative movement, the Union Ministry of Cooperation has committed to form two lakh additional primary cooperative societies, with rapid progress

“Today, there are eight lakh cooperative societies in India, which means that every fourth cooperative society in the world is in India. Cooperative societies cover about 98 percent of rural India. About 30 crore people, that is, one in every five Indians is associated with this sector. India will see a very big role of cooperatives in its future development.

**Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister**

being made in agriculture, dairy, and fisheries sectors. Under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the cooperative sector is scaling new heights. Cooperative institutions, from PACS to apex bodies, are transitioning online, with the process likely to conclude this year. This will enhance transparency, accountability, and interconnectivity within the cooperative system.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is playing a pivotal role in making the cooperative sector self-reliant, ensuring benefits reach the grassroots level. Farmers, women, youth, and the underprivileged are directly reaping the rewards of the Central Government's cooperative initiatives, marking a significant step toward empowerment and progress. ♦♦♦

National Cooperative University Proposal Under Parliament Review

The rapid development of the cooperative sector has significantly increased the demand for skilled human resources. To address this, the Union Ministry of Cooperation, under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, has laid the groundwork to meet the growing need for employees, officers, and technically skilled workers. As part of this effort, the Ministry has finalized the draft bill for the establishment of a Central Cooperative University, which is expected to be presented and passed in the upcoming session of Parliament.

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah stated, “The proposed university will work closely with the cooperative sector, offering a comprehensive, integrated, and standardized framework for education and training. This will ensure a stable, adequate, and high-quality supply of trained manpower to support the successful implementation of various initiatives by the Ministry.”

The university will focus on providing professional manpower and building the capacity of existing employees, enabling the cooperative sector to make a significant contribution to various segments of the economy.

The framework for the proposed university has been meticulously crafted to align with the goals of the cooperative sector. Extensive consultations have been conducted with various stakeholders, including central ministries, departments, state governments, national cooperatives, unions, and cooperative education and training institutes. This university aims to be financially self-sufficient, potentially becoming the first of its kind to independently manage all operational expenses.

The primary objective of establishing the National Cooperative University is to cater to the Union Ministry of Cooperation's requirements for technical and management education, cooperative training, research, and development. By fostering a network of affiliated



Cover Story

Pathway to Prosperity

- Export promotion through NCOL, BBSSL, and NCEL will create new opportunities for farmers
- Total 11 storage warehouses, each with a 10,000-tonne capacity, were set up in 11 states under the grain storage pilot project
- NCEL exported 31 agricultural products valued at ₹3934 crore to countries worldwide
- PACS will facilitate easy access for agricultural products to the global market
- Employment opportunities are being generated for women and youth in rural areas
- Farmers are receiving assistance in securing low-cost loans

“About 60 new initiatives have been taken in the last three years to strengthen cooperatives in the country. The 10 initiatives launched by the Union Government in the last 100 days will contribute significantly in expanding the cooperative sector further.

Shri Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation

cooperative institutions, the university will strengthen the cooperative movement across the country.

A bill titled the 'Tribhuvan' Sahkari University is expected to be introduced in the upcoming Parliamentary session, proposing the creation of a National Cooperative University that could be declared an institution of national importance. This university is envisioned as the largest center in India for providing technology and management education and training in the cooperative sector.

Planned for establishment in Gujarat, the university is poised to serve as a global model. It will act as a significant platform for research and education aimed at rural development, providing a fresh impetus to cooperative progress. The government has outlined a comprehensive roadmap to promote the development of farmers and rural areas through cooperatives, with the cooperative university playing a central role in this vision.

Cooperatives serve as the cornerstone of rural development, offering immense potential for the prosperity of rural India and its farmers. Recognizing this, a significant initiative has been undertaken to establish a university dedicated to advanced studies in cooperatives.

This institution will address the pressing need for educated and trained human resources in the sector, enabling the cooperative movement to progress with enhanced training and technology. Through this university, Indian students will gain exposure to global innovations and advancements in cooperative knowledge and science, fostering a deeper understanding of international practices.

Food Storage Scheme

Additionally, the food storage scheme, which began as a pilot project, is set to expand nationwide this year. In the 11 states where the pilot was implemented, 11 warehouses with a combined capacity of approximately 10,000 tonnes have already been constructed. Over the next five years, this scheme aims to develop a total grain storage capacity of 7 crore tonnes across the country.

The construction and operation of these warehouses have significantly involved local cooperative institutions, creating employment opportunities in rural areas. This initiative has also streamlined the safe and efficient storage of grains, reducing post-harvest losses and ensuring better food preservation. To oversee this ambitious program, an inter-ministerial committee has been established, ensuring its smooth and effective implementation. ♦♦♦



8

Sahkar Uday January 2025

A close-up photograph of four wooden scoops, each filled with a different type of seed. From left to right, the scoops contain: small, light-colored flax seeds; reddish-brown flax seeds; dark green, flat pumpkin seeds; and light-colored, oval-shaped sunflower seeds. The scoops are resting on a wooden surface, and some seeds have spilled out onto the surface in front of them. The background is a light-colored, textured fabric.



NCEL Poised to Thrive Globally

In the previous year, NCEL exported 31 agricultural commodities worth ₹3,934 crore to various countries, including rice to 22 nations, onions to six, and sugar to several others. Despite global geopolitical and economic challenges, as well as domestic restrictions on the export of key commodities like wheat, rice, and onions due to inflation concerns, NCEL has managed to deliver commendable results by capitalizing on limited opportunities.

January 2025 Sahkar Uday 9

Cover Story



New National Policy to Elevate Cooperative Movement in India

- The policy will be a foundation for prosperity through cooperation
- It will shape the cooperatives roadmap for the next 25 years
- Cooperative-based economic development model will be strengthened

Sahkar Uday Team

In the early months of 2025, a foundational framework for the cooperative sector is set to take shape. As part of this, a new National Cooperative Policy is expected to be announced, with preparations already in place. This policy, aimed at further strengthening the cooperative federalism outlined in the Constitution, has been drafted by the Union Ministry of Cooperation, incorporating the recommendations of an expert committee and inputs from various stakeholders.

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah has emphasized that the introduction of this new policy will help realize the vision of 'Prosperity through cooperation' and significantly strengthen the cooperative movement in the country. The policy will extend the reach of cooperatives to grassroots levels, ensuring their presence in every village and connecting people to cooperative initiatives.

Shri Suresh Prabhu, the chairman of the drafting committee, highlighted that the new policy holds the potential to transform the socio-economic landscape of India. He noted that it could substantially increase the contribution of cooperatives to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The main objective of the new policy is to foster a cooperative-based economic development model,

supported by a robust legal and institutional framework. This policy is designed to serve as a roadmap for the cooperative sector over the next 25 years.

The draft cooperative policy also proposes the establishment of several apex bodies, including Development Financial Institute, National Cooperative University, Centre of Excellence, National Cooperative



New Policy to Transform Socio-Economic Landscape

Shri Suresh Prabhu, Chairman of the Draft Committee, stated, "The new policy has the potential to transform the socio-economic landscape of India. It will significantly enhance the share of cooperatives in the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The objective of this policy is to promote a cooperative-based economic development model, supported by a solid legal and institutional framework. This policy will guide the cooperative sector for the next 25 years." Cooperatives play a vital role in expanding the income scope and ensuring a more equitable distribution of wealth among their members. The new cooperative policy is poised to make a profound impact on India's socio-economic fabric, driving increased participation of cooperatives in the country's GDP.

