



“
भारत में **COOPERATIVES**,
हमारे **DAIRY SECTOR** को....
हमारी **RURAL
ECONOMY** को
**एक नई शक्ति
दे रहे हैं।**

वर्ल्ड फूड इंडिया कार्यक्रम में पीएम मोदी,
25 सितम्बर 2025



**गांव-गांव पहुँच रही
डिजिटल क्रांति!**

-  **10,000+ पैक्स**
अब डिजिटल ई-पैक्स में परिवर्तित
-  **10,000 से अधिक**
नई डेयरी और मत्स्य समितियों का गठन
-  पैक्स अब प्रधानमंत्री किसान समृद्धि केंद्र और कॉमन सर्विस सेंटर के रूप में विकसित

सहकार से सशक्त किसान समृद्ध भारत



**अंतर्राष्ट्रीय
सहकारिता वर्ष 2025**
के उद्देश्य

-  सहकारिता के परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव और क्षमता के बारे में वैश्विक जागरूकता बढ़ाना
-  सरकारों, निजी क्षेत्रों और समाज को सहकारी पहलों का सक्रिय रूप से समर्थन करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना
-  विश्व भर में सहकारी मॉडलों की सफलता की कहानियों और नवाचारों को प्रदर्शित करना
-  सहकारी समितियों को सक्षम बनाने वाली नीतियों और प्रथाओं को बढ़ावा देना

Ministry of Cooperation
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah
inaugurates the Sabar Dairy Plant in Rohtak, Haryana on 03-10-2025

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated the Sabar Dairy Plant in Rohtak, Haryana on 03-10-2025. On this occasion, Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, along with several other dignitaries were present.



In his address Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has fulfilled the decades-old demand of the farmers of the country to establish a separate Ministry of Cooperation, and the entire nation is grateful to him for this. He said that in the past four years, the Ministry of Cooperation, along with all the state governments of the country, has worked to strengthen the foundation of cooperatives. Union Minister of Cooperation Minister expressed confidence that by 2029, every panchayat in the country will have a cooperative society.

Shri Amit Shah said that today, through Sabar Dairy, the country's largest plant

for producing curd, buttermilk, and yogurt, built at a cost of about ₹350 crore, has been completed for the welfare of milk producers. He said that from Haryana itself, the entire demand for dairy products in the Delhi-National Capital Region (Delhi- NCR) will be fulfilled. Shri Shah further stated that Sabar Dairy, which began in Gujarat's Sabarkantha district, has created vast opportunities for milk producers across 9 states. In Gujarat, Tribhuvan Bhai, Bhura Bhai, and Galba Bhai laid the foundation of dairies, and today, through cooperative dairies, 35 lakh women in Gujarat are carrying out annual business worth ₹85,000 crore.



Union Minister of Cooperation said that at the Sabar Plant, production will include 150 metric tonnes of curd, 10 metric tonnes of yogurt, 3 lakh liters of buttermilk, and 10,000 kilograms of sweets per day, which will pave the way for farmers' prosperity. He added that today Sabar Dairy is serving farmers in Rajasthan, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. He further said that under Amul's leadership, extensive scientific work has been carried out in Gujarat on modern breeding technologies such as embryo transfer and sex-determination. These technologies should also be made available to livestock farmers in Haryana. Along with this, there is a need to promote beekeeping and organic farming in the state. He also mentioned that several

successful experiments on biogas have been carried out in Gujarat, and such initiatives should also be implemented in Haryana.



Shri Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India's dairy sector has grown by 70 per cent in the last 11 years. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India's dairy sector has become the fastest-growing dairy sector in the world. He stated that in 2014–15, the number of milching animals in India was 86 million, which has now increased to 112 million. Similarly, milk production has risen from 146 million tonnes to 239 million tonnes. The production of milk from indigenous cow breeds has increased from 29 million tonnes to 50 million tonnes. Shri Shah said that today about 8 crore farmers in India are connected with the dairy sector. He further added that farmers in our country have raised per capita milk availability in India from 124 grams to 471 grams. Union Minister of Cooperation said that in the last 11 years, many changes have taken place in India's dairy sector, which have brought prosperity to our farmers.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that in terms of per capita milk availability, Haryana consistently ranks between first and third place every year. He added that due to the consistent policies during Prime Minister Modi's tenure, today India stands proudly

before the world as the largest milk producer. Shri Shah said that under White Revolution 2.0, more than 75,000 dairy societies will be established across the country in the coming days, and the government will also strengthen 46,000 dairy cooperative societies. He stated that our current milk processing capacity is 660 lakh liters per day, and our target is to increase this to 100 million liters by 2028–29. Once this goal is achieved, all the profits will directly benefit our farmer mothers and sisters engaged in milk production.

