

A Nationwide Initiative to Promote 'Cooperation within Cooperatives'



Sarv Sahakar, Sarv Sakaar

SAHAKAR JAGRAN

Year: 04 Issue: 02 - May 2026



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NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA



Sarv Sahkar, Sarv Sakaar

**SAHAKAR
JAGRAN**

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MINISTRY OF COOPERATION

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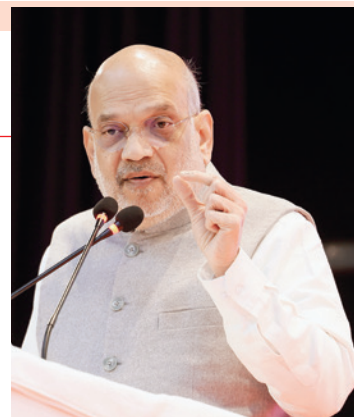
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75,000 New Dairy Cooperatives in Five Years



Through the White Revolution, India emerged as the world's largest milk producer. Now, under White Revolution 2.0, the Modi Government has set an ambitious target of making India the world's leading milk exporter, with the cooperative sector playing a pivotal role in this transformation. In line with this vision, dairy infrastructure is being rapidly expanded across the country, and 75,000 new dairy cooperatives are being established. The Modi Government is also laying a strong foundation for prosperity through cooperation and self-reliance in Ladakh.

To strengthen the dairy sector and cooperative movement in the Himalayan region of Ladakh, Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several major initiatives. In Kargil, he laid the foundation stone for a dairy plant with a processing capacity of 10,000 litres per day. In Leh, he inaugurated new dairy processing units for curd and paneer production, along with a mobile laboratory for milk and dairy testing.

In addition, an important partnership was forged between the Ladakh Milk Federation and Mother Dairy to expand the reach of local dairy products to markets across the country. Further strengthening the vision of digital empowerment in the cooperative sector, an Android-based Automated Milk Collection System (AMCS) application was also launched to streamline procurement processes, ensure transparency in payments to farmers, and improve milk storage and transportation systems. Through this app, milk producers will be able to access transparent records of their milk collection and payments on a single platform.

These initiatives will prove significant in enhancing cooperative dairy processing capacity, strengthening cold-chain systems, and expanding market linkages for local dairy farmers. They reflect the Modi Government's commitment to empowering cooperative institutions in Ladakh, promoting rural livelihoods, and fostering inclusive economic development in the country's remote regions.

In addition to these measures, a new dairy plant with a processing capacity of 50,000 litres per day will be established in Leh at a cost of ₹70 crore in the coming years. The plant will not only harness the growing dairy potential of Leh but will also complement the dairy plant being set up in Kargil, benefiting both regions as milk production increases. Given Ladakh's extremely cold climate and low oxygen levels, special research is being undertaken to identify livestock breeds that can adapt to local conditions. Around 500 high-quality cows and buffaloes will be provided every year to enhance milk production in the region. Through dairy cooperatives, the government aims to improve the standard of living of livestock rearers in Ladakh and expand dairy activities to nearly 85 % of the villages in the region.

This transformative initiative is scripting a new chapter of development and self-reliance in Ladakh while paving the way for a brighter future for farmers in the mountainous region. Amid the harsh Himalayan conditions, limited resources, and infrastructural challenges, the initiative demonstrates how strong resolve and cooperation can turn every challenge into an opportunity. It is emerging as a new symbol of Ladakh's prosperity and progress.

Across the country, dairy cooperative initiatives are not only strengthening the dairy sector but are also generating rural employment, increasing incomes, and promoting women's empowerment. By connecting small farmers and livestock rearers to larger markets through the cooperative model, these initiatives are playing a crucial role in making them self-reliant and economically empowered. ♦♦♦

Jai Sahakar



We are fully committed to the welfare of our farmers across the country. In this regard, approval has been given to establish a fair and remunerative price of ₹365 per quintal for sugarcane for the 2026-27 season. This will benefit millions of sugarcane farmers, while also benefiting sugar mills and millions of workers in this sector.



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



For over five and a half decades, Madhur Dairy has been translating the power of the cooperative movement into reality; by collecting more than 2.5 lakh litres of milk daily, it is emerging as a role model for cooperative dairies across the country. The Central Government is committed to elevating the cooperative dairy sector to new heights through modern technology, innovation and value addition.



Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for
Home and Cooperation



Hindi, besides being our official language, is a powerful language of public sentiment and public communication. The core spirit of cooperation lies in public participation, collective effort, and shared prosperity. In such a situation, it is our responsibility to spread the cooperative movement to every village and every person through simple, easy, and effective Hindi.



Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar
Union Minister of State for Cooperation



India's social security shield is continuously strengthening. Public-friendly insurance schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana are providing financial security and trust to millions of families.

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



Cooperation is moving forward shoulder to shoulder with farmers. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, work has been done to meet their farming needs, as well as provide them loans and waive taxes. Under the guidance of Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation is committed to the development of farmers.

Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India

India Becomes World's Fourth Largest Wind Energy Power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Sahakar Jagran Team

Life is unimaginable without the power of wind. Today, this very power is driving India's progress. India has recently achieved a major milestone in this sector, with the country's wind energy capacity crossing 56 gigawatts. With this achievement, India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest wind energy power, joining the league of leading nations in renewable energy.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted this achievement during the 133rd episode of his radio programme Mann Ki Baat. He said that this success reflects the hard work of India's engineers, the dedication of its youth, and the collective determination of the nation. Several states, including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, are leading the country's wind energy expansion. Regions such as Kutch, Patan, and Banaskantha in Gujarat, which were once known largely for their desert landscapes, are now home to massive renewable energy parks. These developments are creating opportunities for young people, fostering new skills, and opening new avenues of employment.

Shri Modi emphasized that solar and wind energy are essential for India's growth. He stated that renewable energy is not only about protecting the environment but also about securing the nation's future. He urged citizens to save electricity, adopt clean energy, and contribute at every level, noting that meaningful transformation is achieved through collective efforts.



Appealing to the world to embrace the ideals of Gautama Buddha, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the message of Lord Buddha remains as relevant today as ever. He noted that Buddha taught humanity that peace begins within ourselves and that conquering oneself is the greatest victory. At a time when the world is witnessing growing tensions and conflicts, Buddha's teachings have become even more significant and meaningful. Referring to the census exercise, he said that an extremely important national campaign is currently underway in the country, and every Indian should be aware of it. He described the Census as the world's largest population survey and stated that this time the census experience would be different from previous exercises.

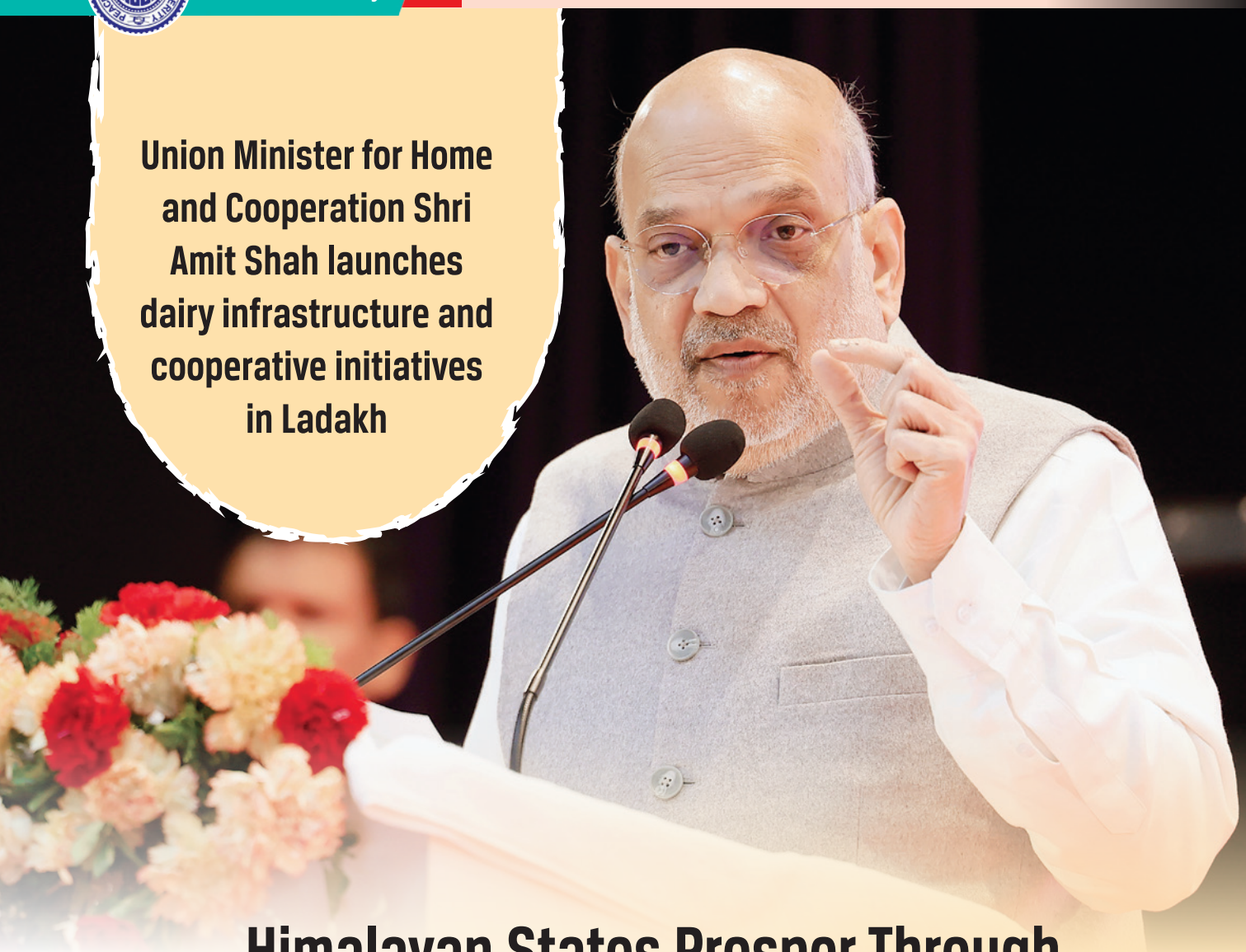
Highlighting the remarkable transformation taking place in India's dairy sector, Shri Modi said that value addition in the sector has given India's traditional flavours a new identity. Indian cheese, he said, is now making its mark across the world, bringing the taste of India to global dining tables. He pointed out