Recruitment Board, National Cooperative Audit and Accounts Board, National Export Multi-State Cooperative Society and National Cooperative Tribunal. The roles of these bodies will be pivotal in achieving the overarching mission of expanding and strengthening the cooperative movement across the nation. ♦♦♦

Cooperatives Witness Robust Participation

The Government of India is focused on increasing the contribution of cooperatives across nearly all sectors of the nation's economy. The existing cooperative policy, formulated in 2002, has become outdated in light of the significant socio-economic changes in the country over the past two decades. This shift has highlighted the need for a new policy to support the expansion of cooperatives, a demand long raised by various cooperative organizations.

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Government of India took a proactive step to draft a new National Cooperative Policy. In September 2022, a 49-member national level committee was established, chaired by Shri Suresh Prabhu, to spearhead the formulation of this policy.

The committee included representatives and experts from national cooperative federations and diverse cooperative societies. Apex institutions such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), and national cooperatives like IFFCO, NCCF, NAFCARD, NAFCUB, KRIBHCO, NFCSF, NCUI, and NAFED were part of the drafting team, along with academicians and experts. The committee also included representatives from cooperative societies at the national, state, district, and primary levels, as well as cooperative secretaries and registrars from various states and central ministries.

The National Committee held eight meetings to deliberate on the policy draft and engaged in comprehensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. Over 500 suggestions from the public and stakeholders were received, reviewed, and incorporated into the draft.

The committee's draft outlines several key recommendations in crucial areas, such as Structural reforms and governance in cooperatives, Cooperatives as vibrant economic institutions, Equal opportunities for cooperatives, Sources of capital and funding, Skill development and training programs and Sustainability and effective implementation of schemes.



Cover Story

Government Prioritizes Economic Growth, Employment in Villages

Sahkar Uday Team

The Government of India is consistently working to enhance the economic situation in rural areas, focusing on all forms of income and employment to contribute to the creation of 'Viksit Bharat'. Over the past decade, the government has concentrated on improving facilities for citizens and alleviating their challenges. These views were expressed recently by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi while inaugurating development projects in Jaipur, Rajasthan. While presenting projects worth ₹46,300 crore to drive the state's development forward, Shri Modi emphasized that the current government has accomplished more in 10 years than previous governments did in the past 50-60 years. He highlighted that these projects would address water-related challenges in Rajasthan and make it one of the best-connected states in India. They will improve transportation and meet the state's energy demands while also generating countless employment opportunities. These initiatives will strengthen the tourism sector and provide significant benefits to farmers, women and youth in the state. Shri Modi reaffirmed the government's commitment to making Rajasthan the most connected state in sectors such as roads, railways and air travel. Modern development and infrastructure projects will drive India's growth and enhance the quality of life for its people.

Expressing satisfaction over the



- Inaugurates and lays foundation for 24 projects in energy, roads, railways, water
- Over next decade, government to enhance facilities

supply of Narmada water to districts such as Jalore, Barmer, Churu, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Nagaur and Hanumangarh in Rajasthan, Shri Modi said that the river interlinking project will be executed in line with the vision of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This initiative has already alleviated the water crisis in several parts of the country. Shri Modi reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that Rajasthan becomes entirely free from water scarcity and receives sufficient water for its development. He also expressed confidence that 100% of households in Rajasthan will have access to tap water soon. Discussing the benefits of a recent agreement between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, Shri Modi highlighted that the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link

Project will provide irrigation and drinking water to 21 districts across both states, boosting development in both regions. This project will connect the Chambal River and its tributaries—Parbati, Kalisindh, Kuno, Banas, Ruparel, Gambhir and Mej—thereby enhancing water availability.

Shri Modi announced laying the foundation stone for the Isarda Link Project and signing an agreement to bring water from Tajewala to Shekhawati, benefiting both Haryana and Rajasthan. He also highlighted the Rajasthan government's initiative to provide daytime electricity to farmers, relieving them from the need to irrigate at night. Emphasizing water conservation, the Prime Minister underlined that both the government and society share the responsibility of using every drop of water efficiently.

He urged people to engage in practices like micro-irrigation, drip irrigation and the upkeep of 'Amrit Sarovars', while also raising awareness about water management. Additionally, he encouraged farmers to adopt natural farming methods. Shri Modi also noted that significant decisions are being made to support the development of the poor, women and tribal communities. He expressed satisfaction with the state government's year-long efforts to strengthen development and uphold good governance, citing crucial steps taken for the welfare of poor families, women, labourers, the Vishwakarma community and nomadic tribes. These initiatives have created thousands of employment opportunities with job appointments conducted transparently through exams.

Focus on Unprivileged, Women & Tribals

Shri Modi expressed his satisfaction with the state government's year-long efforts to reinforce the foundation of development and uphold the tradition of good governance. He highlighted that the government has made significant strides in supporting the development of unprivileged, women, labourers, Vishwakarmas and nomadic tribes, taking crucial decisions to benefit these communities. These initiatives have also led to the creation of thousands of employment opportunities. Job appointments in the state are being carried out transparently through exams. He emphasized that both the Central and State Governments are swiftly and committedly implementing infrastructure projects.

Unlimited Possibilities in Solar Energy Sector

Rajasthan has immense potential in the solar energy sector and has

Women Empowerment Transforms Rural India

Prime Minister Shri Modi highlighted women's empowerment for shaping the future of 21st-century India. He shared that the government is working towards transforming three crore women from self-help groups (SHGs) into 'Lakhpati Didis,' with over 1.25 crore women already achieving this status and earning over ₹1 lakh annually. Over the past decade, 10 crore women including those from Rajasthan have joined these groups. In addition to linking these groups with banks, the government has increased financial assistance from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh and provided around ₹8 lakh crore in support, strengthening these groups. The government has also facilitated training and access to new markets for products created by women SHGs, empowering rural women to become a vital part of the economy. Shri Modi also spoke about new initiatives aimed at further empowering women such as the 'NaMo Drone Didi' scheme which trains thousands of women as drone pilots. Many groups have already received drones and women are using them in farming to generate income. Additionally, the recently launched 'Bima Sakhi Scheme' aims to engage women and daughters in rural areas in the insurance sector, offering them training and creating new income opportunities while enabling them to serve the nation. He also praised the achievements of Bank Sakhis who have expanded banking services across the country, opened accounts and connected people with credit facilities. Now, Bima Sakhis will help link every family in India with insurance services.



the opportunity to become a leader in this field. Shri Modi stated that the government has turned solar energy into a means of eliminating electricity bills. Over 1.4 crore families have registered for the PM Suryaghar free electricity scheme and solar panel systems have already been installed in about seven lakh homes, with over 20,000

of these homes located in Rajasthan. Under the PM Kusum Scheme, the Rajasthan government plans to install hundreds of new solar plants soon. Shri Modi emphasized that when every family and farmer becomes an energy producer, it will not only generate income from electricity but also boost the earnings of every household. ♦♦♦

Employment

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addresses NCOL review meeting

PACS to Double Up as Sale Centres for Organic Products

Sahkar Uday Team

The new year has brought a significant development for National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL). On the very first day of 2025, Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of NCOL's development efforts. The meeting discussed strategies for successfully conducting its activities throughout the year.

A key decision made during the meeting was to launch a nationwide campaign aimed at promoting organic products by integrating all PACS with the country's ongoing Organic Mission. Shri Amit Shah emphasized the importance of focusing on the source and purity of organic products, urging NCOL to prioritize these factors in their operations.

