

IYC 2025

IYC 2025 National Seminar



NAFCARD organized the IYC 2025 National Seminar on 27.03.2025 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu in conjunction with the 178th Meeting of the Board of Management on 26.03.2025. Dr. Moinul Hassan, Vice Chairman, chaired the Seminar session. Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director presented the theme paper on 'Cooperatives Build a Better World'. Dr. K. Shivaji, Additional Registrar of Cooperative Societies (Retd.) made a presentation on Contributions of Cooperatives to Sustainable Development and Social Change. Shri M. Murugan, Additional Registrar and Managing Director, Tamil Nadu CSARDB presented the success story of Tamil Nadu CSARDB in achieving turnaround by almost 90% of PCARDBs in the State from losses to profit in the last 3 years. The Seminar was attended by Chairmen, CEOs and Senior Officers of member banks of the Federation.

International Conference on Global Cooperation 2025, Pune



Maharashtra State Govt along with State Co-operative Housing Organization and Apartments Federation and other Cooperative and Housing Federations organised a 2 day

International Conference on Global Cooperation 2025 aligning with IYC 2025 on 22nd–23rd March, 2025 at Pune, Maharashtra, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Murlidhar Mohol addressed the event.

IYC 2025: Maharashtra forms High-Level Panel, CM to lead

In alignment with the United Nations' declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, the Maharashtra govt has formed a high-level committee to ensure the effective implementation of various cooperative programs across the state. The committee will be chaired by Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis and will include prominent leaders such as Deputy Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde and Shri Ajit Pawar. To ensure grassroots implementation, representatives from district cooperative banks, urban





cooperative banks, and cooperative sugar factories have also been included. The decision was announced following directives from the MOC, which emphasized the need for active participation from state govts in celebrating the year through year-long initiatives. The committee's key responsibilities include overseeing state-level cooperative initiatives, ensuring coordination with central govt programs, and promoting successful cooperative models. Plans are underway to organize a 'Cooperative Festival' to highlight Maharashtra's achievements in the sector. Additionally, a comprehensive media strategy will be developed to spread awareness about the significance of cooperatives. Meetings will be held quarterly to review progress, with detailed reports submitted to the national committee. The committee will also guide district-level bodies in implementing cooperative programs effectively. The state govt has made the official resolution available on its website, confirming its commitment to strengthening the cooperative movement in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra govt's proactive approach in forming this committee underscores its dedication to fostering cooperative growth. By bringing together key policymakers, administrators, and cooperative sector leaders, the state aims to maximize the impact of the IYC, ensuring lasting benefits for Maharashtra's cooperative ecosystem. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Kheti Bank held event on credit facilities, recovery processes, and cooperative initiatives

Gujarat SCARDB (Kheti Bank) hosted a special exposure cum training programme for six newly recruited Assistant



Registrars from Uttarakhand on 19.03.2025. The event focused on Kheti Bank's credit facilities, recovery processes, and cooperative initiatives.

Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman, Gujarat SCARDB led an insightful session on the transformative power of cooperatives, emphasizing youth and women empowerment. He urged attendees to champion the "Sahkar se Samriddhi" initiative, aligning with national goals of doubling farmers incomes and promoting environmental sustainability.

2025 International Women's Day message from the ICA Gender Equality Committee Chair - For all Women and Girls: Equality. Rights. Empowerment



Mrs Rajashree VN. Chief Director, NAFCARD also the member of the Gender Equality Committee along with the women staff members of NAFCARD celebrated

International Women's Day on 08th March, 2025 by watching the video message of Mrs Xiomara Nunez de Cespedes, Chair of the Gender Equality Committee, ICA.