that Kalari cheese from Jammu and Kashmir is often referred to as the "Mozzarella of Kashmir." Similarly, "Chhurpi," a popular dairy product from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh, is widely known for its unique taste that reflects the simplicity and softness of the mountains. One of its distinctive features is that it is made from yak milk.

Describing all eight states of Northeast India as Ashtalakshmi, the Prime Minister said that the region is rich in talent and blessed with immense natural beauty. He noted that the bamboo sector in the Northeast, once viewed as a burden, is now emerging as a major driver of employment, business, and innovation. Women, especially mothers and sisters in the region, are among its biggest beneficiaries. He said that after legislative changes removed bamboo from the category of trees, the sector has witnessed remarkable growth and expansion. The region is now continuously promoting value addition and innovation in bamboo-based industries, creating new economic opportunities and strengthening local livelihoods. ♦♦♦



Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah launches dairy infrastructure and cooperative initiatives in Ladakh



Himalayan States Prosper Through **Cooperative Dairies**

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To promote cooperative dairying in the climatically challenging and high-altitude Himalayan states, Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah has announced an end-to-end solution for the region. Under this initiative, dairy producers, livestock rearers, and farmers will be provided with superior

breeds of milch animals. With the support of scientists engaged in dairy research, high-level breeding centres will be established to develop and supply hybrid varieties of high-yielding dairy animals. This initiative is expected to bring a significant increase in the milk-producing capacity of livestock in the region.

Major cooperative institutions will procure milk produced in these Himalayan areas. To ensure milk collection even from remote villages and settlements, Union Minister

PROMOTING HORTICULTURE FOR A PROSPEROUS LADAKH



Special focus on promoting cooperative dairies and improving the health of milch animals

High-level breeding centres to be established; farmers to receive hybrid breeds of high-yielding dairy animals

Mobile milk collection vans to procure milk from remote villages

for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah flagged off mobile milk collection vans. Mobile testing laboratories have also been launched for animal healthcare and milk quality assessment, which will greatly benefit livestock rearers in Ladakh.

The initiative will also enhance the export potential of dairy products from the region. Livestock rearers engaged in milk production under the challenging conditions of Ladakh will be provided with multiple forms of support to help establish and strengthen dairy enterprises. This will include the availability of veterinary doctors for animal healthcare, modern technology for dairy processing, and financial assistance for setting up and expanding dairy-related infrastructure.

ITBP and Army to Procure Dairy Products from Cooperative Dairies

In Ladakh, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Indian Army are among the largest buyers of milk,

“Laid the foundation stone for a 10 TLPD milk processing plant in Kargil, constructed at a cost of ₹25 crore, and launched new products from the Leh Milk Plant. This project, established by the Government of India, NDDB, and the Ladakh Administration, will accelerate the self-reliance of farmers and livestock farmers.

-Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and Cooperation





Foundation stone laid for a dairy plant in Kargil with a milk processing capacity of 10,000 litres per day at a cost of ₹25 crore

Partnership between the Ladakh Milk Federation and Mother Dairy to expand the reach of local dairy products to markets across the country

Cooperative societies to be established in Ladakh for pashmina, organic products, and honey production



curd, and paneer from cooperative dairies. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah stated that around 18,000 personnel are stationed along the border in the region, and the supply of milk and dairy products to these troops will be ensured through cooperative dairies.

Shri Shah also launched a mobile milk testing laboratory built at a cost of ₹45 lakh and said that it would greatly help in maintaining milk quality standards. The facility will ensure quality assurance in dairy products while extending support to dairy farmers at the grassroots level. Cooperative dairy societies will manage the supply of milk and other dairy products, enabling farmers in the region to secure better value for their produce.

Under the guidance of Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation has intensified its efforts to strengthen cooperative-led rural development through various

initiatives. As part of these efforts, Shri Shah inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for several cooperative projects at the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in Leh to promote the dairy sector and strengthen the cooperative movement in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

These projects, launched with the objective of expanding cooperative dairy processing capacity, strengthening cold-chain systems, and widening market access for local dairy farmers, also include digital and institutional initiatives aimed at modernizing cooperative dairy operations. The initiatives reflect the Government of India's commitment to empowering cooperative institutions, promoting rural livelihoods, and fostering inclusive economic development in remote regions of the country.

Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for a dairy plant with a processing capacity of 10,000 litres per day in Kargil.



“India’s dairy sector is undergoing a major transformation. Value additions in this sector have given our traditional flavours a new identity. Today, Indian cheeses are making their mark globally. Whether its breakfast, lunch, or dinner, India’s flavour is reaching the world’s plates. Take Jammu and Kashmir’s Kalari cheese, known as the “Mozzarella of Kashmir.” The Gujjar-Bakarwal community has been making and eating it for generations. Meanwhile, “Chhurpi” is very popular in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh. The simplicity and tenderness of the mountains are evident in its taste.

- Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

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He also inaugurated new dairy processing units in Leh, including facilities for curd and paneer production. Further strengthening the vision of digital empowerment in the cooperative sector, Shri Shah launched an Android-based Automated Milk Collection System (AMCS) application aimed at streamlining procurement processes, ensuring transparency in payments to farmers, and improving milk storage and transportation systems. He said that through this application, dairy producers and livestock rearers would be able to transparently access records of their milk collection and payments on a single platform. The initiative is also expected to enhance the confidence of dairy farmers and livestock rearers associated with cooperative societies.

Shri Shah also inaugurated the “Bulk Milk Cooler System.”



Expansion of Dairy Infrastructure in Ladakh

Emphasizing the expansion of cooperative initiatives across the country and the growing focus on dairy cooperatives in Ladakh, Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said, “We are expanding dairy infrastructure in Ladakh. In the coming years, a new dairy plant with a processing capacity of 50,000 litres per day will be established in Leh at a cost of ₹70 crore. The plant will not only harness the growing dairy potential of Leh but will also benefit both Leh and Kargil as milk production increases through the new facility being set up in Kargil.”

He further noted that Ladakh has an extremely cold climate and low oxygen levels. Therefore, after extensive research, livestock breeds capable of adapting to local weather conditions will be provided to the people of the region. Efforts will be made to supply high-quality breeds of cows and buffaloes suited to Ladakh’s climate. Approximately 500 high-breed cows and buffaloes will be provided every year to enhance milk production in the region. Shri Shah said that daily milk procurement in Ladakh has already reached nearly 7,000 kilolitres. The government now aims to increase it to 21,000 kilolitres over the next four years in order to improve the prosperity of local farmers. He also stated that following the agreement between the Ladakh Milk Federation and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the dairy network has expanded to 28 villages, with nearly 1,700 dairy producers now associated with it.

He said that there is a plan to increase the livestock population in the region by nearly three times over the next ten years. He expressed confidence that the initiative would bring substantial benefits to the

A New Example of 'Sahakar se Samridhi'

Amit Shah ushers in a new era of cooperation in the lap of the Himalayas

A new call for the power of cooperation resonates in Leh

The modern dairy plant in Kargil emerges as a strong foundation for employment, women's empowerment and essential services in the mountainous border region



people of Ladakh. He urged the administration of Ladakh to accelerate the expansion of dairy activities in every village where there is potential for milk production and animal husbandry. He further stated that in the coming years, the Cooperation Department would also facilitate the establishment of cooperative societies related to pashmina, organic products, and honey in the region.