Shri Shah noted that farmers will be motivated to adopt organic farming practices only if the products are marketed effectively and at competitive prices. NCOL's recent initiative of purchasing organic products from farmers in Uttarakhand has already yielded positive results, with farmers earning an additional 10 to 15 percent profit from the sale of their paddy.

Further, during the review, Shri Amit Shah encouraged all PACS to serve as sales centers for organic products and seeds, making them



- A national campaign will be launched to promote organic products
- Farmers in Uttarakhand received an additional 10 to 15 % profit from the paddy purchased by NCOL

accessible to farmers. He appealed to PACS across the country to contribute to advancing the Organic Mission, emphasizing the importance of ensuring high yield and quality of organic products to build consumer trust.

In line with these goals, NCOL is set to strengthen its supply chain, ensuring the authenticity of organic

products under its brand, Bharat Organics. The Minister stressed that every batch of these products must undergo mandatory testing to guarantee their purity. To further this initiative, farmers associated with Amul dairies and NDDB institutions will also be encouraged to transition to organic farming.

In the review meeting, Shri Amit

Shah stressed the importance of ensuring that farmers receive fair prices for their organic products, as this would encourage them to adopt organic farming practices. He directed NCOL and the Ministry of Cooperation to work with Amul on the Bharat Organics initiative, particularly in setting prices for organic flour and tur daal that would allow farmers to reap the full benefits. By guaranteeing better prices, farmers are expected to be more motivated to embrace organic farming in the long run.

Shri Shah emphasized that the success of organic products depends on effective marketing, which will raise awareness and subsequently increase demand. He noted that the domestic market for organic products has the potential for significant growth, offering more opportunities for farmers. A key suggestion was to promote organic products, particularly during the festive season, to drive consumer interest.

“Through cooperation, cooperative societies are being revived in every district and village across the country. Their laws are being modernized in accordance with time.

Shri Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation

To strengthen the distribution of organic products, all cooperative institutions, including PACS, should be developed as sales centers. These centers would provide information about the origin and sale of organic products, creating transparency and building trust with consumers. National cooperative institutions like NCOL, NCEL, and BBSSL were also urged to contribute to this effort.

Additionally, Shri Amit Shah proposed that each of the two lakh cooperative societies should include at least one young farmer

who can act as a motivator to help strengthen the local cooperative structure in the future. He also highlighted the importance of training PACS members and farmers, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed. To support this, NABARD, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation, should develop a system in the new PACS that allows farmers to receive loans based on their individual capacity, ensuring that financial support is tailored to their needs. ♦♦♦



Important Decision

Shri Amit Shah Lauds Initiatives to Strengthen Cooperatives in Tripura

Sahkar Uday Team

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, recently emphasized that prosperity, happiness, education and healthcare should be accessible to every family and individual in the country. He stressed that cooperatives are the key to achieving this goal. Shri Shah reiterated '*Sahakar Se Samridhhi*' as the objective of the Ministry of Cooperation, established by the government under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership. During the launch of various initiatives to strengthen the cooperative sector in Tripura, Shri Shah highlighted that under Shri Modi's leadership, cooperatives are being promoted for the welfare of farmers and the poor across the country, including in Tripura. He mentioned the launch of the mobile 'Gramin Mart' through NABARD which will provide affordable pulses, rice and wheat flour to people in five districts of the state. Additionally, 50 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) of the Tripura State Cooperative Bank have been equipped with micro-ATMs. The cooperative sector in Tripura has also been further strengthened with the inauguration of a cooperative petrol pump and a consumer store in Dhalai district.

Shri Amit Shah highlighted several key initiatives that have given a boost to the cooperative sector in Tripura. These include the establishment of the Smart Training Centre by the Tripura State Cooperative Union and the distribution of mini seed kits to 500 farmers through the



“The country is home to over 800,000 cooperative units, benefiting over 35 crore people. Institutions such as Amul, IFFCO, KRIBHCO and NAFED have played a key role in linking people to cooperatives.

Shri Amit Shah

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation

National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited (NCCF). Additionally, an agreement has been signed between the National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) and the Tripura State Organic Farming Development Agency to promote organic farming. These eight initiatives have significantly advanced the cooperative movement in the state.

Shri Shah also mentioned that Tripura currently has 3,138 different types of cooperatives, covering areas such as dairy, fisheries, consumer cooperatives, livestock and poultry. He said that the state

has made significant progress in implementing 41 cooperative initiatives. The Government of India has also established three national cooperatives—National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)—to provide high-quality seeds to farmers, market organic products and export them globally. Additionally, multi-purpose cooperative societies have been set up with over 35 cooperatives from Tripura applying for membership in these national cooperative societies. ♦♦♦

A Slew of Measures to Improve Living Standards of Bru-Reang Community

Sahkar Uday Team

Today, Tripura is progressing peacefully along the development path outlined by Prime Minister Shri Modi. Violence has been eradicated and the central government has facilitated peace and development in the state by signing three agreements with insurgent groups, including the Bru-Reang Agreement. These agreements have led to arrangements for resettling 40,000 people, providing them with housing, education, healthcare, clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity and employment opportunities for women.

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah shared these details recently during the foundation stone laying ceremony for development projects in the state. Shri Shah launched initiatives worth over ₹668 crore in Dhalai, Tripura and the Government of India has allocated ₹120 crore for infrastructure development in the state. He also laid the foundation for the Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) in Agartala, which will offer advanced training and research on internal and national security issues in Northeast India. The institute will feature a dedicated research centre to collaborate with other institutions on key security challenges such as counter-terrorism, border management, human trafficking, drug trafficking, illegal migration and arms smuggling.

Shri Amit Shah visited the Bru community at the Haduklaupara Bru Settlement Colony (Bruhapara) in Dhalai where he interacted with the people and visited their homes. He



shared that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi, the Central Government has successfully settled 38,000 Bru-Reang people. Shri Shah noted that for nearly 25 years, the Bru-Reang community lived in dire conditions without basic necessities. However, the Modi government recognized their hardships and took action to improve their situation. The government granted the Bru-Reang people the same rights as other Indian citizens.

Shri Shah emphasized that Prime Minister Shri Modi not only formulated a plan for the community but also established 11 villages at an investment of ₹900 crore. These

villages are equipped with essential facilities like electricity, roads, drinking water, connectivity, solar street lights, ration shops, Anganwadi schools and health centres. Additionally, the government has ensured that these people have been included in the voter list and provided with ration cards and health cards. The government has created cooperative arrangements to provide employment and support their economic development. Shri Shah also highlighted that the Bru-Reang community members now own 1,200 square feet plots and homes constructed with government assistance. ♦♦♦

India is Steadfast in its Resolve to Become a Developed Nation

Railway Projects in J&K, Telangana & Odisha are Progressing Rapidly, Says PM

Sahkar Uday Team

India is nearing full electrification of its railway lines, with continuous expansion underway. The government is advancing railway development based on four key parameters: modernizing railway infrastructure, enhancing passenger amenities, expanding rail connectivity nationwide, and supporting industries while generating employment.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi shared these insights during the inauguration of multiple railway projects, including the Jammu Railway Division. Through a virtual ceremony, he also laid the foundation stone for the Raigarh Railway Division Building of East Coast Railway and inaugurated the new terminal station at Charlapalli in Telangana.