Lok Sabha passes Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill; to train 8 lakh professionals annually

The Lok Sabha passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, transforming the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) into India's first cooperative university on 26.03.2025. The bill, moved by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, was passed by voice vote. Announcing the bill's passage, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla emphasized its significance for India's cooperative sector. With Ministers of State for Cooperation present, Shri Amit Shah outlined the university's benefits, highlighting its ambitious goal to train 8 lakh cooperative professionals annually from the first year. Recognized as an institution of national importance, the university will specialize in technical and management education for cooperatives, aligning with the govt's "Sahkar Se Samriddhi" vision. It aims to strengthen India's cooperative movement by integrating IRMA as one of its schools, advancing research, development, and institutional networks. He described the bill as a milestone in India's cooperative history, ensuring cooperatives can compete with corporates through world-class education and skill development. He emphasized the university's role in strengthening the rural economy, promoting self-employment, and fostering small enterprises. The university is named after Shri Tribhuvan Bhai Patel, a pioneer of India's cooperative movement and a key figure in Amul's foundation. "This university will empower cooperatives with specialized knowledge. The Modi govt's contributions to the cooperative sector will be remembered in golden letters," Shri Shah stated. With a focus on cooperative management, governance, and innovation, the university aims to enhance competitiveness in the sector. It will follow inclusive admission and employment policies, ensuring equal opportunities for all, in line with Central Govt reservation policies. To maintain accountability and high educational standards, the Central Govt will oversee operations, appoint a Chancellor, and regulate governance. The university builds on IRMA's legacy, established in 1979 under Dr. Verghese Kurien, supported by NIDDB, SDC, and the Govts of India and Gujarat. This transformation aspires to set global benchmarks in cooperative education, driving economic growth and self-sufficiency in rural India. The bill's passage has sparked widespread optimism, marking a historic step for India's cooperative sector and education system. This University will work to produce excellent cooperative workers in the country and will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. The country's first university dedicated to the cooperative sector will be established 75 years after independence and will have the capacity to educate



Amit Shah, Minister of Cooperation



about 8 lakh candidates every year. Colleges affiliated with the university will be opened in almost every district within a year. When 8 lakh people graduate with diplomas, degrees, or certificates annually, it will infuse new energy into the cooperative movement. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is laying the foundation for a prosperous India, and this bill will provide a strong structure for it. He emphasized that Shri Tribhuvan Das Patel's vision was that profits in the cooperative sector should reach every poor woman, which is why this bill is named after him. Shri Shah highlighted the transformative impact of the Modi govt over the past decade, emphasizing poverty alleviation, housing, sanitation, healthcare, and rural electrification. He stressed that cooperation is key to enable those without capital to engage in entrepreneurship, noting that 8 lakh cooperative societies with 30 crore members exist across India but lacked structured support until the formation of the MOC. He reaffirmed that cooperation will drive economic growth, self-reliance, and dignity for millions. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

India introduces First-Ever Co-op Ranking System

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah announced the launch of India's first cooperative ranking framework, aimed at systematically evaluating the performance of cooperatives across key sectors. The system will assess Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), dairy, fisheries, urban cooperatives, housing credit, and Khadi and Village Industries Committees based on seven major parameters. For the first time, cooperatives excelling in their fields will be recognized with awards at district, state, and national levels. Additionally, rankings will help cooperatives access loans from cooperative banks more efficiently. He also revealed plans for a large-scale cooperative taxi service, enabling the registration of two-wheelers, rickshaws and taxis, ensuring that profits go directly to drivers. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Cooperatives to get own Insurance Firm: Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah announced in Parliament on 26.03.2025 that the govt will establish a cooperative insurance company to facilitate insurance services within the cooperative sector. The new entity aims to provide tailored insurance solutions for cooperative institutions, ensuring better risk coverage and financial security. Shri Shah emphasized that this cooperative insurance company will compete with private sector insurers and is expected to emerge as a major player in the industry. This initiative will empower cooperatives by offering them better insurance coverage and financial stability, ultimately strengthening the sector. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Co-op reforms gain momentum 12,957 new Co-ops registered: Shah

Replying to a query in the Parliament, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah said that the govt has intensified efforts to strengthen the cooperative movement, aiming to expand its reach to the grassroots level. As part of this initiative, a comprehensive plan was approved on 15.02.2023, to establish new Multipurpose