Two Crore Dairy Producers Take India's Dairy Sector to New Heights

Highlighting the remarkable growth of the dairy sector in recent years, Shri Amit Shah said that while India's total milk production stood at 146 million tonnes till 2014-15 under previous governments, it has increased to 248 million tonnes by 2024-25. As a result, the country has witnessed a 70% rise in milk production over the past decade, with nearly 50% of this growth taking place in the last five years alone. He further noted that per capita milk availability in the country, which was 307 grams per day in 2013-14, has now increased to 485 grams per day. Shri Shah stated that this achievement has been made possible through the contribution of nearly two crore milk producers and 2,36,000 cooperative societies across the country. He also said that the government has set a target of establishing 75,000 new dairy cooperative societies within five years, out of which 21,000 new societies have already been formed. Alongside this expansion, efforts

Cooperative Dairy Sector to Make Women of Kargil Self-Reliant

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that after Shri Narendra Modi became Prime Minister in 2014, the livestock and dairy sector across the country witnessed a major transformation. Referring to the various initiatives launched simultaneously under the cooperative model for the development of the Ladakh region, Shri Shah said that the establishment of a dairy plant in a high-altitude area like Kargil can bring new hope and opportunities for the women of the region. He said that women in Kargil can improve their livelihoods, support their families, and become self-reliant through cooperative dairying. According to Shri Shah, the region holds immense potential for dairy development, and by becoming associated with the dairy sector, women will be able to contribute significantly towards the education and better future of their children. Citing the success of women in Gujarat through dairy cooperatives, he said that women there have achieved a turnover of ₹1.25 lakh crore through similar small-scale dairy initiatives. He added that the new project being launched in Kargil at a cost of ₹25 crore would certainly prove beneficial for the mothers and sisters of the region.

Shri Amit Shah said that the Ladakh Milk Federation and Mother Dairy have entered into an agreement that will connect Ladakh with markets across the country. He stated that this partnership will provide better market access to local dairy producers and ensure fair prices for farmers. Appealing for Ladakh's organic products to reach major markets in Delhi, Shri Shah urged the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to work jointly with the National Cooperative Organics Limited through a tripartite MoU to make this vision a reality. He also called upon Mother Dairy to create nationwide marketing arrangements for Ladakh's dairy products through cooperative institutions.

Shri Shah also honoured progressive dairy farmers from the region. The five livestock rearers who were awarded, he said, would serve as an inspiration for all dairy farmers and livestock rearers in Leh and Kargil. All these initiatives of the government represent a major step towards realizing the vision of "Prosperity through Cooperation."

The event was also attended by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Ministers of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri S. P. Singh Baghel and Shri George Kurian, as well as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena.



A New Beginning of Cooperation in Ladakh

The power of cooperation is giving new hope and new horizons to farmers living in the cold desert region of Ladakh. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, a modern dairy plant established in Kargil at a cost of ₹25 crore has emerged as a symbol of prosperity for local communities. With a milk processing capacity of 10,000 litres per day, the plant is bringing new economic opportunities to the region despite its challenging natural conditions.

This transformative initiative is scripting a new chapter of development and self-reliance across the vast Himalayan region while paving the way for a brighter future for farmers living in mountainous areas. Through dairy cooperatives, the government has set a target of improving the standard of living of livestock rearers and expanding dairy activities to nearly 85 percent of the

villages in Ladakh.

At present, around 1,700 dairy-producing farmers from 28 villages are associated with dairy cooperatives in the region, contributing nearly 7,000 kilolitres of milk daily. The government has now set a target of increasing milk procurement to 21,000 kilolitres per day over the next four years, thereby creating new opportunities for enhancing farmers' incomes. These cooperative initiatives in the dairy sector are creating a new development story through increased production, digital empowerment, and stronger market linkages. Amid the harsh conditions of the Himalayan region, limited resources, and infrastructural challenges, the initiative demonstrates that with strong determination and the spirit of cooperation, every challenge can be transformed into an opportunity. It is emerging as a new symbol of prosperity and progress for Ladakh.

are also underway to modernize and strengthen 46,000 existing cooperative societies across the country.

Government Focused on the Holistic Development of the Union Territory of Ladakh

Union Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that making Leh-Ladakh and Kargil a Union Territory had been a long-standing demand of the people of the region. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government granted Union Territory status

to Ladakh in 2019. Since then, the region now has seven districts and 193 panchayats. Five new districts — Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass — have recently been notified. Keeping in mind the convenience of local residents, local languages have also been given recognition in administrative work. Along with Bhoti, Purig, Urdu, Hindi, and English, regional languages have been accorded due importance in governance and administration.

Shri Shah stated that development works in the Union Territory of Ladakh remain among the top priorities of

“ Launched a mobile lab, bulk milk cooler, and app-based milk collection system in Ladakh. These initiatives are a concrete step towards increasing farmers’ incomes, providing them with real-time payment, milk collection, and quality control.

-Shri Amit Shah
Union Minister for Home and
Cooperation

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the Modi Government. Highlighting the rapid pace of development in the region, he said that before 2019, Ladakh had around 1,800 kilometres of roads, which have now expanded to 4,040 kilometres. The number of bridges in the region has increased from 19 to 72. Similarly, mobile towers for communication connectivity have increased from 344 to 653. The number of grid-connected villages has risen from 145 to 184, while the number of distribution transformers has grown from 1,182 to 3,153. In terms of

air connectivity, the number of helipads has increased from seven to 41.

Shri Shah further noted that the number of snow-clearing machines in the region has increased dramatically from just seven earlier to 215 today. These machines and related infrastructure have made a major difference in maintaining connectivity during harsh winters. He added that work on the Zoji La Tunnel is progressing rapidly, while construction of the Shinkula Tunnel has also begun.





Strong export potential for dairy products from the dairies of Himalayan states

**Inauguration of new
processing units in Leh
for curd and paneer
production, along with
mobile laboratories for
milk and dairy testing**

Referring to improved all-weather connectivity, Shri Shah said that the Zoji La Pass, which earlier remained closed for nearly 127 days every year, remained shut for only 19 days this year. Similarly, the Kargil-Zaskar road, which earlier remained closed for around 154 days annually, was shut for only 11 days this time.

Work has also begun on the construction of a new civil airport in the Ladakh region. Advanced communication facilities have now been introduced across all panchayats, along with significant progress in upgrading the region's network infrastructure to 4G connectivity. The government has established Sindhu Central University in the region. In addition, 174 ICT laboratories have been set up, along with 230 smart classrooms and 40 astronomy laboratories. A total of 24 Atal Tinkering Labs have also been established.

Shri Amit Shah said that Ladakh became a fully literate administrative unit in 2024, with virtually no illiteracy remaining in the region. Nearly 98 % of households in the Union Territory have also been connected under the Har Ghar Jal Yojana. Shri Shah further stated that extensive work has been carried out in the fields of agriculture and horticulture. To accelerate development activities, Ladakh's budget has now reached nearly ₹6,000 crore. He pointed out that when Ladakh was part of Jammu and Kashmir, only around ₹1,000 crore was spent on the region, whereas today the Government of India is investing nearly ₹6,000 crore.

Shri Shah also said that the government has established the Sindhu Infrastructure Development

Indian Dairy Products Make a Strong Mark on the Global Stage

Indian dairy products are no longer confined to domestic markets; they are now establishing a distinct identity on international platforms as well. At the prestigious "International Competition 2026" held in Brazil, India's handcrafted dairy cheese products not only made a remarkable debut but also won four major medals in their very first participation. This achievement marks a historic milestone for India's dairy industry and demonstrates that the country is now setting global benchmarks not only in milk production but also in high-quality processed dairy products. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Indian cheese makers for this remarkable accomplishment in the dairy sector.

Describing the success as evidence of the growing global influence of India's artisanal dairy sector, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that the achievement highlights the rapidly expanding international recognition of Indian artisanal dairy products. He noted that Indian products are now crossing borders and establishing a unique identity on global platforms. According to him, this is a powerful example of the journey from "Vocal for Local" to "Local to Global."

The popularity of artisanal cheese is growing rapidly in India. Due to their purity, handcrafted production processes, and health-oriented qualities, these products are increasingly finding acceptance in premium markets. The recognition received in Brazil demonstrates that with a strong focus on quality and innovation, Indian products can successfully compete anywhere in the world. According to experts, this victory is expected to create new opportunities for Indian dairy exports and further strengthen the global credibility of Indian dairy products. The benefits of this achievement are likely to directly reach farmers and contribute positively to the rural economy.

Corporation, which is expected to play a significant role in promoting industrial development in the coming years. He emphasized that the government wants this frontier region to become self-reliant. Expressing gratitude to the people of Ladakh and Kargil, Shri Shah said that whenever India faced threats along this border, the people of Ladakh stood bravely in defence of the nation. He noted that the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice shown by the people of Ladakh is respected across the country — from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Dwarka to Kamakhya. Every citizen of India, he said, appreciates the commitment of the people of Ladakh towards national security and for keeping this vast frontier region firmly connected with India. ♦♦♦



Shri Amit Shah Addresses the inauguration event of the Sacred Relics Exhibition of Bhagwan Buddha in Leh

Teachings of Bhagwan Buddha Relevant Even After 2,500 Years

Sahakar Jagran Team

For thousands of years, Indian civilization has conveyed the message of peace and non-violence. This land has preserved and nurtured knowledge, culture, and spiritual traditions through the centuries. Among these, the teachings of Mahatma Buddha and his messages of

- ✦ The life of Bhagwan Buddha inspires us to continuously move forward for the welfare of humanity while following the path of truth, non-violence, and compassion
- ✦ Indian culture and the profound message of Bhagwan Buddha show the path of resolving conflicts through dialogue and following the middle way

peace, compassion, and the middle path continue to hold immense

significance even in modern times. In fact, his teachings are even more

- ▶▶ Ladakh is not merely a geographical region, but a living laboratory of Buddhist culture and compassion.
- ▶▶ The true essence of peace and compassion resides in Ladakh; the sacred relics of Lord Buddha have returned to the region after 75 years.
- ▶▶ Ladakh's heritage teaches us that amid conflict and unrest, the path of peace and compassion alone can provide the ultimate solution.

relevant to the world today than they were 2,500 years ago.