Shri Modi emphasized that the rail projects in Jammu & Kashmir, Odisha, and Telangana mark a significant milestone in modern transport connectivity across the North, East, and South regions. The newly established 742.1 km Jammu Railway Division, spanning from Pathankot to Joginder Nagar, will significantly benefit Jammu & Kashmir and its neighbouring areas. This development will address long-standing regional aspirations, enhance connectivity with the rest of the country, create employment opportunities, boost infrastructure, promote tourism, and drive overall socio-economic progress.

Highlighting India's rapid advancements in transport connectivity, Prime Minister Shri



- Infrastructure projects will enhance tourism and accelerate socio-economic growth
- Railways undergoing transformational reforms with a strong push for Made in India

Narendra Modi stated that by early 2025, the country's metro rail network has surpassed 1,000 km, with further acceleration in development. Citing the launch of Delhi Metro projects and the inauguration of the Namo Bharat Train in the Delhi-NCR region, he emphasized that India is progressing towards becoming a developed nation under the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The Prime Minister noted that significant progress is being made on dedicated freight corridors, which will facilitate high-speed train operations as part of the modernization of the railway network. He underscored the

transformative reforms in the railway sector, driven by the Made in India initiative, including the development of modern coaches for metro and railways, the redevelopment of railway stations, and the installation of solar panels. Additionally, 'One Station, One Product' shops are being set up at railway stations, fostering local entrepreneurship.

These initiatives are generating lakhs of new employment opportunities in the railway sector. Shri Modi highlighted that over the past decade, lakhs of young people have secured permanent government jobs in railways, while the growing demand for raw



materials in rail coach manufacturing has spurred job creation across various industries.

Gati Shakti University to Develop Railway Skills

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the establishment of India's first Gati Shakti University, aimed at harnessing specialized railway-related skills. He noted that with the expansion of the railway network, new railway divisions and headquarters are being set up, benefiting regions such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Leh-Ladakh.

He emphasized that the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line is elevating Jammu & Kashmir's rail infrastructure to new heights, garnering national attention. The Prime Minister also underscored the significance of the Chenab Bridge—the world's tallest railway arch bridge—as a crucial link connecting the region with the rest of India, significantly enhancing connectivity for the people of Leh-Ladakh. Additionally, he highlighted the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, as part

of this transformative project. Shri Modi described the Chenab Bridge and Anji Bridge as remarkable feats of engineering, underscoring their role in driving economic growth and prosperity in the region.

Robust Infra to Propel Development

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasized Odisha's vast natural resources and extensive coastline, highlighting its immense potential for international trade. He stated that railway projects worth over ₹70,000 crore are currently underway in the state. Additionally, the establishment of seven Gati Shakti cargo terminals is fostering industrial growth and trade. The foundation stone for the Raigarh Railway Division has been laid, which will enhance railway infrastructure and particularly boost tourism, business, and employment in South Odisha, a region with a strong tribal presence. This initiative will also improve connectivity across Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and nearby areas, driving overall socio-economic progress.

Speaking on the significance of the Charlapalli New Terminal Station in

Telangana, the Prime Minister noted that its connectivity with the Outer Ring Road would further regional development. He highlighted the station's modern facilities, including upgraded platforms, lifts, escalators, and solar energy installations, as a step toward sustainable infrastructure. The new terminal is expected to ease congestion at Secunderabad, Hyderabad, and Kacheguda stations, making travel more convenient. Shri Modi emphasized that such projects not only simplify daily life but also contribute to India's broader infrastructure development and enhance the ease of doing business.

The Prime Minister reiterated that India is expanding its infrastructure on a massive scale, encompassing expressways, waterways, and metro networks. He pointed out that the number of airports in the country has grown from 74 in 2014 to over 150, while metro services have expanded from five cities to 21 cities. Reaffirming the government's commitment to national development and nation-building, Shri Modi described these projects as key components of a long-term vision for a Developed India. ♦♦♦

75th Anniversary

Indian Constitution Unique Among Global Constitutions, Says Shri Amit Shah

Sahkar Uday Team

Indians have deep trust in the nation's Constitution, which is unique in its creation compared to other constitutions worldwide. Ours is the most detailed and written Constitution, developed with a focus on traditional discussion and methods in the Constituent Assembly. These points were highlighted by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah during the winter session of Parliament, marking the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution. Shri Shah emphasized that the core spirit of the Constitution has been instrumental in strengthening democracy in the country. The Constituent Assembly consisted of 299 members, representing 22 different religions, castes and communities.

All princely states and regions were represented in the Constituent Assembly, ensuring that the process of drafting the Constitution was inclusive and reflective of India's diverse future. Through extensive discussions, rules and resolutions were formulated to govern the country while embracing India's traditional values. Shri Shah pointed out that it is rare for any constitution in the world to have been shared with the public for feedback. The Indian Constitution, created through such a thorough democratic process, consists of 295 articles, 22 parts and 12 schedules. It is more liberal than any other constitution globally.



■ Government implemented extensive reforms in legislation, eliminating over 1,500 outdated laws

The Constitution was crafted by eminent figures in the Constituent Assembly, including Dr Rajendra Prasad, Dr BR Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Katju, KT Shah, Iyengar, Maulana Azad, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Dr Radhakrishnan, and KM Munshi, who enriched and completed it through detailed deliberations. This is a source of pride for the people of the nation.

Bolstering Democracy & Overcoming Doubts

Shri Amit Shah stated that when India gained independence after a long struggle, many nations believed that the country would break apart and never become economically self-sufficient. However, thanks to the relentless efforts of Sardar Patel, India remained united and emerged

strong on the global stage. He highlighted that, in the past 75 years, while democracy has faced setbacks in many neighbouring countries, India's democratic foundations have only grown stronger, with significant changes occurring peacefully. This is a moment of pride and resolve for all Indians. Today, India stands proudly as the world's fifth-largest economy and even Britain which once ruled over us now stands behind us.

Focus on Development & Public Welfare

Under the leadership of Shri Modi, 9.6 crore women received Ujjwala gas connections in the past 10 years. Toilets were constructed in 12 crore households and 12.65 crore homes gained access to clean drinking water. Additionally, electricity was

provided to 18,000 villages that were without power even after years of Independence. Over this period, the government transferred ₹2.40 lakh crore directly to the bank accounts of 14.5 crore farmers through DBT. Ayushman cards were issued to 36 crore citizens, enabling 8.19 crore people to receive free medical treatment. Shri Shah highlighted that the Modi government now offers free treatment up to ₹5 lakh for citizens above 70 years of age, regardless of income. The government also introduced the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme, benefiting 80 crore people now receiving 5 kg of free food grains. Furthermore, ₹11,000 crore has been disbursed to one crore street vendors, and two crore rural women have been empowered through the 'Lakhpadi Didi' initiative. Under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, artisans are being provided both financial assistance.