Shri Amit Shah said that recently, the Modi government has established three national cooperative societies for animal feed production, manure management, and the use of dead animal remains in the circular economy. He added that the Modi government has launched the National Gokul Mission, the National Artificial Insemination Program, the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, and the National Animal Disease Control Program. Shri Shah stated that in the coming days, India also aims to become self-reliant in the construction of dairy plants, and for this purpose, the Modi government is moving towards self-reliance in the dairy sector by accelerating dairy plant construction and related research and development by three times.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurates country's first cooperative multi-feed Compressed Biogas plant at Kopargaon in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, on 05-10-2025 inaugurated the country's first cooperative multi-feed Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in Kopargaon, Ahilyanagar district, Maharashtra. On this occasion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Murlidhar Mohol, and several other distinguished personalities were present.



Addressing the event, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that for the first time in the history of India's cooperative sugar mills, a Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant and a potash granule production unit are being established at the Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana. He mentioned that under a new initiative, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's government will provide full support to 15 selected sugar mills in the coming days to set up both these plants with the assistance of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). He added that this new beginning will pave the way for a new path for sugar mills across the country in the coming days.

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the Modi government is dedicated to the welfare of the country's farmers. He mentioned that on October 1, during a Union Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses', under which Rs. 11,340 crore will be utilized over the next six years to make India self-reliant in the pulses sector. Shri Shah said that if farmers producing arhar, urad, and masoor pulses register with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF), the Government of India will procure their entire pulse crop at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). This will also benefit farmers in Maharashtra. He added that pulses will be procured at 100% MSP from 20 million farmers across the country. Furthermore, 1,000 processing units will be established, and 38 lakh high-quality seed kits will be distributed.



Shri Amit Shah said that in the recent Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, an increase in the MSP was approved: Rs. 300 per quintal for masoor, Rs. 250 per quintal for mustard, Rs. 225 per quintal for gram, Rs. 175 per quintal for barley, and Rs. 160 per quintal for wheat. He added that under Modi ji's leadership over the past 11 years, the MSP for jowar has increased by two and a half times, bajra by two and a half times, tur (arhar) by 100 percent, moong by 100 percent, soybean by twofold, and cotton by twofold.

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah stated that under the recent GST reforms, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has decided to reduce the GST to 5 percent on several items used by farmers. These include tractors, tractor parts, harvesters, threshers, sprinklers, drip irrigation systems, and machinery for poultry and beekeeping. Moreover, the GST on organic pesticides and natural menthol has also been reduced to 5 percent. This will benefit millions of farmers.

Shri Amit Shah stated that today, India's first cooperative Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant was inaugurated. This project has involved an investment of approximately Rs. 55 crore. The CBG plant will produce 12 tons of CBG daily and 75 tons of potash from jaggery/molasses. He said that both these products are currently imported by India from abroad, and this new initiative will enable us to stop these imports, taking a step towards a self-reliant India.

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that the Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana has become an ideal example of a circular economy. He emphasized the need to make ethanol plants multidimensional. Shri Shah mentioned that cooperative sugar factories originated in Maharashtra, and the initiative to implement a 100 percent circular economy for sugar factories is starting from here. He urged the Maharashtra government to cooperate in this effort, assuring that the Government of India will also provide support. He stated that the example set by the Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana should serve as a model for all sugar mills in Maharashtra, so that it can be implemented there, leading to significant benefits in operating sugar mills in the future. Shri Shah further mentioned that India's first sugarcane-based ethanol plant was established here. He added that every profit-making sugar factory should also undertake fruit processing, which will promote fruit cultivation and increase the profitability of sugar factories.

Shri Amit Shah said that the Sanjeevani Group has undertaken several significant initiatives in the fields of green energy and sustainability, and has worked to empower numerous women's self-help groups. He added that, alongside this, 100 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) have been integrated, fisheries have been initiated for 1,000 farmers, and Sanjeevani University has been established for 20,000 students. He further said that India's first rural call center was also set up here, providing employment opportunities to many people.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that by establishing the Ministry of Cooperation at the centre, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has initiated a new lease of life for the country's rural economy. He said that the doubts and uncertainties surrounding the future of the cooperative sector have been completely resolved over the past three years. Today, the cooperative sector is emerging as a strong pillar of the nation, which is a matter of pride for all of us.