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah expressed these views during the programme organised for public Visit of the sacred relics of Tathagata Buddha in the Union Territory of Ladakh. Inaugurating the 2569th Buddha Purnima celebrations in Leh, Shri Shah described the return of the sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Ladakh after 75 years as a “historic reunion.” He said that the Union Territory has, for centuries, remained a “living land of Dharma,” preserving and nurturing Buddhist wisdom and traditions.

These sacred relics, brought from Piprahwa, are not merely religious symbols, but represent a historic moment that deepens Ladakh's cultural heritage and strengthens its identity as a global centre of Buddhism. The relics, which will be displayed for devotees in Leh and later in Zaskar and other centres, are expected to open new avenues for tourism and peace in the Himalayan region.



Shri Amit Shah said that Mahayana Buddhist literature states that having the fortune to witness the sacred relics is akin to having the fortune of seeing Lord Buddha himself. He further remarked that it is rare in history for a person's birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana to have occurred on the same day, as was the case with Lord Buddha, making the occasion deeply auspicious and inspiring for all.

Ladakh Has Been a Living Land of Dharma for Centuries

Ladakh has remained a living land of Dharma for centuries. This sacred region has preserved and nurtured knowledge through generations. Amit Shah said that after so many years, Tathagata Buddha has

returned to one of his most beloved lands through these sacred relics. Their presence in Ladakh serves as a reminder that Indian civilization has, for thousands of years, carried the message of peace and coexistence.

Shri Shah said, “Whenever Buddhism faced a crisis, this land worked to protect the teachings of Buddha, and whenever peace returned, it helped expand and spread that preserved wisdom further. The message that emerged from the soil of Ladakh has become a source of inspiration for countless people across the world in guiding their lives forward.”

Inspiration for the Welfare of Humanity from the Life of Mahatma Buddha

Emphasizing the life values of Mahatma Buddha, Shri Amit Shah

said, "The life of Lord Buddha inspires us to continuously move forward for the welfare of humanity while following the path of truth, non-violence, and compassion. His invaluable wisdom will continue to illuminate human civilization for ages to come."

He said that over several centuries, Buddhism reached and flourished in Ladakh through different routes and at different periods, eventually spreading beyond the region as well. It was through Ladakh and the surrounding routes that the teachings of Tathagata Buddha travelled to China and several other countries. Shri Shah further said that the entire world should understand and embrace India's wisdom and the great message of Lord Buddha in order to move towards solutions through dialogue and advance on the path of the Middle Way.

The Path of Peace and Compassion Amid Conflict and Turmoil

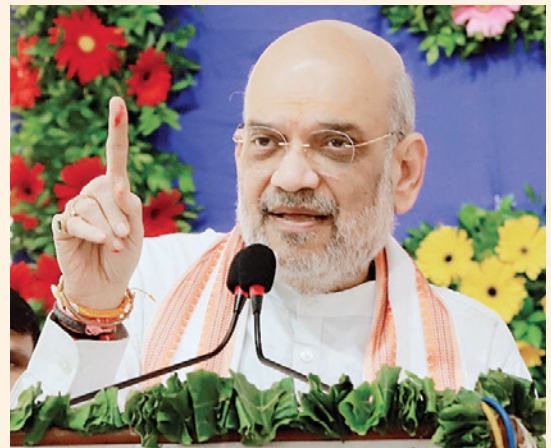
Shri Amit Shah said that the spiritual identity of Ladakh has been shaped by the four major Buddhist traditions — Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Gelug. He explained that Nyingma teaches one to see things exactly as they are. Kagyu emphasizes that the blessings of the Guru and continuous self-reflection are the gateway to liberation. Sakya conveys that knowledge is incomplete without spiritual practice, and spiritual practice without knowledge is blind; therefore, the union of wisdom and practice is the true path. The Gelug tradition teaches the importance of moral discipline, because without ethical conduct, a truly enlightened life cannot be achieved.

Shri Shah said that the message emerging from the land of Ladakh has become a guiding force for the world today. He added that

Ladakh Is an Ancient Centre of Buddhist Philosophy and Art

Amit Shah said that even today, wherever Buddhist traditions exist across the world, the knowledge nurtured and enriched in Ladakh is regarded as highly significant. He noted that the region once served as an ancient centre of Buddhist studies, Mahayana philosophy, and Buddhist

art connected with Kashmir. He said that the envoys of Emperor Ashoka laid the foundation of Buddhist influence in Ladakh. During the Kushan period, between the first and third centuries, the rise and spread of Mahayana Buddhism also reached Ladakh.



Ancient stupas, Buddhist statues, and Kharosthi-Brahmi inscriptions stand as evidence that Buddhism continued to flourish in the region during that era.

Shri Shah further said that the Silk Route, connecting Kashmir, Leh, Yarkand, Khotan, and Tibet, became important not only for trade but also for the exchange of ideas and culture. He added that between the 7th and 10th centuries, Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions reached Ladakh from Tibet, enriching the teachings of Tathagata Buddha in the region. He said that a decisive contribution came during the 10th and 11th centuries, when Sanskrit texts were translated into Tibetan. During this period, 108 monasteries were established, including the famous Alchi Monastery, giving Buddhism an institutional and enduring form in Ladakh.

this message becomes even more relevant in diverse regions such as Kargil and Ladakh. This heritage, he said, continues to remind humanity that amidst conflict and unrest, the path of peace and compassion alone can lead to a lasting solution.

Shri Shah further stated, "Until a person absorbs knowledge and makes it a part of life, liberation is not possible. Knowledge remains

incomplete without spiritual practice, while spiritual practice without knowledge becomes directionless. Therefore, the union of spiritual discipline and wisdom is the right path. Even after achieving both, if there is no moral discipline, one cannot truly live an enlightened life. Ethical discipline is the very foundation of a life filled with wisdom." ♦♦♦

Maximum Focus on Connectivity and Infrastructure in Sikkim

Sikkim's Organic and Natural Farming Model Becomes an Inspiration for the Nation

Sahakar Jagran Team

Tourism is one of the major sources of employment in Sikkim. It generates substantial income, and tourism can flourish only when infrastructure is strong and well developed. In recent years, hundreds of kilometres of highways have been constructed in the state, while work to connect every village through road networks is progressing rapidly. Modern infrastructure is now becoming a reality in the state.

Highlighting the government's commitment, the Prime Minister said that the highest priority is being given to strengthening Sikkim's connectivity and infrastructure. Referring to the Bagdogra-Gangtok Expressway and the Sevoke-Rangpo railway line as crucial links connecting Sikkim with the rest of the country, he said that new national highways are being built, while essential future-oriented projects such as the Ring Road in Gangtok are also making steady progress. Work in this direction, he added, is moving ahead at a rapid pace.

Appreciating Sikkim's efforts in organic farming, the Prime Minister said that Demajong is now known not only for rice production but also for organic rice. Large cardamom, ginger, turmeric, avocado, and kiwi from the state are reaching national and international markets, while hundreds of varieties of medicinal



✦ Now roads connect every village in Sikkim

plants are becoming a source of income for local communities.

To promote natural farming and provide farmers with direct access to markets, an organic processing plant has been established. The Prime Minister said that Sikkim's model of organic and natural farming serves as an inspiration for the entire country. He added that the lifestyle and determination of the people of Sikkim have now become a part of the nation's broader vision.

Citing the example of the Sevoke-Rangpo railway line, Narendra Modi said that although the project was approved in 2008-09, it remained stuck in files and no real work was carried out on the ground. After the present government came to power at the Centre, development regained momentum, and for the first time, rail connectivity is reaching Sikkim.

Emphasizing the need for innovative ideas to boost tourism in the state, the Prime Minister highlighted the construction of

ropeways in Bhaleydunga, Yeen-Yeng, and Pelling, the Skywalk being developed at Bhaleydunga, and preparations for a glass-deck skywalk at the Singshore Bridge as examples of forward-looking initiatives. Work is also underway to improve the border tourism experience at places such as Nathu La and Namli. He said these efforts would make life easier for local residents, increase tourist footfall, enhance incomes, and create greater employment opportunities.