Constitutional Amendments

Shri Amit Shah stated that the Indian Constitution has never been regarded as unchangeable. Emphasizing the need for legal reforms over time, he pointed out that Article 368 of the Constitution allows for amendments. Under Shri Modi's leadership, the government has effectively utilized this constitutional provision to enact laws in the larger interest of the society and the nation. One significant amendment was the 101st Constitutional Amendment on July 1, 2017, which introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to standardize the tax system and strengthen the economy. This amendment also ensured compensation for states based on their growth rate. Another important amendment was the 102nd Constitutional Amendment which granted constitutional status

Freedom from Symbols of Slavery & Emphasis on Indian Heritage

Shri Amit Shah stated that under Prime Minister Shri Modi's leadership, the government is working towards the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. It is striving to position the country at the forefront of the world while embracing Indian heritage and eliminating symbols of colonial rule. Upon coming to power, the government constructed a memorial in Mau, the birthplace of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar and declared his birth date, April 14, as National Harmony Day. The government also renamed Rajpath as Kartavya Path and replaced the statue of King George V at India Gate with that of Subhash Chandra Bose. In place of the British Naval Insignia, the government adopted the emblem of the brave Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda was celebrated as Tribal Pride Day and a National War Memorial was built with the Amar Jawan Jyoti merged into it. Under Shri Modi's leadership, the government inaugurated a new Parliament and formally installed the Sengol. Furthermore, 345 stolen sculptures and artefacts were returned to India from around the world. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands were renamed 'Shaheed Dweep' and 'Swaraj Dweep'. Race Course Road in Lutyens' Delhi was renamed Lok Kalyan Marg while Dalhousie Road was renamed after Dara Shikoh Road. The government also made primary education in the mother tongue mandatory in the New Education Policy.

to the 'National Commission for Backward Classes,' safeguarding the interests of backward communities. Additionally, the government implemented the third amendment on January 12, 2019, to provide 10% reservation for economically disadvantaged children from general categories who do not receive any other form of reservation.

Shri Shah stated that with the 105th Constitutional Amendment on August 10, 2021, the Government of India granted state governments the authority to determine backwardness. Previously, only the Central Government had the power to identify Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Additionally, the government introduced the Constitution 106th

Amendment Act, known as the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', on December 28, 2023, which provided 33% reservation for women. This amendment fulfilled the dream of the framers of the Constitution by ensuring 33% female representation in both Houses of Parliament. Shri Shah also highlighted the government's efforts to empower Muslim women by passing a law to end triple talaq. He pointed out that the government abrogated Article 370 and Article 35A and implemented three new criminal laws to replace outdated colonial-era laws, thereby modernizing the criminal justice system. Furthermore, the government has repealed over 1,500 old laws to streamline and update the legal framework. ♦♦♦

Modi Govt Invests ₹68,000 Crore on Delhi's Infra in Last 10 Years

Sahkar Uday Team

After the formation of the government in 2014 under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, significant policy measures were introduced to advance urban development in the country. The government prioritized world-class facilities in cities, integrating them into the urban development policy.

Under Shri Modi's guidance, improving communication and road connectivity became essential components of the development agenda. These points were highlighted by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah during the inauguration of the new working women's hostel block 'Sushma Bhawan' built by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). This facility offering safe accommodation for around 500 working women plays a crucial role in the government's 'Urban Development' initiatives. The building's name honours a leader who has long been a symbol of inspiration for women's empowerment, awareness and activism in India. Sushma Swaraj sparked a nationwide movement for women's empowerment and as India's Foreign Minister, embodied a politician who deeply understood the challenges faced by the people.

Shri Shah stated that previously villages surrounding cities were not included in any policies but under Shri Modi's leadership, they have been incorporated into the urban development policy. This shift has transformed the urban landscape over the last decade. The government



- Government of India focused on e-governance in urban development policy
- Initiatives like Urban Waste Management Policy, Green Energy, Solar Rooftop Projects implemented

has prioritized e-governance in its urban development approach and has made significant strides in developing 100 cities under the Smart Cities Mission.

Shri Shah also mentioned the launch of several initiatives by the Government of India, including the AMRUT Yojana, the expansion of the metro network to 1,000 km, the electric vehicle initiative and the PM-Surya Ghar Yojana for promoting environment-friendly solar energy. With special emphasis on city cleanliness and environmental preservation, various initiatives such as the Urban Waste Management Policy, Green Energy and Solar Rooftop Project have been taken.

In the past 10 years, the Government of India has invested ₹68,000 crore in infrastructure development in Delhi. Of this, ₹41,000 crore was allocated for road projects, ₹15,000 crore for railways and ₹12,000 crore for enhancing services around the airport. As a result, the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, built at ₹8,000

crore, now allows travel between Delhi and Meerut in just 45 minutes. Additionally, a high-speed corridor is being developed to reduce the 24-hour journey from Delhi to Mumbai in just 12 hours. Other major projects include the Dwarka Expressway built at ₹7,500 crore, Eastern Peripheral Expressway at a cost of ₹11,000 crore, Urban Extension Road at ₹7,715 crore, Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor at ₹920 crore and the Delhi-Meerut RRTS rail corridor built at ₹30,000 crore. A 7,000-seat convention centre and a 3,000-seat amphitheatre were built at Bharat Mandapam.

Significant infrastructure developments also include the construction of the Yashobhoomi Convention Centre built at ₹5,400 crore, the Dwarka Golf Course at ₹250 crore and the Dwarka Sports Complex at ₹92 crore. Under the PM-UDAY scheme, plans have been made to regularize 1,731 colonies and provide ownership rights to 40 lakh unprivileged people. ♦♦♦

Global Challenges Can Only be Addressed Through Cooperatives, Says Guarco

Sahkar Uday Team

A brighter future can be shaped through cooperatives. They will be key in fostering an ecosystem grounded in human values that ensures accessibility for all. The global leader in cooperatives is dedicated to promoting social, economic and cultural values. The United Nations has declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives which was initiated in India. The official launch of the International Year of Cooperatives took place during the ICA Global Cooperative Conference. ICA President Ariel Guarco discussed various aspects of the initiative which will see participation from major countries around the world.

The ICA President praised Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and India's first Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah for successfully hosting the Global Cooperative Conference in India. Guarco highlighted that the Ministry of Cooperation, established in 2021, is responsible for overseeing government cooperative efforts and thus showcasing the country's commitment. The International Year of Cooperatives was first declared in 2012 and after 13 years, 2025 has been designated again to promote cooperative principles globally. At the Global Cooperative Conference, 1,300 delegates from around the world expressed their support for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in celebration of the International Year of Cooperatives.

Guarco emphasized that cooperatives can preserve human values and help address global challenges. He expressed a desire



to create a future where the next generation enjoys abundant natural resources and a healthy ecosystem just as today's generation does. He stressed that every generation has the right to natural resources and must not exploit them in ways that deplete them for the future. ICA is committed to promoting social, economic, ecological and cultural integration through cooperatives. Under the tagline 'Cooperatives Build A Better World', various initiatives will be undertaken throughout the year to strengthen the cooperative movement, encouraging global participation without borders.

Partnership with International Coops

International cooperative organizations will be crucial in ensuring the success of the International Year of Cooperatives' objectives. Ariel Guarco stated that the focus will be on promoting new areas of cooperation in partnership with international cooperative organizations affiliated with the United Nations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Labor Organization and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Cooperatives affiliated with the ICA

- Year of Cooperatives dedicated to protecting human values, cultural exchange and creating a better society for future generations

that are actively working to expand their membership will also be included in these efforts.