Shri Amit Shah said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has called upon all citizens to embrace the use of indigenous products. PM Modi has said that if 140 crore Indian citizens and all traders of the country resolve to neither use nor trade in foreign goods, the purchasing power of 140 crore citizens will provide an unprecedented boost to our economy. Shri Shah said that PM Modi has elevated the country's economy from the 11th position to the fourth position, and we are very close to becoming the world's third-largest economy. However, to achieve the top position globally, there is no alternative to adopting swadeshi. He emphasized that every citizen of the country should adopt indigenous products.



Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has urged every individual to take a pledge to plant one tree in the name of their mother and one tree in the name of Mother Earth. He said that this will greatly help in addressing challenges like climate change and global warming in the coming times.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurates 'Deep Sea Fishing Vessels' under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Mazgaon Dock, Mumbai

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah on 27-10-2025 inaugurated 'Deep Sea Fishing Vessels' under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Mazgaon Dock, Mumbai. On this occasion, Maharashtra Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar, and Union Minister of State for Cooperation Shri Murlidhar Mohol were also present.

In his address, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this is a significant step towards modernizing India's marine fisheries sector and promoting cooperative-based development in coastal areas. He said that the Modi government is committed to realizing the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and strengthening the blue economy by leveraging the potential of the cooperative sector.



Shri Amit Shah stated that the inauguration of the two trawlers today will not only enhance India's capacity to harness the potential of its fisheries wealth in the coming days but also ensure that, through cooperatives, the profits of the fisheries industry reach the homes of our hardworking poor fishermen.

Union Minister of Cooperation stated that presently, individuals working on trawlers for fishing are employed on a salary basis, but now, with cooperative-based fishing,

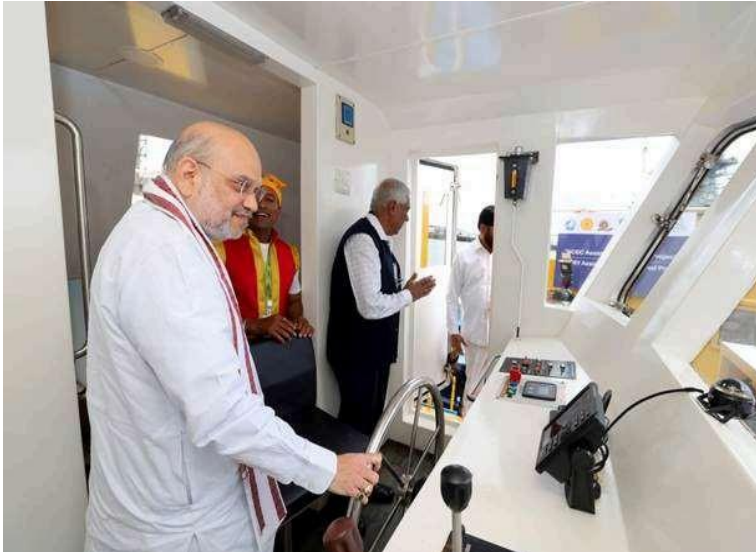
the entire profit from the trawlers will reach the homes of every fisherman involved. Shri Shah said that while 14 such trawlers will be provided initially, the Central Government, the Ministry of Cooperation, and the Fisheries Department plan to provide more such trawlers to fishermen on a cooperative basis in coming time. He mentioned that these trawlers can stay in deep seas for up to 25 days and carry up to 20 tons of fish. Additionally, there will be larger ships to coordinate operations and transport fish from the sea to the shore. He also noted that the trawlers are equipped with convenient facilities for living and dining.



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation stated that a major scheme is being planned in the coming days for the poor brothers and sisters who earn their livelihood by fishing along the approximately 11,000-kilometer-long coastline. He said that the concept of cooperation is that, whether it is milk production, agricultural markets, or fisheries, the profit belongs to the hardworking individual. A country truly prospers only when a poor person in a rural area becomes economically empowered. Shri Shah remarked that those who view the country's prosperity

solely through the lens of GDP do not understand the social structures of such a vast nation. In a country with a population exceeding 130 crore, mere GDP growth does not make it fully developed; a human-centric perspective must also be incorporated. Without the goal of making every individual and every family prosperous, the nation cannot truly prosper.