Referring to the rapidly changing global perspective on economic growth and resources, Shri Modi said that the world is now focusing on sustainable lifestyles, clean energy, and organic food products. According to him, the Northeast and Sikkim are emerging as key centres of this future-oriented development. He added that Sikkim has shown a new direction to the entire country by declaring itself a fully organic state in 2016, setting an example for the nation. ♦♦♦

Bharat Taxi in Mumbai: 25,000 Sarathis Onboard New Platform



Sahakar Jagran Team

The roots of cooperation are becoming stronger and deeper as a robust pillar of the socio-economic development of all sections of society in our country. Under the leadership of Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry of Cooperation is continuously taking effective steps to realize Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Sahkar Se Samridhhi. Among these initiatives, the Bharat Taxi Service is an innovative and far-reaching step that is providing a new direction to urban transportation through a cooperative and technology-driven model. In Mumbai, 25,000 drivers have been onboarded so far on Bharat Taxi's digital platform.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and local Member of Parliament Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the Bharat Taxi expansion programme from Kamla Vihar Sports Club, Kandivali West, Mumbai. Hundreds of auto-rickshaw and cab drivers,

Bharat Taxi's driver onboarding campaign inaugurated in Mumbai

Mumbai now joins Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Lucknow among active cities

To date, over 517,000 drivers and more than 50 lakh passengers have joined the platform

Bharat Taxi focuses on driver welfare, digital empowerment and the expansion of organized urban mobility systems

Approximately 10 lakh rides are completed every month through Bharat Taxi

transport union representatives and members of cooperative associations participated in the event. The objective is to expand Bharat Taxi through a digital platform, thereby increasing the participation of Sarathis, improving transparency and providing them with better income opportunities. With the organized mobility network of this taxi service

expanding rapidly in cities such as Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Lucknow, the service has now also expanded in Mumbai.

This rapid growth of Bharat Taxi is part of Shri Amit Shah's vision, under which he has called for the expansion of Bharat Taxi to all major cities of the country within the next three years. In this context, the Mumbai initiative

of Bharat Taxi has emerged as an important milestone in the national development roadmap.

This significant step, aimed at improving the livelihoods of taxi drivers (Sarathis) while also providing passengers relief from unnecessary financial burdens, forms part of the government's broader strategy. The initiative seeks to simplify the onboarding process, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure more consistent access to ride demand. While more than 5.17 lakh drivers have joined the Bharat Taxi platform so far, over 50 lakh customers have also been onboarded. In cities across the country, including Delhi and Gujarat, Bharat Taxi is currently facilitating approximately 10 lakh rides every month.

Better Livelihoods for Auto and Cab Drivers

The launch of the 'Bharat Taxi Driver Onboarding' initiative in Mumbai marks a significant step towards strengthening urban mobility and improving drivers' livelihoods; it will ensure better earnings for lakhs of auto-rickshaw and cab drivers in Mumbai, just as it has in other parts of the country. The campaign to make cooperative taxi services accessible to the public, while also ensuring the holistic well-being of the drivers, has reached a new milestone.

Tech-Driven Cooperative Mobility Framework

Describing the launch of Bharat Taxi operations in Mumbai as a meaningful decision for both Sarathis and commuters in the metropolis, Bharat Taxi Chief Operating Officer Shri Vivek Pandey stated that Mumbai is a high-potential market, where the strong support received from local driver unions has further strengthened confidence in the expansion of this cooperative platform in the city

Giving Importance to Transparency and Dignity Labour

Bharat Taxi is a ride-hailing platform based on a cooperative model in which Sarathis are regarded as partners rather than merely service providers. Here, Sarathis are connected as stakeholders and partners in the system. This onboarding campaign, based on a cooperative and technology-driven model aimed at strengthening India's evolving mobility ecosystem, is part of broader efforts to reinforce driver-first mobility systems in major cities.

The initiative ensures transparent commissions, better earnings, and dignified working conditions. This service provides Bharat Taxi drivers with the opportunity to join as partners, while also enabling them to benefit from digital tools that can enhance transparency, income, and the dignity of labour. Such initiatives represent the future direction of India's urban transportation systems.

and in building a robust ecosystem for Sarathis.

This expansion of Bharat Taxi in Mumbai is aligned with the evolving needs of Sarathis and passengers in metropolitan areas and underscores the continuous commitment of the Government of India and the Ministry of Cooperation towards promoting a technology-driven, inclusive, and cooperative mobility framework. It is the result of the government's far-reaching policy initiatives and their successful implementation, as the expansion of Bharat Taxi into a metropolitan city like Mumbai within just a few months of the launch of the service is reinforcing the government's resolve to strengthen urban mobility across the country.

Bharat Taxi: A Product of Cooperative Thinking

Inspired by the philosophy of cooperation and community development, Bharat Taxi is fundamentally and ideologically different from the profit-centric approach of private companies such as Ola and Uber. Through this

initiative, drivers have found relief from widespread challenges such as exploitation by private taxi service providers, arbitrary commission structures and unsafe working conditions, while the safety of passengers have also been ensured.

In fact, this cooperative platform is a government-supported initiative against the capitalist model in which companies like Ola and Uber have been criticized for exploiting drivers. Instead, Bharat Taxi seeks to provide ownership rights to all Sarathis by rejecting such models of exploitation. Bharat Taxi connects drivers as partners and provides them with transparency, better earning opportunities and dignified work through digital tools. Under this cooperative model, passengers have also received relief from unnecessary tariffs and arbitrary fare hikes. In this context, the government-supported Bharat Taxi is emerging as an alternative and more equitable system. It has also generated expectations that, in the coming days, this campaign will expand to other Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities across the country. ♦♦♦



**Varanasi Gifted Development Projects Worth
₹6,350 Crore at Women's Conference**

Government Committed to Women's Participation in Policymaking: PM

- ★ Government accords highest priority to women's welfare
- ★ India's 'Nari Shakti' is a strong pillar of a Viksit Bharat
- ★ Emphasis placed on enhancing women's economic participation with convenience and security

Sahakar Jagran Team



Women play a crucial role in nation-building. 'Nari Shakti' is the strongest pillar of a 'Viksit Bharat'. Our government is committed to implementing reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies and ensuring their participation in the policy-making process. The government has given the highest priority to the welfare of women. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed these views while inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of development projects worth ₹6,350 crore at the Mahila Sammelan held in Varanasi.

Addressing the women, Shri Modi said, "I assure you that I will leave no stone unturned in turning your right to reservation into a reality." Highlighting the transformative power of women's empowerment, the Prime Minister said that when a woman in a household becomes empowered, the entire family gains strength, and this in turn strengthens society and the nation. Reiterating his commitment to breaking regressive mindsets, Shri Modi recalled that 25 years ago, when he became the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he launched two schemes for girls, 'Shala Praveshotsav', to ensure that more girls attend school and complete their education, and 'Mukhyamantri Kanya Kelavani Nidhi', to help support their education expenses. Since then, and continuing till today, women's welfare has consistently remained the highest priority in our government's policies. Every possible effort is being made to promote their interests.

Referring to the various welfare initiatives launched since 2014, Prime Minister Shri Modi said that more than 12 crore toilets have

been built, more than 30 crore bank accounts have been opened for women, more than 2.5 crore households have received electricity connections and tap water has reached more than 12 crore homes. These initiatives placed sisters and daughters at the centre of national development. They include schemes such as Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Matru Vandana Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat.

Referring to the opening of Sukanya Samriddhi accounts for 27,000 girls within just one month two years ago, with ₹300 deposited into each account, Shri Modi said that the scheme has strengthened girls' education, while the Mudra Yojana has ensured opportunities for their earnings. For the first time, under the PM Awas Yojana, properties worth crores have been registered in the names of women. Today, our mothers and sisters are becoming the owners of their homes. Describing convenience and security as the foundation of empowerment, the Prime Minister said that the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has instilled new confidence through faster decisions in crimes against women.

Emphasising the importance of economic empowerment, the Prime Minister said that when women's economic strength increases, their voice within the household and family becomes equally stronger. Over the past 11 years, nearly 10 crore women have been connected with self-help groups. So far, 3 crore sisters have become 'Lakhpati Didis'. Thousands of women from Banaras are also among them.

Highlighting the contribution of the dairy sector towards women's empowerment, the Prime Minister encouraged the lakhs of women associated with Banas Dairy, who have directly received a bonus amounting to ₹106 crore. He said, "This is only the beginning.



Banaras will progress, Banas Dairy will progress, and this bonus will continue to increase." Referring to the campaigns for building a 'Viksit Bharat' being entrusted to women, Shri Modi said that 'Banking Sakhis' are advancing digital payments, 'Insurance Sakhis' are leading insurance-related initiatives, 'Krishi Sakhis' are promoting natural farming, and 'Namo Drone Didis' are spearheading the drone revolution in the agriculture sector. In addition, new avenues have opened up for daughters in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Sainik Schools and defence academies.

Highlighting the government's citizen-centric approach with the mantra of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava', the Prime Minister said that education, employment, healthcare, irrigation, and grievance redressal are the government's top priorities. With the same spirit, the development of Kashi has been expanded through several major projects. Referring to Kashi's emergence over the last decade as

a major healthcare hub for northern and eastern India, Shri Modi said that a 500-bed multi-super speciality hospital will further strengthen the healthcare system in the region. In addition, the foundation stone for a 100-bed critical care block has also been laid.