Brazil's COP30 will be Main Attraction

Brazil's COP30 will be a major highlight during the International Year of Cooperatives. Numerous events will be held across various countries including significant activities such as COP30 in Brazil and the 63rd session of Commission for Social Development at UN Headquarters in New York from February 10th. COP30 in Brazil will specifically address climate change challenges and the role of cooperative organizations in tackling these issues. Additionally, international seminars such as those focusing on communication within cooperatives will also take place. In this context, the European Commission in collaboration with the ILO and food cooperatives will organize an Economic Conference in Doha. International cooperative conferences will work to strengthen cooperative partnerships between countries. Also, Ariel Guarco's second book, 'Cooperative Principles in Action', has been published to further explore these themes. ♦♦♦

FPOs Emerge as Key Link in Vegetable Supply Chain

Saurabh Pandey & Shubham Mishra

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are playing a key role in enhancing the vegetable supply chain in rural areas. In the past, vegetables were largely grown in regions where they were readily accessible to a wide range of consumers. However, challenges arose were cooperatives, FPOs and agri-startups have now addressed. FPOs have become a vital component in the vegetable supply chain, facilitating the large-scale production, storage and marketing of vegetables to meet market demand. Strengthening this supply chain is as crucial as ensuring that vegetables are a staple part of the average person's diet. Previously, the vegetable supply chain faced numerous hurdles but through more efficient and targeted efforts it has been significantly improved. Key issues such as price fluctuations, supply-demand imbalances, the perishable nature of products, inadequate transportation and storage infrastructure, post-harvest losses and a lengthy network of middlemen were identified and tackled with strategic solutions at the grassroots level. An ICMR report suggests that for a balanced 2,000-calorie daily diet for an adult, the plate should consist of approximately 250g of cereals, 400g of vegetables, 100g of fruits, 85g of pulses, along with eggs and meat. It should also include 35g of nuts and seeds and 27g of fats and oils. This clearly highlights the



significant role vegetables play in human nutrition.

More Reliance on Cooperatives, FPOs

Cooperatives and FPOs play a crucial role in the agricultural sector. Prominent cooperative societies such as Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) and well-known milk cooperatives like Amul are major players in the cooperative ecosystem. In India, cooperatives span across both rural and urban areas, with entities like Urban Cooperative Banks, Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and fishery cooperative societies working to improve livelihoods in rural and urban regions alike. Cooperatives

have significant potential to address the unemployment issue by providing skills in areas like horticulture, especially in post-harvest processes. Rather than eliminating commission agents, the goal of cooperatives is to regulate activities within the agricultural ecosystem by establishing community guidelines and offering farmers an alternative sales channel. One of the key strengths of cooperatives is the trust they foster which is crucial for the successful operation of any organization. In the horticulture sector, cooperatives have been instrumental in offering farmers essential services like credit, inputs and robust marketing and distribution networks, thus contributing to the overall growth and sustainability of the sector.

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a key organization. Its main objective is to promote, develop and finance post-harvest activities in the agriculture and allied sectors through cooperative societies. To further support and strengthen the cooperative sector, the Ministry of Cooperation was established under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This led to the creation of a dedicated framework for the operation, administration and implementation of fair practices within cooperative societies, significantly bolstering the cooperative movement in the country.

The motto of 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi' reflects the government's strong commitment to promoting cooperatives. The Ministry of Cooperation has taken significant steps to strengthen cooperative societies at the grassroots level, such as linking PACS with business activities and expanding the scope of multi-state cooperative societies (MSCS). In this context, FPOs have taken a leading role in transforming the agricultural sector. They are providing small and marginal farmers access to broader markets which in turn enhances their livelihoods and helps improve the income of small landholding farmers. FPOs are also playing a crucial role in improving the agricultural market supply chain, ensuring farmers have access to larger, more profitable markets. Not only are individual farmers' lives improving through collective efforts within cooperatives, but the farmers themselves are being empowered as organizations. This has led to comprehensive progress benefiting both the farmers and the broader agricultural system in India.

Feasibility of Vegetable Supply Chains

The vegetable supply chain involves various stages from production to distribution, including activities such as processing, storage, transportation and marketing. Vegetables travel from farm to market and eventually reach consumers through these steps. However, there are several points along the way where inefficiencies in the supply chain can lead to wastage or redundancy. In recent years, a lack of coordination between demand and supply has caused a significant price rise in vegetables. According to a 2022 NABCONS study, losses during harvesting, packaging, transportation, storage and marketing for various vegetables ranged from 4.9% to 11.6%. These losses further strain the supply and availability of vegetables for both sale and consumption. Tomatoes, onions and potatoes are the most commonly consumed vegetables in India, making up over a third of the consumer price index for vegetables. As a result, any sudden price fluctuations in these key vegetables can have a significant impact on vegetable inflation.

For instance, during FY 2020-23, the inflation rate for vegetables surged to 5.7%, up from zero in the previous four financial years. This was primarily driven by a sharp increase in the prices of tomatoes, onions and potatoes, which rose by 9.1%. In response to the volatility in the prices of these essential vegetables, the government launched 'Operation Greens', modelled after 'Operation Flood', with an allocation of ₹500 crore. This initiative aims to enhance agro-logistics, improve processing facilities and provide professional management for FPOs.

Solution Through Collaborative Efforts

A potential solution to the challenges in the vegetable supply

chain lies in establishing extensive storage facilities near large consumer clusters. This would help reduce transportation costs and prevent losses during transit. By making fresh and affordable vegetables available in local markets, consumers would benefit from more accessible produce. Additionally, the economic development of these areas could be boosted by creating larger market clusters or groups, which would enhance efficiency and lower production costs. With better alignment between production and consumption, productivity would rise leading to increased profits for farmers and a more sustainable supply chain.

As profit margins grow, farmers can collaborate with larger groups to invest in food processing units and other quality inputs, including storage facilities. Moreover, targeted interventions to strengthen production clusters and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) can help enhance the value of farmers' output. Through the collective efforts of FPOs and cooperative societies, produce can be sold at fair prices leading to improved market linkages and the use of advanced agricultural technologies. Thus, FPOs and cooperatives can play a vital role in value addition and improving supply chains. Additionally, agricultural startups can contribute innovative solutions to address supply chain challenges. Enhanced efficiency and reduced wastage can further boost profits. With better infrastructure and more organized supply chains, the quality of vegetables could improve, making it possible to ensure year-round availability. ♦♦♦

PhD Researcher, Anand
Agricultural University, Gujarat
and Field Officer, IFFCO

Increased Involvement of Cooperatives in Healthcare



Sahkar Uday Team

The growing involvement of cooperatives in the health sector is starting to benefit people. Medical treatment has become simpler and more accessible through the inclusion of alternative medical practices in the Ayushman Sahakar Scheme. This initiative by the Union Ministry of Cooperation is proving successful. The scheme is linked to the National Health Policy of 2017, aiming to promote Ayush methods—Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy—in rural areas. Digital innovations in health will also be prioritized under the Ayushman Sahakar Scheme. Through the National Digital Health Mission, NCDC will support cooperative societies involved in health education and insurance.

With the introduction of this scheme, the government aims to involve not only medical professionals but also young people working in health education and care in non-medical fields, with the goal

- Benefits of integrating alternative medical practices into Ayushman Sahakar Scheme
- NCDC to promote Ayush in rural areas

of promoting healthy living practices in rural areas. The National Digital Health Scheme was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on August 15, 2020. Since the launch, the use of technology in the health sector has expanded, including online access to medical reports and the integration of AI in various areas to enhance healthcare services.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was implemented by the government in the year 2017 with the aim of improving health services. Emphasis was laid on health insurance, technical efficiency, investigation services, timely medical services, training and skills, etc. The wellness centre was launched by the government for promoting human resources and preventable health. The concept of health educators or health trainers was also launched

under the National Health Scheme. The Holistic Health System was also approved which is required to improve medical facilities by taking our centuries old practices of treatment. Hospitals, healthcare, medical education, nursing education, paramedical education, health insurance etc. were added simultaneously.