Shri Amit Shah stated that in the field of fisheries, cooperation is becoming the foundation of the lives of all our brothers and sisters, and we are moving forward in this direction. He mentioned that plans are in place for processing, export, and the deployment of large collection ships in the future.



Shri Amit Shah stated that a country truly prospers only when every family can provide good education to their children, offer a balanced diet, care for the health of the elderly and children, and become self-reliant—only then can the nation be considered prosperous. There is no greater tool than cooperatives to achieve the GDP with human-centric approach. He said that the sugar mills of Maharashtra have made the greatest contribution to enriching the villages of the state.

The entire profit from sugar mills goes directly to the farmer's bank account. Similarly, in Gujarat, millions of women today conduct business worth 80,000 crore through Amul. The entire profit of this 80,000 crore goes to the homes of uneducated women engaged in animal husbandry, and now even graduate and highly educated women are professionally entering the animal husbandry business. This was the vision of our ancestors, and this is the core philosophy of India.

Strengthening Communication.

Empowering Cooperatives.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, chaired a review meeting on 16th October 2025 to assess the progress of directions issued for enhancing media outreach and publicity in the cooperative sector. The discussions emphasized the need to strengthen communication, adopt innovative strategies, and amplify public engagement to align with the Ministry's objectives. The Hon'ble Minister highlighted the potential of 'Bharat Organics', encouraging its promotion through the lens of health and wellness, and leveraging social media as the most effective platform to reach a wider audience. He further recommended creating short-form content like reels and YouTube videos to creatively showcase the Ministry's initiatives and their real-world impact. All officials and stakeholders were directed to develop a comprehensive action plan for greater social media presence and inclusive outreach among cooperative societies and beneficiaries. The meeting was attended by Shri Anand Kumar Jha, Joint Secretary, Shri Kapil Meena, Director, senior officials of the Ministry, and representatives from national-level cooperative federations.



Review Meeting on Media Outreach Activities of the Ministry of Cooperation



Ministry of Cooperation

Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation inaugurated National-Level Workshop cum Review meeting with States/UTs on Strengthening the Cooperative Sector in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

The two-day National-Level Workshop and Review Meeting on Strengthening the Cooperative Sector was held in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. Organised by the Ministry of Cooperation, the workshop brought together representatives from the State/UTs Governments, Secretaries, Registrars of Cooperative Societies (RCS) along with key stakeholders from the cooperative sector. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, in the presence of Shri Pankaj Kumar Bansal, Additional Secretary and other senior officers of the Ministry and several other distinguished dignitaries.



In his keynote address, Dr. Bhutani highlighted the pivotal role of the cooperative movement in advancing the vision of Sahkar Se Samridhi, noting that cooperatives today extend beyond traditional sectors such as agriculture and credit into areas like healthcare, services, and value-chain integration. He emphasized the Ministry's commitment to blending technological advancement with institutional and human capacity development, ensuring cooperatives remain people-centric and future-ready.

A dedicated workshop on computerization of PACS, ARDBs, and Offices of Registrars of Cooperative Societies, was held focused on accelerating the digital transformation of the cooperative sector. The discussions highlighted efforts to ensure complete digitization of PACS operations, build the digital capacity of PACS staff and members, and enable PACS to function as one-stop shops offering integrated services such as agricultural inputs, credit, procurement, and storage. NABARD also presented updates on software development, hardware procurement, and capacity-building support for the project.



Ministry of Cooperation
Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, M/O Cooperation Participated
in the Workshop For Onboarding Cooperative Banks on
Aadhaar Enabled Payment Services on 19 September 2025

(Contd..)

As a continuation of the two-day National Level Workshop and Review Meeting on strengthening the cooperative sector, on second day, a session on best practices commenced focused on the theme “Expanding the Horizons of PACS through Business Diversification”, with discussions also covering key initiatives. Various States/UTs made presentations and shared their best practices.

The workshop also reviewed the progress of three national-level multi-state cooperative societies under the Atmanirbharta Abhiyan: National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL), and Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL).

The Ministry also reviewed the implementation of the National Cooperative Database (NCD), launched in March 2024, which covers over 8.4 lakh cooperatives across 30 sectors and 32 crore members. The NCD provides detailed data on cooperative activities, financial performance, audit status, and infrastructure.

