

Dated 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

## Shri B.L. Verma Inauguration 68<sup>th</sup> All India Cooperative Week



Inaugurating 68<sup>th</sup> All India Cooperative Week and Cooperative Fair organized by National Cooperative Union of India today, Shri B.L. Verma, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Cooperation said that the government is committed to digitalization of Primary Agriculture Cooperatives in the wake of ambitious target of setting up 3 lakh PACs in next five years. He said that through a software, primary agriculture cooperative societies would be linked with DCCBs, and State Cooperative Banks, in which role of NABARD would be vital. The theme of this year's Cooperative Week celebrations is "Prosperity Through Cooperation". Cooperative Week is organised every year from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November to highlight the achievements of the cooperative movement, and chalk out a growth strategy ahead. For the first time during the Cooperative Week, a Cooperative Fair is being organized by NCUI in which more than 70 stalls of cooperatives/SHGs are being put up in the country. This Fair at NCUI premises opened on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, and will continue till 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.



Shri Verma further said that for digitalization of PACS, the training of officials of PACS is very important in which the role of NCUI as an apex body for cooperative education and training is vital. He further said that the role of cooperatives in implementation of government schemes is very important. He said that cooperative form of business is best for big and small businesses. He highlighted the good work of cooperative organisations like– IFFCO, AMUL, Lijjat Pappad, etc. He further said that considering the problems voiced by many cooperative organisations regarding increasing RBI interference and control in the functioning of cooperative banks, he said that the government in consultation with RBI and other institutions will come up with decisions favouring cooperatives soon.



Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI speaking on the occasion said that the decision of the government to bring in new National Policy on Cooperatives is very important for autonomous and professional functioning of cooperatives. He said that the new Ministry of Cooperation should ensure that the government does not neglect cooperatives in planning and budget formulation.

Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, Chief Executive, NCUI speaking on the occasion highlighted various new initiatives of NCUI like starting of NCUI Haat, under the aegis of which Cooperative Fair is being organized on the occasion of Cooperative Week, undertaking study on contribution of cooperatives in GDP, operation of Skill Development Centre as a Centre of Excellence of Cooperatives, etc. Here, it must be mentioned that NCUI inaugurated NCUI Haat in 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2021, which is a unique selling platform for the products of lesser known cooperatives/SHGs.



On this occasion the monthly magazine of NCUI "The Cooperator" was released. Besides, the training brochures of NCCE (a training wing of NCUI), NCHF Bulletin were released.