After the establishment of the Ministry of Ayush, postgraduate (PG) and Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses such as MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BPT, and BUMS were promoted within the AYUSH system, which includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy. In line with this, the government has launched the Ayushman Sahkar Yojana with the support of NCDC. The aim of this initiative is to promote traditional medical

Objectives of Ayushman Sahakar Scheme

- To assist cooperative societies in the provision of affordable and holistic healthcare through hospitals/healthcare/education facilities
- Assistance in promoting Ayush by cooperative societies
- To assist cooperatives in fulfilling objectives of National Health Policy
- To assist in participation of cooperatives in National Digital Health Mission

practices in rural areas.

Eligibility for Ayushman Sahakar Scheme

Any cooperative society registered under a state or Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act in the country, which includes provisions for hospital services, healthcare and health education in its bylaws, will be eligible for financial assistance under the scheme. NCDC assistance will be provided either through state governments, union territory administrations or directly to cooperative societies that meet the criteria for direct funding by NCDC. Coordination with other government schemes or programs as well as other funding agencies is allowed. NCDC will provide financial assistance to eligible cooperatives for up to eight years, with interest charged at a rate of 1%. ♦♦♦

Footwear Engineer Charts Success Story Through Organic Farming



- Worked as designer at Woodland, Noida, from 2016 to 2022
- Due to increasing interest in organic agriculture, left job, moved to Lucknow, started own firm

Sahkar Uday Team

The youth of the country are increasingly collaborating with farmers and their participation in Agritech Startups is benefiting the farming community. Abhishek Gupta, a resident of Chinhat, Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, is one such individual making a positive impact on farmers' lives. Formerly a footwear engineer at Woodland in Noida, Abhishek transitioned to the agricultural sector five years ago by founding

his agri startup, Anmol AgroTech Industries. Recognizing the value of organic farming, Abhishek not only practices it himself but also educates other farmers about it. He teaches them how to create organic fertilizers and helps promote various agricultural inputs through his enterprise. Anmol AgroTech Industries also manufactures a wide range of agricultural products distributed across the country.

Abhishek shared that he has

Agri Startup

always had a passion for farming and believed that instead of a job, it would be better to stay among his fellow farmers and help raise awareness about increasing their productivity. With this in mind, he left his job in 2022 and returned to Lucknow. He started Anmol AgroTech Industries with the goal of producing agricultural input products. Abhishek mentioned that before training farmers, he first sought training himself. After receiving guidance and training from scientists, he began producing some effective organic agricultural products. These products play a crucial role in the production of organic fertilizers, helping farmers improve efficiency, maintain soil productivity and enhance plant disease resistance. After recognizing the benefits of organic fertilizers, farmers have increasingly started using them. In addition, Abhishek has begun developing anti-animal medicines to protect crops from animal damage. He is involved in nearly every aspect of agricultural inputs, addressing various issues faced by farmers. His agricultural products are distributed across multiple states, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Bihar. Abhishek believes that the government should streamline the licensing process for agricultural input startups to ensure more farmers can benefit from these solutions.

YouTube Triggers Interest in Organic Farming

Abhishek shared that in 2016, he worked as a CAM/CAD designer at Woodland in Noida, where his role as a software engineer involved designing shoes. He had earned a degree from FDDI for this job. However, after watching Rajiv Dixit's YouTube videos, he



learned about the benefits of organic farming. Inspired by them, Abhishek left his job in 2022 and moved to Lucknow, fully dedicating himself to organic farming. He also registered his firm to pursue this goal. Abhishek emphasized that if organic farming is promoted for the benefit of farmers and new techniques are introduced, he is eager to adopt and share them with others.

Support From State Government

Abhishek mentioned that with the support of the state government, efforts to promote organic farming through the

National Mission on Natural Farming and various other schemes are yielding positive results. However, there were challenges at the grassroots level as farmers were practising organic farming but struggled with marketing their products. To address this, he started online marketing to ensure farmers' products reach the right market. As a result, Anmol AgroTech Industries' products are now in demand across several states. To ensure secure transactions, a Cash on Delivery (COD) option is offered for product shipments preventing any wrong transfer of money to farmers. ♦♦♦

Dr Awasthi Bags Prestigious 'Fertilizer Man of India' Award

Sahkar Uday Team

IFFCO, a multi-state cooperative society in the fertilizer sector, has made significant contributions in various areas. One of its major achievements, the production of nanotechnology-based fertilizers, is gaining global recognition. In acknowledgement of the organization's success, Sahakar Bharati recently awarded its Managing Director, Dr Uday Shanker Awasthi with the title of 'Fertilizer Man of India'. Recently, there have been remarkable advancements in the country's fertilizer industry, with the shift from traditional urea and DAP to the production of Nano fertilizers, which have now earned international acclaim.

Sahakar Bharati is a national organization established in 1978 which has been dedicated to strengthening cooperative societies and promoting the cooperative movement across India. Dr Awasthi was awarded this title in recognition of his lifelong contributions to fertilizers and agriculture. His innovative approach to Nano fertilizers has the potential to revolutionize both the Indian and global agriculture and fertilizer industries. The honour was bestowed upon him during the 8th National Convention of Sahakar Bharati held in Amritsar. It was presented by General Secretary of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh Dattatreya Hosabale, National General Secretary of Sahakar Bharati Dr Uday Joshi and Governor of Punjab cum Administrator of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria.



■ Dr Uday Shanker Awasthi, IFFCO Managing Director, honoured for his outstanding contribution by Sahakar Bharati

The production of Nano Urea, Nano DAP and now Nano NPK developed using indigenous technology is set to bring a significant transformation to agriculture. These fertilizers are expected to not only reduce pollution but also improve soil health and quality. Dr Awasthi initiated the 'Save The Soil' Campaign nationwide and provided training to farmers on the use of green organic manure through Cordet, aiming to enhance soil nutrients. In recognition of his exceptional contributions to the fertilizer industry, he was honoured with a citation and Tamra Patra (a bronze plaque). Dr Awasthi was also recently awarded the Rochdale Pioneers Award for IFFCO's remarkable achievements and his invaluable role in empowering the Indian

cooperative movement by taking the vision of '*Sahakar Se Samridhi*' to the global stage.

On this occasion, Dr Awasthi expressed his happiness stating that he is delighted the cooperative world has recognized his efforts towards the development of farmers and cooperative societies. He extended his heartfelt thanks to Sahakar Bharati for bestowing him with this prestigious honour and title. He further emphasized that India must become truly 'Aatmanirbhar' in fertilizer production by embracing the 'Make in India' initiative. This can be achieved by reducing dependence on imported fertilizer raw materials and adopting innovative nanotechnology-based fertilizers. Such measures will help conserve foreign exchange and reduce the consumption of rock phosphate, potash and natural gas. ♦♦♦

Guest Column



Dr Alok Kumar Sharma

GeM Portal Facilitates Digital Revolution for Cooperatives

Following the initiative of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, the cooperative sector now benefits from the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). This groundbreaking initiative simplifies the registration process for cooperative societies, boosting their operations.

The effort takes a strategic, collaborative approach involving key stakeholders such as the NCUI and the Central and State Registrars of Cooperative Societies. The goal is to streamline the registration and onboarding process for cooperative societies, fostering their economic empowerment.