An important part of the workshop was a discussion on the role of cooperatives in insurance sector in the presence of representative for IFFCO-Tokio.

In the last session of the workshop, CRCS briefed the states about the issues and challenges being faced by the Multi-State Cooperative Societies and sought their assistance for better coordination.

In his closing address, the Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, appreciated the constructive deliberations and emphasized the role of PACS and multi-state cooperatives as catalysts for rural development, Atmanirbharta, and digital transformation. He emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration between central and state agencies, leveraging digital tools and data-driven insights for effective governance of cooperatives. He further stated that the state should work on the theme of 'Reform, Perform, Transform, and Inform' for strengthening the cooperative sector in the state.



Furthermore, he stated that all States and Union Territories should share their data with the National Cooperative Database (NCD) to ensure balanced development across the country. He also stressed that the Ministry is already working to sort out the problem regarding banking. This includes encouraging diversification of cooperative businesses to increase income opportunities and strengthen local entrepreneurship. Additionally, he highlighted the need to ensure the timely implementation of schemes, transparency in financial operations, and sustainable management of cooperative resources. While concluding, the Secretary thanked the government of Andhra Pradesh and the cooperative departments for the successful organization of the workshop in Tirupati.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Raman Kumar, Joint Secretary, acknowledging the efforts of state representatives, central officials, and stakeholders for their active participation and valuable contributions.

NEWS FROM NAFSCOB/ICBA

- Dr. J. S. Hanamashetti, Joint Director, NAFSCOB attended online meeting of the Committee for Evaluation of Parameters of the Cooperative Ranking Framework of 09 Sectors held by the Joint Director, MoC on 06-10-2025.
- Shri Satish Marathe, Director, Central Board of RBI, Director, Board of NABARD & founder of Sahakar Bharati, Dr. Uday V Joshi, President, Sahakar Bharati visited NAFSCOB and held discussion on activities/issues related to STCCS under IYC-2025 with Shri Konduru Ravinder Rao, Chairman, NAFSCOB and Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA on 16-10-2025.
- Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA participated in Raiffeisen Forum organised by International Raiffeisen Union on 22-10-2025 in Vienna, Austria.

- Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA participated attended open board meeting of IRU on 23-10-2025
- Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA participated as an invitee in Cooperative Congress on “Stronger Together 25” hosted by Austrian Cooperative Organisations in Hofburg , Vienna, Austria on 23-10-2025.
- Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA made presentation on on the main regulatory restrictions in cooperative capital, taxation and audit, and how they shape up the governance at a global level that impede the activities of cooperative banks and put them at a disadvantage compared to investor-owned banks in Peace Palace, International court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands as a Panelist in international symposium by ICA on 24-10-2025.
- Dr. J. S. Hanamashetti, Joint Director, NAFSCOB participated in General Meeting of International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) and Membership Training Programme in Seoul, South Korea organised by ICAO during 20-24, October 2025.



Shri Konduru Ravinder Rao, Chairman, NAFSCOB felicitating Shri Satish Marathe, Director, Central Board of RBI, Director, Board of NABARD & founder of Sahakar Bharati during his visit to NAFSCOB on 16-10-2025. (From L-R) Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA and Dr. Uday V Joshi, President, Sahakar Bharati were also present.



(From L-R) Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA, Shri Satish Marathe, Director, Central Board of RBI, Director, Board of NABARD & founder of Sahakar Bharati, Shri Konduru Ravinder Rao, Chairman, NAFSCOB and Dr. Uday V Joshi, President, Sahakar Bharati during discussions on activities/issues related to STCCS under IYC-2025 at NAFSCOB on 16-10-2025.



Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA with other participants in Raiffeisen Forum organised by International Raiffeisen Union on 22-10-2025 in Vienna, Austria.



Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA participated in Raiffeisen Forum organised by International Raiffeisen Union on 22-10-2025 in Vienna, Austria, also attended open board meeting of IRU



Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA participated in Stronger Together25: Cooperative Congress hosted by Austrian Cooperative Organisations in Hofburg ,Vienna, on 23-10-2025



24 October is United Nations Day : Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA participated in the event in commemoration of United Nations Day and within the framework of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 organized by ICA, ICBA & ICA-EU at International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague.