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS), dairy cooperatives, and fishery cooperatives across villages and panchayats. This five-year plan seeks to integrate various existing govt schemes such as the Dairy Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), the National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). These efforts are being supported by key institutions like the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), and state govt. Since the approval of this plan, significant progress has been made in expanding the cooperative sector. According to the National Cooperative Database, as of 27.01.2025, a total of 12,957 new cooperative societies have been registered across the country. These include Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy cooperatives, and fishery cooperatives, each playing a vital role in boosting rural economic development and financial inclusion. The state-wise data indicates that states like Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir have witnessed a significant rise in the establishment of new cooperative societies, contributing to the overall goal of strengthening the rural economy. To further empower PACS and diversify their business operations, the govt has introduced Model Bye-laws in consultation with various stakeholders, including State Govts, National-level Cooperative Federations, State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). These Model Bye-laws enable PACS to engage in more than 25 different economic activities, such as dairy and fishery farming, floriculture, setting up godowns, procurement of food grains, fertilizers, and seeds, as well as distribution of LPG, CNG, petrol and diesel. Other activities include providing short-term and long-term credit, operating custom hiring centers, running Common Service Centers (CSCs), managing Fair Price Shops (FPS), and even engaging in community irrigation and business correspondent services. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

PM reviews co-op scenario; pushes for Tech, Youth & Women participation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting on 06.03.2025 at New Delhi to review the progress of the cooperative sector. Discussions centered on advancing "Sahakar Se Samriddhi" through technology, increasing youth and women's participation in cooperatives, and reviewing key initiatives of the MOC. The meeting was attended by Shri Amit Shah, Home and Cooperation Minister, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC, Dr. P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM, Shri Shaktikanta Das, Principal Secretary-2 to PM, Shri Amit Khare, Advisor to PM and other senior officials. The Prime Minister underscored the importance of collaborating with global cooperative organizations to expand India's cooperative sector. He emphasized promoting organic products through cooperative networks, exploring export markets, and developing a soil testing model to improve agricultural practices. Additionally, he highlighted integrating UPI with RuPay



KCC cards to enhance financial transactions and called for fostering healthy competition among cooperative organizations. To

ensure transparency, Shri Modi stressed documenting cooperative assets and advocated for cooperative farming as a sustainable agricultural model. He also recommended leveraging digital public infrastructure (Agristack) to improve agricultural services through cooperatives. On the education front, he proposed introducing cooperative courses in schools, colleges, and IIMs. He suggested highlighting successful cooperatives to inspire young entrepreneurs and ranking cooperative organizations based on performance to encourage competition and growth. During the meeting, the Prime Minister was briefed on the National Cooperation Policy and the Ministry's key achievements over the past three and a half years. The Ministry has formulated the National Cooperation Policy 2025 to fulfill the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi.' Since its inception, the Ministry has launched 60 initiatives across seven key areas, focusing on digitizing cooperatives, strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and modernizing cooperative sugar mills. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Parliament passes Banking Bill; Directors tenure now 10 years

The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was passed by Parliament on 26.03.2025, with the Rajya Sabha approving it by voice vote. The bill allows bank account holders to nominate up to four individuals, introducing a significant change in banking regulations. Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted key amendments aimed at strengthening governance in cooperative banks. She noted that while directors in commercial banks serve for eight years, those in cooperative banks were previously limited to five years despite the Constitution allowing a tenure of ten years. The amendment aligns the tenure with constitutional provisions, ensuring directors are not denied their rightful term. Additionally, the bill prohibits common directorships in cooperative banks, bringing them in line with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations, which restrict individuals from holding multiple directorial positions across financial institutions. It impacts five banking laws, including the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, making it a comprehensive reform. Another key change is redefining 'substantial interest' in a bank, increasing the threshold from ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore, a revision made after nearly six decades. During the debate, she asserted the govt's commitment in tackling wilful defaulters, noting that the Directorate of Enforcement has pursued 112 cases of bank fraud in the past five years. She clarified that loan write-offs do not equate to waivers and that banks continue recovery efforts. Public sector banks



recorded their highest-ever profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in the last fiscal year, and she expressed confidence that profitability would further improve in 2025-26. The bill permits directors of Central Cooperative Banks to serve on State Cooperative Bank boards and grants banks greater flexibility in determining statutory auditors remuneration. Reporting dates for regulatory compliance will now be the 15th and last day of each month, replacing the previous system of the second and fourth Fridays. Another key provision introduces simultaneous nomination for cash and fixed deposits, already a standard practice in insurance policies. For lockers, however, only simultaneous nomination will be allowed, describing the amendments as unique, impacting multiple laws and ensuring critical banking reforms. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