The GeM portal fosters economic inclusivity by empowering cooperatives. This initiative is the result of a strategic collaboration between GeM officials, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and the Central and State Registrars of Cooperative Societies. As a key player in India's digital transformation, the GeM platform is revolutionizing procurement by enabling online transactions for goods and services between government entities. E-governance has become a fundamental aspect of efforts to improve transparency, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in government procurement, demonstrating the government's dedication to modernization and reform.

The GeM portal functions as an integrated marketplace enabling government agencies,

departments and organizations to efficiently procure a diverse array of goods and services. By utilizing technology to streamline transactions, GeM enhances accountability and minimizes inefficiencies typically associated with traditional procurement methods.

A key strength of GeM is its ability to streamline operations within the procurement ecosystem. By digitalizing the procurement process, the portal eliminates the bureaucratic barriers and inefficiencies found in traditional, paper-based methods. Features such as e-bidding, reverse auctions and online payment systems enable quicker decision-making, reduce paperwork and shorten procurement timelines. This efficient approach not only saves time and resources for government agencies but also boosts the overall effectiveness of procurement. Furthermore, GeM encourages competition and fosters a level playing field for all sellers, including cooperative societies. The platform provides transparency and accessibility, allowing vendors to showcase their products and services which opens up new opportunities for small and medium enterprises and startups to engage in government procurement. Cooperatives, often representing grassroots producers and artisans, benefit significantly from this inclusive model.

By facilitating cooperatives to engage in government procurement, GeM helps them access broader markets and grow

their business opportunities. Furthermore, the platform enhances cost-effectiveness in government procurement by enabling bulk purchasing and taking advantage of economies of scale. Features like pooled purchasing and quantity discounts allow government agencies to secure competitive pricing on goods and services, leading to substantial cost savings. These savings can be reinvested in priority sectors or used to improve public services, maximizing the impact of taxpayer funds.

GeM supports India's broader goals for a digital economy by encouraging digital transactions and e-commerce practices. The platform drives digital adoption and financial inclusion, especially as more transactions occur online between small sellers and suppliers. This digital shift not only improves the efficiency and transparency of government procurement but also paves the way for a more resilient, technology-driven economy. The Ministry's comprehensive approach involves collaboration with key stakeholders to simplify the registration process.

This initiative plays a crucial role in shaping the economic landscape, reflecting the Government's dedication to fostering an inclusive and transparent business environment where cooperatives can thrive and make significant contributions to the nation's economic progress. ♦♦♦

**Faculty Member, ICM,
Dehradun**



Dr US Awasthi, Managing Director of IFFCO, participated in the Board of Directors meeting of JIFCO in Amman, Jordan. The meeting covered various topics concerning the operations and development of JIFCO. Dr Mohammad Thneibat, Chairman of JIFCO along with other key officials were also present.



IFFCO received several awards at the annual seminar organized by the Fertilizer Association of India on 'Sustainable Fertilizer and Agriculture'. Dr Mangla Rai and Dr Ashok Gulati were honoured with the prestigious US Awasthi IFFCO Lifetime Achievement Awards. Dr Rai was recognized for his lifelong commitment to agricultural research and development while Dr Gulati was celebrated for his exceptional contributions to the fertilizer industry.



IFFCO organized a Nano Urea and DAP awareness campaign among farmers of Baramulla, J&K. Farmers participating in the campaign asked many questions regarding the use of new-age fertilizers Sagarika, NPK, Kanrosta and bio-decomposers. Many senior officials of IFFCO were present on the occasion.



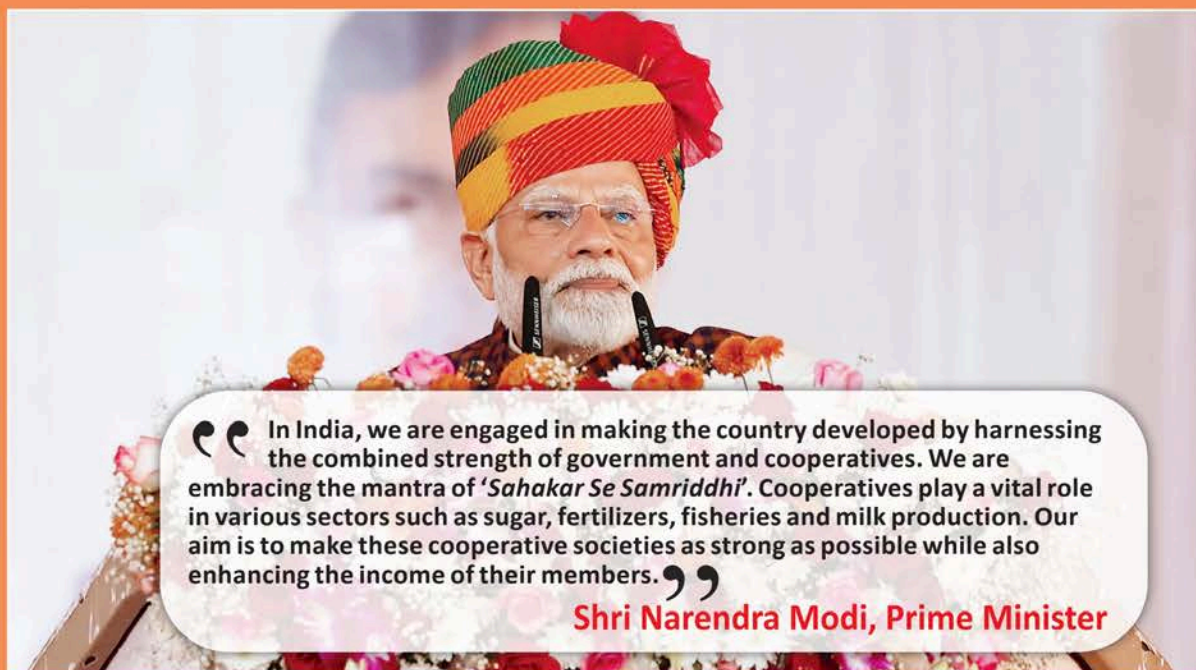
IFFCO organized a crop seminar at Mokama in Patna district, in which IFFCO officials made 500 farmers aware about the use of IFFCO Nano Urea, Nano DAP and other products and solved agricultural problems.



IFFCO signed an MoU with CSC SPV to supply essential agricultural inputs, including IFFCO Nano Urea Plus, IFFCO Nano DAP and other products to 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under the Central Sector Scheme. IFFCO's Marketing Director Yogendra Kumar was present at the signing ceremony.



IFFCO distributed blankets among the needy owing to the severe cold in Noida. A team from IFFCO's headquarters provided free blankets to children as part of their social welfare program. This initiative is part of IFFCO's annual campaign where blankets are distributed to needy children.



पूर्णतः सहकारी स्वामित्व
Wholly owned by Cooperatives



A Powerful Pair

Nano Urea
Plus

SAGARIKA

Nano
DAP



Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited
IFFCO Sadan, C-1, District Centre, Saket Palace, New Delhi-110017, India
Phone No.- 91-11-26510001, 91-11-42592626, Website: www.iffco.coop



Please scan to
know more about
IFFCO Nano
Fertilizers

Published on 06th February
"Sahkar Uday"

RNI No. DELENG/2024/88391
Postal Registration No.: DL(S)-17/3559/2024-26

Posting date : 06-08th February
Posted at : Lodhi Road HQ, New Delhi-110003