Mr. Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, NAFSCOB & President, ICBA felicitating HE Judge of International Court of Justice Mr. Mahmoud Hmoud at the Peace Palace, International Court of Justice(ICJ),The Hague



Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA during his presentation on the main regulatory restrictions in cooperative capital, taxation and audit, and how they shape up the governance at a global level that impede the activities of cooperative banks and put them at a disadvantage compared to investor-owned banks in Peace Palace, International court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands as a Panelist in international symposium by ICA on 24-10-2015.



Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, Managing Director, President, ICBA during panel discussion on the main regulatory restrictions in cooperative capital, taxation and audit, and how they shape up the governance at a global level that impede the activities of cooperative banks and put them at a disadvantage compared to investor-owned banks in Peace Palace, International court of Justice in The Hague, Netherlands as a Panelist in international symposium by ICA on 24-10-2025.

24 October is United Nations Day and IYC 2025: The ICA, through its Cooperative Law Committee (CLC), supported by International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA), the ICA-EU and others convened the International Symposium on Cooperatives and International Law on 24 October 2025, at the Peace Palace, International Court of Justice (ICJ), The Hague, on 24-10-2025 in commemoration of United Nations Day and within the framework of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025. The Symposium ensured the participation of leading jurists, cooperative leaders, policymakers, and academics both in person and online to discuss “Peace, Social Justice and Sustainable Development”. The Chief Guest is Judge Mahmoud Hmoud of the International Court of Justice. Bhima Subrahmanyam, President, ICBA & Managing Director/CEO, NAFSCOB had the opportunity to welcome /felicitate him with Indian Shawl and Himachal Colorful Cap. Bhima is also one of the panelists for theme on “Cooperative Capital, Taxation and Audits”.

Presentation for Panel*

Shri Bhima Subrahmanyam, President, ICBA & Managing Director/CEO, NAFSCOB has been asked to make his detailed statement /presentation on the main regulatory restrictions in cooperative capital, taxation and audit, and how they shape up the governance at a global level that impede the activities of cooperative banks and put them at a disadvantage compared to investor-owned banks. What should governments do about it? Here is his response:

Hon 'Chair Prof Henry, Board members of ICA present here today, Dr Ann App, Chief Moderator of the Panel, distinguished panelists Dr Eric Meyer, Dr. Ifigeneia, Dr. Marilia Ferraz Teixeira and colleagues/cooperators from ICA online,

I am pleased to avail this opportunity to share with all of you on the very important issues of regulatory and policy issues in cooperative capital, banking, taxation and audit, and how they shape up the governance of the cooperative financial institutions and cooperative banks in a competitive environment.

Cooperative Capital: The regulatory & Policy directives restrict how the capital of the cooperatives, the main instrument of member ownership and participation can be mobilized. the cooperative laws in many countries permit shareholding only by members, and require that shares be withdrawable. This makes the capital base unstable and limits access to long-term funds. Moreover, duality of regulation by the Registrar of Cooperatives on one side, and the Central Bank on the other hand creates ambiguity over capital adequacy, dividend policies, and governance standards. Many cooperative banks therefore find it difficult to meet Basel based prudential norms. Proportionality of regulation remains one of the issues.

'Internationally, some countries have responded by introducing **hybrid capital instruments** — for example, *non-voting investment shares* or *subordinated member capital* — that preserve cooperative control while providing permanence and flexibility'. You may now appreciate the fact that there is a growing realization that cooperatives must be allowed to strengthen their capital by maintaining their cooperative identity, values & principles or mutual character.

Cooperative Taxation: Taxation is another area where the legal framework has a profound impact. Cooperative banks operate under the principle of mutuality — that income earned from transactions among members should not be treated as taxable profit. However, once they begin dealing with non-members or undertake broader financial intermediation, this principle becomes contested. You may like to note that National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB), one of the ICA members was taxed for a long time till it was contested under mutuality clause.

In several countries, including India, (tax reforms have been just initiated with the intervention by the newly formed Ministry of Cooperation)) cooperative banks are taxed more heavily than commercial banks and do not enjoy the same deductions or incentives. This kind of taxation on cooperatives restricts their ability to build reserves. It is interesting to note countries that such as France and Canada and India too, provide tax concessions for income retained in reserves, thereby encouraging financial stability. But there continues to be a discussion whether cooperatives should be taxed like investor-owned firms or recognized as distinct institutions that combine economic and social purposes. But we are of the strong view that cooperatives be exempted from taxation to carry out at least their rural activities for agriculture and rural development.