RBI revises PSL Guidelines to drive Economic Growth & Sustainability

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines on Priority Sector Lending (PSL) after conducting a comprehensive review of the existing provisions on 24.03.2025. The revision process incorporated feedback from various stakeholders, including financial institutions, policymakers, and industry experts. The new guidelines, which are set to come into effect from 01.04.2025, aim to enhance the coverage and effectiveness of PSL by introducing key modifications across different lending categories. One of the major changes introduced under the revised guidelines is the enhancement of several loan limits, including those for housing loans. This revision is intended to improve access to credit for individuals and families seeking financial assistance for housing purposes. By increasing the loan limits, the RBI aims to align PSL norms with the changing economic landscape, making it easier for borrowers to secure funding for housing, thereby promoting affordable housing and home ownership. Another significant change pertains to the broadening of the purposes under which loans may be classified under the 'Renewable Energy' category. With the growing emphasis on sustainable development and clean energy, the revised guidelines expand the scope of renewable energy projects eligible for PSL classification. This includes financing for solar energy, wind energy, biomass, and other renewable energy initiatives. By facilitating increased credit flow to renewable energy projects, the RBI seeks to support India's transition to a more sustainable energy ecosystem. Additionally, the revised guidelines introduce a revision in the overall PSL target for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). The new target has been set at 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBS), whichever is higher. This change underscores the importance of UCBs in channelling credit to priority sectors and ensuring that a substantial portion of their lending is directed towards activities that contribute to economic development. Furthermore, the RBI has expanded the list of eligible borrowers under the 'Weaker Sections' category, thereby improving credit access for marginalized communities. The revised guidelines also remove the existing cap on loans provided by UCBs to



individual women beneficiaries. This move is aimed at fostering greater financial inclusion by empowering women entrepreneurs and individuals who require financial assistance for various personal or business needs. By eliminating the cap, the RBI seeks to encourage financial institutions to provide more credit to women, thus promoting gender equality in access to banking services. Overall, the enhanced coverage under the revised PSL guidelines is expected to facilitate better targeting of bank credit towards priority sectors, ensuring that financial resources are directed where they are needed the most. By revising the PSL framework, the RBI continues its commitment to strengthening financial inclusion, supporting economic growth, and aligning banking regulations with evolving national priorities. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Post-Budget Webinar on NCDC's role in advancing Rural Prosperity



Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, delivered an insightful keynote address

during the Post-Budget Webinar on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity (2025) under the sub-theme of Support to NCDC on 01.03.2025. He highlighted that NCDC will focus on supporting weaker sections in the future to foster growth in rural areas. Experts from various cooperative sectors highlighted the vital role of cooperatives in driving inclusive growth and strengthening rural India's economic framework.

COBI to establish a national-level clearing system: Shah

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah announced that the Cooperative Banks of India (COBI) will soon establish a national-level clearing system for cooperative banks. This initiative aims to enhance efficiency, streamline transactions, and provide seamless banking services to cooperative banks across the country. He emphasized that this move will strengthen the cooperative banking sector, ensuring that cooperative banks can function on par with commercial banks in terms of financial transactions and digital banking services. COBI chaired by ADC Bank Chairman Shri Ajay Patel, will spearhead this initiative, marking a significant step towards modernizing and empowering the cooperative banking ecosystem in India. With this development, cooperative banks will gain greater financial autonomy, making banking services more accessible, transparent, and technologically advanced for millions of customers associated with the cooperative sector. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Align your bye-laws with amended MSCS Act: CEA