Referring to the inauguration of projects related to all-round development in Kashi, Shri Modi said that works to enhance connectivity between Kashi and Ayodhya have also been initiated. Two 'Amrit Bharat' trains, from Kashi to Pune and from Ayodhya to Mumbai, were flagged off. This will provide people across Maharashtra with modern connectivity options to reach these sacred cities. Connectivity between Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra will also improve further. People will now have another modern option to travel to Ayodhya Dham and Kashi Vishwanath Dham, enabling them to fulfil their religious and spiritual aspirations in an easy and convenient manner. ♦♦♦

Regional Workshop Organized in Jaipur Promotes 'Sahakar se Samriddhi'

A Nationwide Initiative to Promote 'Cooperation within Cooperatives'

Sahakar Jagran Team



Cooperation is emerging as a strong foundational pillar of the rural

Indian economy. In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi', the Ministry of Cooperation, under the leadership of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, is committed to building a prosperous and self-reliant India. To achieve this objective, the Ministry of Cooperation is organizing a series of regional workshops across the country to accelerate transformative reforms in the cooperative sector. As part of this nationwide initiative, the first cooperative workshop was organized in Jaipur, Rajasthan, where the resolve for cooperative development through 'Cooperation within Cooperatives' was reiterated along with efforts to further expedite the implementation of cooperative reforms.

This workshop is an important initiative towards strengthening the rural economy through cooperation and realizing the goal of 'Sahkar Se Samriddhi'. Through its various initiatives, the Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to modernizing the cooperative sector, enhancing transparency, promoting professional management, and strengthening the participation of States and grassroots institutions such as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), thereby making



- ★ Emphasis on the implementation of initiatives by the Ministry of Cooperation, such as the Decentralized Grain Storage Scheme, the digitization and expansion of PACS and the expansion of dairy and fisheries cooperatives
- ★ Special focus by the Union Government on state-wise action plans for the financial year 2026-27

cooperation a strong pillar of India's rural economy.

Under the guidance of Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, these cooperative initiatives are accelerating the plan to provide modern grain storage facilities to farmers in villages across the country through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at

the nearest level possible. The main focus of the workshop remained on the progress, implementation strategy, and State-wise targets of the world's largest grain storage scheme. Special discussions were held on the identification of PACS, project implementation, and inter-agency coordination to achieve storage capacity targets ranging

from 5 lakh tonnes to 50 lakh tonnes.

Focus on 'Cooperation within Cooperatives'

Along with making the PACS network transparent, strong, and expansive, it has also been extended into more than two dozen sectors in order to diversify cooperative activities. At the same time, the government is placing special focus on promoting 'Cooperation within Cooperatives' for the welfare of members and beneficiaries of cooperative institutions.

Committed to realizing the vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhhi', this workshop organized by the Ministry of Cooperation witnessed participation from senior officials of the Government of India, NABARD, national cooperative institutions, and representatives from various States and Union Territories. The workshop emerged as an important platform for reviewing the progress of major cooperative initiatives, discussing implementation-related challenges, and finalizing practical strategies to enhance the reach and efficiency of PACS, dairy cooperative institutions, fisheries cooperative institutions, and storage infrastructure across the country.

Organized as an effective platform for reviewing cooperative policies, assessing progress, exchanging best practices, and preparing time-bound action plans to further strengthen the cooperative system at the grassroots level, the workshop also reviewed the progress of the world's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector. Discussions were held on monitoring loan approval processes, implementation under agricultural marketing infrastructure, identification of PACS, land selection, preparation of detailed project reports, and operational coordination. During the deliberations, the States and Union Territories also presented

Rural Prosperity, Employment Generation and Inclusive Economic Development

The Chairman of NABARD, along with the Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation, emphasized during the deliberations that the need to strengthen the cooperative sector as a key pillar of rural prosperity, employment generation and inclusive economic development.

In one of the major sessions of the workshop, representatives from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the National



Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF), the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) presented their respective progress reports on warehouse development. These reports included details regarding site selection for warehouses, district-wise requirements, rental mechanisms, indicative rates, and operational plans for storage infrastructure.

During a special discussion on the framework of the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, information was shared regarding the process of integrating PACS under the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority, including simplified procedures, eligibility criteria, training support and the benefits available to cooperative institutions.

their action plans to achieve grain storage targets by September 2026 and September 2027.

Emphasis on Strengthening of M-PACS

During the discussions on the formation and strengthening of Multipurpose PACS (M-PACS) for the year 2026–27, participating States shared district-wise targets for the establishment, registration, affiliation and business development of new committees. Deliberations were held on strategies to expand the credit activities of PACS, increase deposit amounts, diversify business operations, and significantly enhance the income of PACS through the

planned leadership of the Ministry of Cooperation.

During the discussions on dairy and fisheries cooperative institutions, special emphasis was laid on strengthening existing cooperative societies, increasing membership, enhancing productivity, strengthening procurement systems, and building sustainable value chains. Alongside this, discussions were also held on the revival of weak cooperative institutions across the country and their integration with institutional financial systems, so that all units of the cooperative sector could be strengthened. ♦♦♦

Inauguration of the Ganga Expressway



Ganga Expressway Gateway to New Possibilities & Dreams: PM

Sahakar Jagran Team

The nearly 600-kilometre-long Ganga Expressway will connect the

commercial hubs of western Uttar Pradesh with the agriculturally rich regions of central Uttar Pradesh and the cultural centres of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The project is expected to benefit millions of citizens across 12 districts. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said this while inaugurating the 594-kilometre-long Ganga Expressway in Hardoi. He remarked that the expressway is not merely a high-speed road, but a gateway to new possibilities, new dreams, and new opportunities.

Referring to the longstanding challenges faced by the farming community, the Prime Minister said that farmers in these fertile regions have historically struggled to access major markets due to inadequate

✦ Passing close to the sacred Ganga River, the expressway will become a new lifeline for the development of UP

✦ Connecting UP from one end to the other, the expressway will also bring the immense opportunities of the NCR closer

logistics infrastructure and the lack of cold storage facilities. With improved connectivity through the expressway, farmers will now be able to transport their agricultural produce to markets across the state and the country in a timely manner, leading to increased incomes and better economic opportunities.

Highlighting the connectivity benefits of the expressway, Shri Modi said that it connects one end of Uttar Pradesh to the other while also bringing the immense opportunities of the National Capital Region closer to the state. He noted that along with

vehicles moving on the expressway, new industrial opportunities will also emerge across the region.

Praising the entrepreneurial spirit of the youth empowered through schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana and One District One Product (ODOP), the Prime Minister stated that small industries and MSMEs are receiving a major boost, and improved connectivity will open new avenues for their growth. He added that these developments will create large-scale access to domestic as well as international markets, ultimately leading to increased

incomes for millions of families.

Shri Modi recalled that Uttar Pradesh, once described as a backward and “BIMARU” state, is now moving steadily towards becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy. He said that this ambitious goal is driven by the state’s immense potential and the strength of India’s vast young population.

The Prime Minister stated that this strength is being harnessed to transform Uttar Pradesh into a major manufacturing hub, where new industries and factories are being established, large-scale investments are flowing in, economic growth is accelerating, and employment opportunities are being created for the youth. Highlighting India’s rise as the world’s second-largest mobile manufacturer, he said that nearly half of the country’s mobile production now takes place in Uttar Pradesh. Referring to the growing role of the state in technology sectors, he mentioned the foundation stone laying of the semiconductor project in Noida and said that the state is emerging as a leader in the future AI-driven economy.

Describing Uttar Pradesh’s industrial growth as a strategic asset for national security, the Prime Minister noted that one of India’s two defence corridors passes through the state, where major defence manufacturing units have been established. Globally acclaimed defence systems such as the BrahMos missile are also being manufactured there.

Referring to the rapid expansion of connectivity in the state, the Prime Minister said that Uttar Pradesh currently has 21 operational airports, including five international airports. He also described the law-and-order situation in the state as exemplary, stating that it is now cited as a model across the country. Placing the development of Uttar



Pradesh within the broader context of India’s civilizational and economic aspirations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the transformation of the state reflects the nation’s core resolve. “Today, the entire country is moving forward with one common resolve — the resolve of a Developed India,” he said.

Reiterating the nation’s unwavering commitment to development despite external threats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is not only secure but is also achieving new milestones in development. He stated that the country is steadily advancing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan while simultaneously building world-class infrastructure. Describing the Ganga Expressway as a symbol of this broader development paradigm, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the people of Uttar Pradesh would transform the opportunities created by the expressway into real

prosperity. “I am confident that the opportunities brought by the Ganga Expressway will be translated into success by the hard work of the people of Uttar Pradesh,” he said.

