

## 181st Board Meeting of the Federation on 29th January 2026 at Mumbai



181st Board Meeting. Seen on dais Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman and Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director



A view of participants of the Meeting

The 181st Meeting of the Federation was held on 29th January 2026 at Hotel Orchid, Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman and was also attended by Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of member banks. Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman apprised the Board about the outcome of the meeting convened by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation on the recommendations of NABCONS study report on 'Reforms, Restructuring and Innovations in ARDBs'. Shri Kotecha informed that the Ministry has agreed to the suggestions of the Federation to implement the legal and policy reforms recommended in the NABCONS study and defer the proposal for restructuring of ARDBs involving merger of viable units with STCCS and liquidation of unviable units till fully implementing the reforms. Shri Kotecha also informed the Board about the discussions he had with Chairman, NABARD on suggestions to augment NABARD's refinance support to SCARDBs, particularly to increase allocation of low cost funds under LTRCF. The Meeting also considered a proposal to set up a Subsidiary Organisation for extending support services to members of ARDBs, particularly in the areas of insuring assets created out of long term loans, arranging supply of farm machineries, equipments and other quality inputs to loanees at competitive rates. The Board also considered Action Plan for the Federation and member banks based on recommendations in the National Cooperation Policy 2025.

## Shri Dolar Kotecha meets NABARD Chairman on 29th January 2026



Shri Dolar Kotecha, Chairman and Shri K.K. Ravindran, Managing Director, NAFCARD made a courtesy visit to Shri K.V. Shaji, Chairman, NABARD on 29th January 2026. During this visit, Shri Dolar Kotecha apprised NABARD Chairman about various suggestions for augmenting refinance support to SCARDBs, particularly allocation of low cost funds under LTRCF. NABARD Chairman advised the Federation to suggest the Agenda for holding a meeting of the Federation and SCARDBs by NABARD as proposed by Shri Kotecha.

## CSR Conclave organised by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on 6th January 2026 at New Delhi



The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Conclave on "The Role of CSR in Nutrition Security and Elimination of Malnutrition", organised by the NDDB Foundation of Nutrition (NFN) was held on 06th January, 2026 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. A key highlight of the conclave was the inauguration of the Giftmilk/ Shishu Sanjeevani Programme, a flagship initiative of the NDDB Foundation for Nutrition aimed at improving child nutrition outcomes. The conclave was graced by





several distinguished dignitaries, including Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry; Smt. Annapurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development; Shri Rajeev Ranjan (Lalan) Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union MoS for Cooperation; Shri S. P. Singh Baghel, Union MoS for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj; Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC; Shri Naresh Pal Gangwar, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDDB. Senior officials from various ministries, representatives of NDDDB, CSR partners, dairy cooperatives, the corporate sector, and other key stakeholders also participated. The conclave provided a platform for meaningful deliberations, bringing together all stakeholders to discuss collaborative strategies aimed at combating malnutrition.

#### **‘Cooperative Chintan Shivir’ organised by ICAI on 12th January 2026 at New Delhi**



‘Cooperative Chintan Shivir’ organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was held on 12th January 2026 at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Union Minister of State for Cooperation; former Union Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu; ICAI President Shri CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, and other dignitaries also attended the event. Shri Yadav said that India’s strong network of PACS, comprising 32 crore people, provides the country with resilience against any global economic crisis. Cooperatives promote not only economic growth but also democratic empowerment. Shri Gurjar said that PACS are being expanded beyond credit activities into 25+ new economic initiatives to ensure their long-term viability and with initiatives like Bharat Taxi, where profits flow directly to drivers, reflect the govt’s commitment to inclusive growth and development. Cooperative sector’s pivotal role in social empowerment will help in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

#### **PACS members interact with MoS ahead of 77th Republic Day**



Union Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Murlidhar Mohol, interacted with representatives from 100 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) representing various States/UTs across India on 25th January, 2026 in New Delhi. The PACS representatives had been invited as special guests for the 77th Republic Day celebrations, reflecting national recognition of their significant contribution to grassroots development. Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC, along with other senior officials of the Ministry, were present on the occasion. The invitation extended to PACS representatives as special guests at the Republic Day Parade, underscores their pivotal role in rural development and reinforces the evolving role of PACS as a key institutional hub not only for financial inclusion but also for community welfare and grassroots empowerment. On this occasion, a dialogue session was also organized, during which in-depth and meaningful discussions were held on important issues concerning the cooperative sector. Key focus areas included the strengthening of PACS, expansion of MSCS, development of the dairy sector, the world’s largest grain storage plan of the cooperative sector, and progress towards the establishment of two lakh new Multipurpose PACS (MPACS).