Cooperative Audit directly affects transparency, credibility and public confidence. Cooperative audits are carried out by government-appointed auditors under the supervision of the Registrar at unreasonably high cost and it often results in delays and limited accountability. But it is satisfying to record the fact that the independent statutory audit in many countries is now being carried out by Chartered Accountants to ensure financial discipline.

The overlap of authorities creates duplication and confusion. Cooperatives in countries like Germany rely on Federation based Audit (DGRV) as a part of the Institutional Protection System. Therefore, it raises an issue to address autonomy of the cooperatives.

You now appreciate that the implications of the identified status of constraints on capital, taxation, and audit on cooperative banks results in the following areas:

1. Structural disadvantages compared to investor-owned banks.
2. Constraints to raise capital, pay more taxes, and outdated audit systems.
3. limits the ability to compete and to expand their role in inclusive finance.

Conclusion: The following suggestions help cooperative Banks to appreciate their constraints and to perform their roles very effectively:

1. Ensure proportional Regulation
2. Create enabling laws for cooperative capital instruments
3. Provide fair taxation frameworks for cooperatives.
4. Need to Simplify audit and compliance regimes
5. Promote cooperative access to innovations
6. Foster cooperative representation in regulatory dialogue with Federations.
7. To bring Legislative / legal measures to ensure recognition of cooperative identity, values & Principles.
8. To align with ICA and ILO Recommendation No. 193 (Promotion of Cooperatives, 2002).
9. To initiate all measures to ensure level playing field between cooperative banks and investor-owned banks

Thank you for the opportunity

*Presentation for Panel organized by International Cooperative Alliance(ICA) with the support of International Cooperative Banking Association (ICBA) and the ICA-EU Financial Framework an “International Symposium on Cooperatives and International Law: Peace, Social Justice and Sustainable Development” at The Peace Palace, Social Justice and Sustainable Development, The Hague, Netherlands on 24 October 2025.

Amendment By Reserve Bank Of India

As per the amendment by Reserve Bank of India, the entry “Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Bank Limited, Lucknow” has been replaced with “Uttar Pradesh State Cooperative Bank Limited, (UPSCB) Lucknow.”under the provisions of clause (c) of sub-section (6) of Section 42 of the RBI Act 1934.UPSCB continues to remain a scheduled bank under the Second Schedule of the Act.

72nd All India Cooperative Week

14th – 20th November 2025

Main Theme - Cooperatives as Vehicles for Atmanirbhar Bharat

Nomenclature of Days

14.11.2025	Promoting Digitalisation to Enhance Operational Efficiency, Accountability and Transparency
15.11.2025	Tribhuvan Sahakari University Research and Training Transforming Cooperative Education
16.11.2025	Strengthening Rural Development through Cooperatives
17.11.2025	National Cooperation Policy Ecosystem, structured roadmap for India's cooperatives
18.11.2025	Empowering Youth, Women and Weaker sections including handicrafts, handlooms, Labour and Fisheries through Cooperative Entrepreneurship
19.11.2025	Expanding cooperatives in emerging areas such as Tourism, Health, Green Energy, Platform Coops, Kitchen Coops and any other Conceivable area
20.11.2025	Innovation in Cooperative Business Models for Global Competitiveness

International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation (ICAO) General Meeting and Membership Training during 20-23, October 2025, Seoul, South Korea – A brief Report¹

Dr. J S Hanamashetti

The 2025 ICAO General Meeting was held 20 October 2025, 16:00 to 16:40 at the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation (NACF) headquarter (Seoul, ROK). **Mr. Hodong Kang, the Chair**, shared that he was delighted to see many ICAO members here in Seoul, South Korea. He welcomed all members and members of Executive Committee to the ICAO General Meeting. After stressing the fact that cooperatives shall come together to overcome the global struggle of food security, climate change and the ageing population, he announced that ICAO organised a General Meeting along with ICAO Member Training Program during 20-23 October, in Seoul, South Korea. During the meeting, previous minutes were approved by members, a report on ICAO leadership capacity building project was presented by Mr. Leonardo Neves Prats, OCB, Brazil and ICAO Seoul Declaration was presented:

- **ICAO Seoul Declaration**

The world is facing grave challenges such as global food security crisis, climate crisis and rural depopulation. Agriculture is not just about food production; it is the backbone of human survival and prosperity, while agricultural cooperatives acting as a bastion of agriculture and the rural community, operated under the value of cooperation and democratic governance.