Drawing a comparison between the timeless significance of the sacred Ganga River and modern infrastructure, the Prime Minister emphasized the transformative role of the expressway in the development of the state. Referring to newly constructed highways as the lifelines of a developing India, Shri Modi said that these modern lifelines are announcing the arrival of a brighter future for the country. He further stated that the present government has accelerated the pace of infrastructure development at an unprecedented scale. Highlighting the government’s vision of rapid modernization, the Prime Minister remarked, “This is the speed at which the present government works. This is the way the present government delivers development.” ♦♦♦

Target of €20 Billion Trade Between Italy & India by 2029: PM Shri Modi

Sahakar Jagran Team

The Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India provides a pathway to enhance trade and investment between both sides. Our goal is to achieve trade exceeding 20 billion euro between Italy and India by 2029. The focus areas will include defence, aerospace, clean technology, machinery, automotive components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agri-food, tourism and related sectors. These remarks were made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Rome alongside the Prime Minister of Italy, Mrs Giorgia Meloni. Describing “Made in Italy” as a long-standing synonym for excellence across the world, Shri Modi said that it would now find a natural synergy with the high-quality standards of the “Make in India” initiative. The growing business closeness between the two countries is evident from the presence of more than one thousand Indian enterprises in Italy. Similarly, Italian businesses are also increasing their investments in India.

Highlighting technological innovation as the central focus of relations between the two countries, Shri Modi said that the coming decade will be shaped by a technological revolution of immense scope. Significant advancements will take place in sectors such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and digital infrastructure. India’s dynamic innovation



★ Focus on defence, aerospace, clean technology, machinery, automotive components, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agri-food and tourism

ecosystem, skilled professional talent pool and Italy’s advanced industrial capabilities make cooperation between the two countries both natural and strategic. Growing partnerships between their universities and research centers will further strengthen this collaboration.

Speaking about the impact of India’s digital public infrastructure and artificial intelligence on countries around the world, particularly those in the Global South, Shri Modi said that Italy and India have long been working together to ensure that the development of AI remains responsible and human-centric. From this perspective, both India and Italy view AI as a powerful tool for inclusive development. AI has the potential to reduce the digital public infrastructure gap and technological disparities among nations.

Referring to India’s human-centric “Human Vision” and Italy’s leadership rooted in humanitarian

values, Shri Modi said that these principles ensure that the partnership between the two countries serves as a catalyst for empowering people. Our approach combines India’s digital scale with Italy’s industrial expertise and ensures that technology respects and serves human dignity. Our objective is to create an open, trustworthy, and universally accessible digital space so that every country in the world can benefit from artificial intelligence.

Shri Modi stated that amid the ongoing changes in international politics, relations between India and Italy are reaching new heights. The two countries are also cooperating closely in the space sector. India’s expertise in space exploration and satellite technology, combined with Italy’s outstanding strengths in aerospace engineering, presents opportunities for collaboration and for the development of next-generation technologies. ♦♦♦

National Cooperative Spice Fair 2026

Jaipur Emerges as Major Hub for Pure, Traditional and High-Quality Spices

Sahakar Jagran Team

A new phase of development is taking place in the cooperative sector across the country. To fulfill Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sahakar Se Samridhi', the Ministry of Cooperation is implementing multidimensional action plans to strengthen the capacities of cooperative institutions and establish them as viable business models. As a result, cooperative societies across the country are setting new benchmarks of success.

The success of the 10-day "National Cooperative Spice Fair-2026" held at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur is a vivid example of this progress. Through their participation in the fair, cooperative institutions from Rajasthan as well as various other states of the country set an example by making pure spices, agricultural products, and household goods easily accessible to consumers. Adulteration-free, high-quality spices and a wide range of products were made available under one roof. The cooperative exhibition featured 160 stalls, ensuring the availability of premium-quality spices along with Shri Anna (millet) products, organic products, GI-tagged items, oils, grains, handmade goods and household products. Thousands of people participated in the fair and made record purchases of



★ Cooperative spice entrepreneurs achieved record sales worth over ₹5.50 crore of spices and other products at Jaipur's Jawahar Kala Kendra

spices and many other quality products worth more than ₹5.50 crore. This is an encouraging achievement for the cooperative sector, especially considering that sales at the National Cooperative Spice Fair last year amounted to ₹3.25 crore.

Organized continuously since 2003 under the joint aegis of the Department of Cooperation and the Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumer Federation (CONFED), this Spice Fair has become a distinctive identity of Jaipur. Its objective is to provide people with pure, high-quality, and trustworthy products at a single location.

The growing acceptance of cooperatives in society and the superior quality of cooperative products have led to a steady increase in their demand. At the 'Spice Extravaganza' (Masalon ka Mahakumbh) held at Jawahar Kala Kendra, visitors experienced not only the aroma of spices

from Rajasthan but also from states across India. Products from cooperative societies of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kashmir, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and several other regions were available for sale. Visitors particularly appreciated Kerala's black pepper and cloves, Tamil Nadu's turmeric and cinnamon, Andhra Pradesh's red chilies and cashew nuts, Kashmir's saffron and dry fruits, Punjab's rice and ready-to-eat products and Madhya Pradesh's Sehore wheat. At the same time, many renowned products from Rajasthan remained major attractions, including Mathania chili, Nagaur cumin, Sirohi fennel, Pratapgarh asafoetida (hing), Chittorgarh carom seeds (ajwain), Pushkar rose preserve (gulkand), Nathdwara thandai, Bhusawar pickles, Rajsamand sharbat, Sojat henna, Dungarpur mango papad, Jhadol arhar dal and Bikaner papad. ♦♦♦

Swarang FPO: Empowering Women Farmers in Assam

Sahakar Jagran Team

The expansion of cooperative societies in rural India is becoming the foundation of farmers' prosperity. Women in villages are also setting an example in the field of agricultural development by joining these cooperative organizations. In the northeastern state of Assam, the role of the Swarang Women Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) has been highly significant in improving the economic condition of women and strengthening the rural economy. This cooperative society, which has freed women farmers from exploitation by local middlemen and doubled their income by providing better market access for their products, is active in Deuri village and the Bechimari region of Udalguri district. Managed entirely by women farmers, the organization is making progress in the areas of women's empowerment, capacity building, and sustainable livelihoods. By bringing together small and marginal farmers, this organization is playing an important role in helping them reach better markets, reduce farming costs, and increase income. Through this FPO, small and marginal women farmers are getting access to better inputs, markets, and income opportunities. In rural areas, this FPO has become a source of inspiration for other farmers.

Formed with the objective of organizing local farmers and promoting collective farming, the Swarang Women FPO is mainly strengthening the capabilities of



women farmers in the buying and selling of agricultural products such as jujube and berries, buckwheat, rice, maize, mustard and other specialized organic crops. Along with supplying seeds and fertilizers to farmers, the FPO is also contributing to strengthening the value chain, increasing market linkages, and empowering women. Through hard work and a strategic approach, the FPO has achieved several notable accomplishments. The economic independence and social status of its member women farmers have improved significantly. Swarang has expanded its reach from local markets to the national level and has even started exporting some products. By adopting practices such as organic farming and water conservation, Swarang has made an important contribution to environmental protection.

In its initial days, this FPO faced several challenges. Despite limited resources, lack of market knowledge, and low awareness among farmers,

the Swarang Farmer Organization firmly confronted these problems. The FPO introduced several innovations to provide farmers with direct access to markets, thereby reducing the exploitative role of middlemen. Along with improving agricultural production and quality, the organization is also contributing to environmental conservation by promoting sustainable agricultural practices. This growing FPO is playing an important role in increasing women's income and strengthening community empowerment. It has focused on increasing the commercial turnover of women farmers' agricultural products and ensuring sustainable livelihoods through training programs, poultry farming, and mushroom cultivation. Under the leadership of the FPO's Chief Executive, Jayanti Boro, this women-centric organization has involved member women in shareholding, participation on the board, and decision-making processes. ♦♦♦

Farmers From Eight Villages in Varanasi Set Perfect Example in Cooperation

Sahakar Jagran Team

The farmers who once wandered from place to place due to the lack of organization and cooperation found prosperity in their lives when they received the support of cooperation. With the support of the Farmer Producer Organization and Horticultural Marketing Cooperative Society Limited located in the Kashi Vidyapeeth block of Varanasi, the lives of small and marginal farmers have undergone a revolutionary transformation. Incorporated on February 26, 2024, this FPO was actually established in 2021 with the support of the National Cooperative Development Corporation and the Horticulture Department. At present, 1,785 farmers are its members. It is actively functioning in eight villages, namely Tikari, Ramana, Tarapur, Saraidengari, Muradev, Madhopur, Betawar, and Betabar Chhitauni.

The small and marginal farmers of the area, mainly engaged in cultivating vegetables such as okra, chili, and brinjal, along with fruits like banana, guava, and mango, as well as dairy farming, were earlier struggling with serious challenges. Due to the lack of proper cold storage and processing facilities, fruits and vegetables often went to waste. Because of the dominance of middlemen, farmers could not get fair prices for their produce. Limited access to modern technology and lack of financial literacy kept them confined to traditional farming methods. The Farmer Producer Organization presented



✦ The landscape has transformed through the processing and marketing of organic crops and improvement in the quality of dairy products

comprehensive solutions to all these problems. The organization first focused on developing infrastructure and established a spice processing unit, vegetable dehydration unit, biomass-based cold room, and two solar cold rooms. To solve transportation issues, a refrigerated cold van was also arranged. Farmers are now processing their products instead of selling raw produce. Rather than selling raw crops, they are producing turmeric powder, red chili powder, coriander powder, and other processed products. Tomatoes, okra, brinjal, and onions are also being dehydrated. This has increased their shelf life and ensured better prices. The dairy sector has also witnessed changes. Along with milk, the production of paneer, ghee, and flavored milk has begun. Farmers are also promoting organic farming through the production of vermicompost and bio-fertilizers.