The Cooperative Election Authority (CEA) celebrated its

First Foundation Year on 11.03.2025, marking a milestone in its mission to promote democratic governance and transparency in cooperative society elections. Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC was the Chief Guest, alongside CEA Chairman Shri Devendra Kumar Singh, Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies Shri Rabindra Kumar Agrawal, CEA Vice Chairman Shri R.K. Gupta, senior officials from the MOC, representatives from MSCS including IFFCO MD Dr U S Awasthi and NCUI's Chief Executive Shri Sudhir Mahajan, among others. Dr. Bhutani highlighted the transformative role of the CEA, established under the MSCS (Amendment) Act, 2023, after over a decade-long legislative process. He emphasized that the CEA safeguards the core cooperative principle of democratic control by ensuring fair and transparent elections by aligning the bye-laws and rules with the amended MSCS Act. He noted that under the new system, elections supervised by District Magistrates and Collectors have enhanced credibility by urging the CEA to prioritize training and capacity-building programs for stakeholders and Returning Officers, reinforcing adherence to cooperative laws. (Source: Indian Cooperative)



Remarkable feat: 1350 Multistate Co-ops registered in 2 months

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah announced that 1350 cooperative societies have been registered across India under the IYC from 01.01.2025 to 01.03.2025, as per the National Cooperative Database (NCD). Among the newly registered cooperatives, Bihar leads with 523 societies, followed by Chhattisgarh with 179 and Assam with 79. The MOC provides the overall framework and guidelines for cooperative registration, while State/UT-appointed nodal officers are responsible for collecting, entering and updating cooperative society data in the National Cooperative Database (NCD). The NCD is publicly accessible at <https://cooperatives.gov.in> and serves as a valuable resource for policymakers to strengthen the cooperative movement, especially in regions where societies are underperforming. The database captures key details such as location, membership, economic activities and linkages, enabling authorities to identify gaps in cooperative coverage, including uncovered gram panchayats. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

CRCS Portal available for State Registrars

The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies office has allowed digital access for state Registrars of Cooperative Societies to view MSCS details through the CRCS portal (<https://cres.gov.in>). Launched on 06.05.2023, the portal streamlines various MSCS-related services, including registration, bye-law amendments, annual report filing, and online payments. Following requests from several state registrars, a new provision has been developed, allowing them to access registration details and annual



returns of MSCSs operating within their respective states. To facilitate this, state authorities are required to designate a senior officer as a nodal officer and share their details (name, designation, mobile number, and email) with the Central Registrar's Office at admn.crcs-coop@gov.in for

login credentials. The portal is OTP-protected, ensuring secure access for designated officers. This initiative marks a significant step towards a transparent and efficient digital ecosystem for cooperative societies. (Source: Indian Cooperative)



Union Home & Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various development works worth more than ₹800 crore in Bihar on 30.03.2025. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar Shri Samrat Chaudhary and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, other ministers of Bihar Govt and eminent dignitaries were present at the event.

A review meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Ministers of State for Cooperation Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar and Shri Murlidhar Mohol to discuss key issues related to the Ministry's media outreach strategies on 18.03.2025. The discussions focused on enhancing communication efforts, amplifying media outreach, and exploring creative strategies to increase public involvement in support of the ministry's objectives.



FEDERATION NEWS



Meeting with NABARD Chairman Shri K.V. Shaji on 5th March 2025 at NABARD HO, Mumbai

Representatives of NAFCARD met Shri KV. Shaji, Chairman NABARD on 05.03.2025 to discuss about recommendations in the NABCONS study report on 'Reforms, Restructuring & Innovations in ARDBs'. The Meeting was also attended by Shri S.K. Nanda, CGM, NABARD and Smt Rajashree VN.,CD, NAFCARD.

178th Meeting of the Board of Management



The Federation held 178th Meeting of the Board of Management at Hotel Raintree, Chennai on 26.03.2025. The Board of NAFCARD consists of Chairmen & CEOs of SCARDBs and SCBs which are members of NAFCARD. Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman, NAFCARD gave the welcome and opening address. Participants also included Dr. Moinul Hassan, Ex-MP (Vice Chairman), Dr. A.R. Shivaram (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Bijender Singh, Ex-MLA, President, Delhi SCB and Shri C.K. Shaji Mohan, President, Kerala SCARDB. The Board Meeting discussed about the developments after bringing modifications by NABARD/MOC in the NABCONS study report on ARDBs to include a Chapter on Restructuring Options involving liquidation of unviable SCARDBs & PCARDBs and merger of viable SCARDBs & PCARDBs with State Cooperative Banks and District Central Cooperative Banks respectively. The Board reiterated its request to the Ministry to defer the proposal of restructuring till fully implementing the 54 reforms recommended by the study group, which is expected to make all units in LTCCS sustainably viable. The Board also deliberated on the report of IRMA study on business growth in LTCCS and Compliance of Section 24 of MSCS Act and decided to initiate steps to implement the recommendations by SCARDBs & Federation and to submit an action taken report to the Ministry. The meeting also reviewed the performance of SCARDBs during the year, which shows overall improvement in the performance of ARDBs including 15% growth in lending, 10% increase in resource mobilization and significant improvement in loan recovery.