We, the members of International Cooperative Agricultural Organisation, are gathered here today to commemorate the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 designated by the United Nations, reaffirm our will to strive for a sustainable development of agriculture; and to proclaim that ‘farmers’ will is the will of the heaven.’ We hereby declare our commitment to:

1. Reaffirm that agriculture is the foundation for the survival of humanity and the future. Farming has been the key for human development; in this respect, we should acknowledge the role of agricultural cooperatives in contributing to food security for the humankind, regardless of where a person is from or their generation, and further strengthen our efforts for a sustainable food production.
2. Proactively respond to the crisis of worsening climate change. Climate change gravely threatens the sustainability of agriculture. In response to this, we shall promote eco-friendly and low-carbon farming, and agricultural insurance to improve farmers’ income stability.
3. Promote the value of agriculture. Agriculture is not just about food production; it protects the environment, preserves rural community and its unique tradition, which we shall make known.
4. Enhance the quality of life and protect the interests of farmers based on the cooperative spirit of mutual assistance and solidarity. Agricultural cooperatives are a mainstay and the last bastion for farmers, agriculture, and regional community. Based on cooperative values, we shall strive for a sustainable development of the farming and agricultural community while promoting local communities.
5. Initiate the innovation of future agricultural business, and introduce cutting-edge technologies. An active introduction of smart agriculture, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology will enhance agricultural efficiency and efficacy, building a sustainable agriculture.
6. Advocate the participation of youth and women. The future of agriculture can only be brighter with the active participation of a new generation and through innovation; we shall, through unreserved support such as education, technology extension, business incubation, and funding, encourage young generation to engage in farming.
7. Strengthen global solidarity between agricultural cooperatives and expand cooperation. Through knowledge and expertise sharing between agricultural cooperatives, aspire to a more developed and flourishing community.

Membership Training was organised by ICAO from 21-10-2025 to 23-10-2025. During the training following field visits were organised:

- **Day - 1 (21-10-2025):**

¹ Dr. J S Hanamashetti, Jt. Director, NAFSCOB nominated by competent authority and participated in ICAO General Meeting & Membership Training Programme during 20-23, October 2025, Seoul, South Korea, a brief report of the same is presented.

- i. **Nonghyup Distribution & Hanaro Mart:** This was established on 01-05-1995, main objectives for establishment of this mart were for import of agricultural goods, wholesale market Auction shock, and reform of the Act on Distribution and Price Stabilisation of Agricultural and Fishery Products. As of December 2024, total number of employees were 2,271, annual sales was 1.6 trillion KRW and total number of stores are 42.
 - ii. **Central Distribution Center:** This Center was established in February, 2018 with goals of price stability through bulk purchase and direct delivery, price transparency through bidding. The another goal was timely supply through building supply system through agricultural supply reservation and storage system and enhance farmer experience. It deals with Pesticides, fertilizer, agricultural tools, materials, tractors etc.
 - iii. **Ansung Farm Land:** Erstwhile name of this farm land was ‘Korea-Germany Diary Demonstration Farm’ and it was restablished on 11-10-1969. It was built with the loan through an economic cooperation talks with the farmer West Germany President Heinrich Lubke who visited Korea in 1964. It has the facilities of demonstration of farm Hanwoo beef, organic feed production and supply, farm livestock, organic livestock and horse-riding facility.
- **Day-2 (22-10-2025):**
 - i. **Gimhwa NongHyup:** This was established on 24-08-1970, it undertakes the activities viz., Agribusiness, Rice processing, Agricultural Product processing. It has 37 Agricultural Association, 2004 union members. Total number of employees are 69, it undertakes agribusiness of worth 78133 million KRW. It has smart facilities of Depalletizer, Auto dumping system, Check weigher, Robot palletizer, Auto labeller and AI auto system.
 - **Day-3 (23-10-2025):**
 - i. **NH Investment and Securities:** NH Investment & Securities Co. Ltd. was established in 1969 and merged with NongHyup Securities in 2014. Total number of employees are 3086. It has business network of 53 domestic ceters 3 overseas branches and 7 subsidiaries. Total assets is 74.4 trillion KRW and 8.1 trillion KRW of shareholders equity. Total number of members are 2.1 million, among these total members, cooperatives are 1110, regional livestock cooperatives are 116, regional agricultural cooperatives are 915 and commodity cooperatives are 79.

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