With qualitative improvements in activities, the financial condition of the FPO has also strengthened. In the financial year 2021-22, its total business turnover was only ₹28.30

lakh, which increased to ₹300.90 lakh in 2023-24. Net operating profit also rose from ₹2.50 lakh to ₹5.95 lakh. As a result, the annual income of farmers associated with the organization increased by an average of ₹8,000 to ₹15,000. Bulk purchasing reduced input costs by 12 to 18%. The adoption of advanced agricultural practices increased the production of crops such as chili, guava and tomato by 20 to 25%. More than 350 women farmers got opportunities to actively participate in training, processing, and self-help group activities. The organization has regularly conducted technical training sessions to make its members skilled in various fields.

Farmers were also taken on industrial visits to dairy processing centers, organic farms, and agricultural technology parks. This inspired them to adopt advanced techniques such as vermicomposting, crop rotation and the use of organic pesticides. The organization has been honored with the prestigious Chaudhary Charan Singh Award as the best FPO in the state. ♦♦♦



R. Ramachandran

Unprecedented Reforms Set to Broaden Cooperative Movement

The new dimensions of cooperation have created employment opportunities in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, dairy, as well as in various sectors of rural areas. If we talk about the possibilities in the cooperative sector, its scope can become even broader in the coming years. Some time ago, under the guidance of Union Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, unprecedented reforms were initiated in the cooperative sector to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhhi." Under this initiative, priority was given to the computerization and digitization of all Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). Along with rural cooperatives, this model can also be implemented effectively in urban areas.

In the era of digital cooperative societies, cooperative book societies can also be established. For example, there is an Ansari Street in Delhi where old books are available. However, the question arises: how would a person know whether a particular shop has the old book of his or her choice? To address this, a cooperative can be formed by residents living around the area or by students who come to the city for education. Such a student cooperative can maintain a register or digital catalog of book titles. Now, if someone wishes to understand the difference between Uttar Pradesh's Tulsidas Ramayana and Tamil Nadu's Kamba Ramayanam, these cooperative societies can prove extremely helpful. Scholars and researchers may easily access such

information, but not everyone has the time to visit libraries and conduct in-depth study. Therefore, this kind of urban cooperative can become a new dimension for both libraries and the exchange of knowledge and information.

Every year, a large number of people migrate from rural areas to cities. Something should be done in the cooperative sector so that this increasing human density or human resource coming into cities can be transformed into a cooperation-based model. In this way, their capabilities can be utilized in the national interest.

There can also be three additional practical models in the cooperative sector. For example, if the government wishes to promote honey cooperatives, it is essential that trained self-help groups establish honey collection and distribution units in cities. Through these urban units, honey can be supplied directly to households. The focus should not remain limited only to honey distribution; areas should also be identified for promoting beekeeping where human interference is minimal and bees can thrive naturally. Even disputed or unused land can be utilized for this purpose. Such land is generally not monitored regularly, and public movement in these areas remains limited. These places can therefore be developed into small-scale beekeeping units.

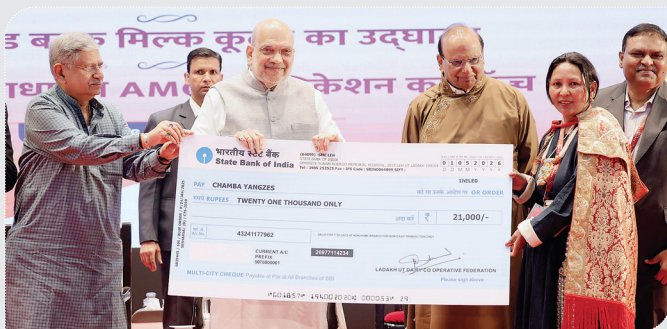
Similarly, there can be enormous possibilities in cooperative societies dedicated to growing bonsai trees. As we all know, IFFCO is an old and highly trained agricultural and forestry cooperative institution.

However, by adding new dimensions to IFFCO's operational chain, we can develop a modern farmhouse cooperative model. As a cultural shift, the practice of gifting bonsai trees can also be encouraged. This would ensure collective public participation in environmental conservation. Government and privately owned rooftops in cities that are currently unused can also be utilized for several innovative experiments.

A great deal of work has already been done in the field of solar energy, but rooftop farming is still rarely seen. If rooftops are utilized under a cooperative model for farming or vegetable cultivation, it could produce very positive outcomes for urban cooperation. Another possible initiative could be that when a Zomato delivery person comes to deliver food at a household, people may consider giving him vegetables grown in their kitchen garden or cloud kitchen on his return trip. Likewise, old scrap vehicles such as trucks and buses lying unused in police stations, courts, or government offices can be utilized by cooperative societies for growing seedling plants. Such experiments can have two major advantages: first, old vehicles can be put to productive use; second, the presence of greenery in workplaces can help employees remain energetic and motivated.

In Amman, the capital of Jordan, a series of paintings was displayed on the first floor of a building, with the names of all the regional artists who had created them. On a similar basis, cooperatives of artists or intellectual groups can also be established. ♦♦♦

Director, IFFCO



During an event held in Ladakh for cooperative dairy PACS, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah honoured five leading progressive dairy societies for their outstanding performance. On this occasion, he presented a sum of ₹21,000 to each of the societies.



At the Kapil Muni Ashram in Gangasagar, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah drew inspiration from the life philosophy of the Sant Kapil, a symbol of knowledge, renunciation and asceticism, while offering prayers for the welfare of the nation's citizens.



Shri Ashish Bhutani, Secretary at the Ministry of Cooperation, reviewed the preparedness of cooperative institutions to meet the global demand for products such as rice, mustard oil and ready-to-eat food items. The review meeting saw the participation of all the stakeholders.



After flagging off a consignment of 'Kesar' mangoes to Dubai at the Gujco-Bukali Mango Festival, veteran cooperative leader Shri Dileep Sanghani encouraged his colleagues in the cooperative sector, stating that mango exports would ensure farmers receive a fair price.



Cooperative institutions have stepped forward to ensure that cooperative farmers and livestock rearers in Madhya Pradesh receive fair prices for their produce. Chief Minister, Shri Mohan Yadav felicitates milk producers during the 'Farmers' Welfare Year.



Following a review of the application for affiliation submitted by the NCUI's National Centre for Cooperative Education (NCCE), a high-level committee from Tribhuvan Sahakari University (TCU) visited the campus to conduct an inspection. The committee's members, Prof. Shyam Singh and Prof. Ankur Srivastava, held consultations with various individuals during their visit. Representing the NCUI, Shri Rajiv Sharma, Shri Ashish Dwivedi, Ritesh Dey, Smt Sandhya Kapoor, and others presented their case to the committee.

The mission to transform India into a developed nation is an ongoing endeavor and when I speak of a developed India, its strongest pillar is India's Nari Shakti-its women power. As women's economic strength grows, their voice within the household becomes equally strong. Therefore, alongside providing the assurance of comfort and security, we have placed great emphasis on enhancing the economic participation of our sisters. Over the past 11 years, approximately 10 crore women across the country have joined Self-Help Groups. These groups are receiving financial assistance amounting to hundreds of thousands of rupees, enabling these women to pursue their own livelihoods. Thanks to such initiatives, three crore women have now become 'Lakhpati Didis'. Our dairy sector, too plays a pivotal role in accelerating the 'Lakhpati Didi' campaign.

Shri Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister



NCUI हाट



NCUI Haat is pioneering a collaboration between NCUI and lesser-known cooperative institutions, offering a unified platform for product sales and exhibitions. Through its innovative online portal, NCUI Haat is fostering an environment to realize the vision of 'Sahakar se Samridhi'.

CEAS-LMS Portal

Cooperative Extension & Advisory Services-Learning Management System, i.e., (CEAS-LMS), is first-of-its-kind online platform which provides Information and Services required by Cooperative Members, Leaders, Managers and General Public. It is being run under 3 components:

1. **LMS:** Learning Management System (LMS) focuses on educating its registered members on all elements of Cooperative Education.
2. **QMS:** Query Management System (QMS) is a platform where users can express their concerns pertaining to Cooperatives, in order to receive a quick and high quality advices.
3. **CRC:** Cooperative Resource Centre (CRC), is a platform for stakeholders to collaborate and exchange Cooperative related information and knowledge.



<https://ncuicoop.education/>

Published by Rajeev Sharma for the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi and printed at NCUI Printing Press, B-81, Sector-80, Noida (Uttar Pradesh). Editor: Rajeev Sharma

RNI No.: DLENG/25/A2022

Published on 15.06.2026 | Postal Registration No DL-SW-01/4215/2023-24

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE UNION OF INDIA