AGRICULTURE NEWS

Implement budgetary proposals fast for agri and rural development: Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 01.03.2025 called for an expeditious implementation of the budgetary proposals for agriculture and rural development, while stressing on the need to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses output. He said that the govt is working towards two big goals simultaneously, the development of the agriculture sector and the prosperity of villages. For harnessing the potential of the agriculture sector, the Budget has announced the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, focusing on the development of the 100 least productive agricultural districts. Efforts in recent years have increased the country's pulses production, however 20% of domestic consumption still relies on imports, necessitating an increase in pulses production. For boosting pulses output, it is essential to maintain the supply of advanced seeds and promote hybrid varieties, while focusing on addressing challenges such as climate change, market uncertainty, and price fluctuations. While India has achieved self-sufficiency in chickpeas and moong, there is a need to accelerate the production of pigeon peas (tur), black gram (urad), and lentils (masoor). India imports 15-20% of its annual pulses consumption of around 30 million tonne (MT); especially tur, urad and masoor from countries, including Canada, Australia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi and Myanmar. He also acknowledged the impact of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, which was launched six years ago, on the rural economy and stated that nearly ₹3.75 lakh crore has been directly transferred to the bank accounts of 110 million farmers. "Today, agricultural production is at record levels. In the past 10 years, production has increased from 265 MT to over 330 MT," he stated, noting that horticulture production has exceeded 350 MT.

Baramati cooperator's use of AI in farming goes Viral

Mr Elon Musk praised AI's transformative role in agriculture, resharing a video by Microsoft CEO Mr Satya Nadella and calling it a "fantastic example" of AI's impact. The video showcased a Baramati cooperative farmer in India who improved crop yield, reduced chemical use, and optimized water management using AI. Mr. Nadella

highlighted how AI integrates geospatial data, drone and satellite temperature readings, and real-time soil analysis. Farmers receive actionable insights in their local language, enabling informed decisions for sustainable farming. (Source: Indian Cooperative)

Farm ponds helping farmers deal with water crisis in Rajasthan

The lush green agricultural land of Mr Kamlesh Kumar Meena at Bagpura village in Rajasthan's Dausa district is producing a rich harvest of wheat and vegetables after his initiative of digging a pond to harvest rainwater. The village falls in the dark zone, declared after a sharp decline was recorded in the groundwater level. The pond with a capacity of 25 lakh litres was among the 12 dug in Chhareda panchayat two years ago as part of an initiative for rainwater harvesting. Since then, Mr. Meena, has been getting perennial crops with a higher yield and his annual income from his six bigha land has increased manifold. The pond provides water supply to his field throughout the year. As many as 250 farm ponds have so far been dug in Chhareda, Bagpura, Khatiwal Dhani and Ladli Ka Bas villages of the panchayat, offering a unique solution to farmers reeling under the impact of overexploited groundwater and unutilised rainwater. The intervention has helped Chhareda emerge as a model panchayat in water conservation. An Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur alumnus, Mr Vipra Goyal, has taken up the initiative to shift the farmers irrigation source from groundwater to harvested rainwater. He said many farmers were convinced in favour of digging the ponds. The farmers were earlier dependent on the monsoon for water for their kharif crops, with an average of ₹20,000 per hectare as household annual returns. "The groundwater level here has declined up to 9001,200 feet because of excessive utilisation. It is also unfit for irrigation because of arsenic and fluoride contamination," Mr. Goyal said. The ponds with liners to prevent seepage of water into the soil have been constructed with the utilisation of corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds of some private companies as well as the funds available under the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department's schemes.

NEWS FROM MEMBER BANKS

Gujarat SCARDB

Kheti Bank Chairman, Shri Dolar Kotecha, Applauds the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 and Hon'ble Union Home and Cooperative Minister Shri Amit Shah

Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman of Kheti Bank, has lauded the passage of the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025, describing it as a pivotal advancement for India's cooperative sector. He commended the bill as a crucial step toward realizing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's

vision of "Prosperity through Cooperation." Kotecha emphasized that the bill addresses the pressing need for skilled professionals in the cooperative sector. The establishment of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, set to train 8 lakh professionals annually, aims to equip the sector with a competent workforce capable of driving modernization and growth. He also praised Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah, for his instrumental role in



championing this initiative. Shri Kotecha noted that Shri Shah's leadership has been pivotal in advancing the bill, which seeks to enhance the cooperative sector's structure, efficiency, and readiness for future challenges. The university's focus on specialized education and training is expected to bolster the sector's capacity to meet contemporary demands. The bill's passage is particularly significant as it aligns with the International Year of Cooperatives, marking a historic moment for cooperative education and development in India. Shri Kotecha expressed optimism that the university will serve as a catalyst for innovation, research, and policy development, further strengthening the cooperative movement and contributing to India's socio-economic progress.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour and Employment, Government of India visited Kheti Bank, Ahmedabad



Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, visited Gujarat SCARDB's head office at Ahmedabad on 15.03.2025. The event was graced by the presence of Rajya Sabha Member Shri Mayankbhai Nayak and Shri Bipinbhai Patel (Gota), Convenor of the Gujarat State Cooperative Cell. Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman appraised the Minister about the activities of the Kheti Bank and its achievement in empowering farmers through financial support and technical guidance to develop their farms and to undertake various activities in the non-farm sectors. Dr. Mansukhbhai Mandaviya stated that Kheti Bank truly feels like a bank for the farmers of a developed India. The agricultural sector has been progressing rapidly, which is evident from the advancements seen at Kheti Bank. While agricultural land

is decreasing globally, India still manages to harvest three crops per year in many states. By linking the country's major rivers, we have the potential to make all of India's land fertile, with Gujarat serving as a model example. The water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat reaches Bhavnagar, filling the Palitana Dam and Amrit Sarovar with the waters of the Narmada River. Modern technology and advanced seeds are now being used in agriculture, efficient management systems like Kheti Bank are emerging and cooperative banks are becoming profitable. Farmers in the state are now highly aware and empowered. Loans from Kheti Bank help farmers manage both major and minor financial needs. Dr. Mansukhbhai Mandaviya provided invaluable guidance and blessings to further strengthen Kheti Bank's initiatives.

Dolar Kotecha Meets Shri Om Birla, Speaker Lok Sabha

Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman, Gujarat SCARDB (Kheti Bank) and Chairman, NAFCARD met Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker on 25.03.2025 along with prominent leaders from the State including Shri Kesrudevsinh Zala, MP, Shri Kiritsinh Rana, Ex-Minister. Shri Kotecha appraised Hon'ble Speaker about the important role of ARDBs in developing agriculture sector and providing rural development. Hon'ble Speaker showed keen interest in the schemes implemented by the Bank to support farmers and extended his best wishes for its continued success.



Gujarat SCARDB posts Gross Profits of ₹103 Cr

Gujarat SCARDB had declared unaudited provisional gross profit of ₹103.10 Crore and net profit of ₹72.05 crore for the financial year 2024-25 at their board meeting held on 31.03.2025.



West Bengal SCARDB

West Bengal SCARDB Special Officer Dr. Moinul Hassan hosted CGM, WBRO, NABARD at the Governing Council meeting held on 04.03.2025 at ICMARD Kolkata.



Tripura CARDB

NABARD, Agartala, Tripura RO conducted a one day physical training on DCT for master trainers under ARDB as part of the Computerisation of ARDBs under the Centrally Sponsored Project for the employees of Tripura CARDB on 10.03.2025 at the Tripura State Co-operative Union, Agartala, Tripura. Shri Rajesh Chandekar, DGM, NABARD, Tripura RO was the chief guest for the event.

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