#### **Secretary reviews NABARD Study on strengthening Co-ops**



Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC, chaired a meeting on the presentation of NABARD’s study report on 15th January, 2026 through virtual mode. The discussion focused on reviewing the key findings and exploring strategies to implement the recommendations for strengthening cooperative development across the country. Shri Raman Kumar, Joint Secretary, and Shri Kumar Ram Krishna, Director, MOC, attended the meeting in person, while Shri Shaji K.V., Chairman of NABARD, joined virtually, along with other senior officials of NABARD.





## India top global leader with 8.5 lakh cooperatives

India's cooperative sector has expanded over the past three years into one of the largest organised economic networks globally. The number of registered cooperatives now stands at about 8.5 lakh, with membership close to 32 crore. The National Cooperative Database shows that India had around 7.94 lakh cooperatives and 29.08 crore members by late 2023. By December 2024, functional cooperatives were estimated at about 6.21 lakh, while membership remained near 28.7 crore. Further registrations and improved data mapping through 2025 lifted membership by nearly three crore within just over two years. Expansion to renewed policy, focus on grassroots economic sectors in agriculture, credit, dairy, fisheries, housing and small services, and to consolidation of previously fragmented records under a single national database. Maharashtra leads with over 2.21 lakh cooperatives and nearly 5.8 crore members. Karnataka and Kerala report very high membership relative to the number of registered societies, while Gujarat, Telangana, UP, Bihar and West Bengal together account for several crore members. Cooperatives often link households across multiple activities, such as farming, savings, production, and consumption, which explains their wide social reach despite a limited number of societies compared with private firms. India accounts for about 27% of cooperatives worldwide. International study suggest cooperatives support about 10% of global employment, with around 15 Indian entities featuring in the Global Top 300 rankings. The financial segment remains significant. As of March 2025, India had 1,457 urban cooperative banks, holding assets of about ₹7.38 trillion and deposits of roughly ₹5.84 trillion.

## VAMNICOM, Sri Lanka sign MoU to Strengthen Co-op Education

The Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Cooperative Development (NICD), Sri Lanka, on 23rd January, 2026 to strengthen cooperation in cooperative education, training, and capacity building between the two countries. The MoU was signed at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi, by Dr. Suva Kanta Mohanty, Director, VAMNICOM, and Dr. Shantha Jayaratne, Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security & Co-operative Development and Director/Board Member, NICD. The signing took place in the presence of Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, MOC, along with other senior officials. The partnership aims to promote academic exchange, joint research, consultancy, and training initiatives. It will focus on curriculum development, faculty exchange, Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes, and joint academic offerings, including a Higher National Diploma (HND) and BBA programmes in Cooperative Banking & Finance and Agri-Business. Aligned with the vision of the Ministry of Cooperation, the MoU marks a significant step toward strengthening cooperative institutions, professional leadership, and human resource development in India and Sri Lanka. (Source: Indian Cooperative)



## IYC 2025 concludes as a Landmark Chapter for Global Cooperation



The International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025, declared by the United Nations, concluded on 31st December, 2025, marking a historic year-long global celebration of the cooperative movement and its critical role in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. Throughout the year, cooperatives were showcased as engines of resilient economies, community empowerment and shared prosperity across nations. In India, IYC 2025 was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who described cooperatives as a people-centric economic model that places farmers, women, youth and small entrepreneurs at the core of national development. Addressing an international gathering at the inaugural event, the

Prime Minister highlighted India's vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi", calling cooperatives a powerful instrument for social justice, economic democracy and grassroots empowerment. During the year, hundreds of programmes, conferences, workshops and outreach initiatives were organised across the country. From national-level cooperative conventions to grassroots awareness campaigns, IYC 2025 witnessed active participation from Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy and fisheries cooperatives, women-led cooperatives and multi-state cooperative institutions. Several new and historic developments took place during the year under the leadership of the MOC, headed by Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah. Key initiatives included the launch of the National Cooperative Policy 2025, along with multiple reforms aimed at strengthening governance, transparency and sustainability within the cooperative sector. Many national-level cooperative institutions, including IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NCUI, NCDC, NABARD, NAFSCOB, NAFSCUB, and others, joined hands to make IYC 2025 a truly historic movement. States such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Ladakh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, among others, hosted major events focusing on cooperative reforms, digitisation, youth participation and women's empowerment. Special emphasis was placed on the modernisation of PACS, strengthening rural credit systems and expanding cooperative participation in emerging sectors. The year also witnessed strong international engagement, with India's cooperative model gaining recognition on global platforms for its scale, inclusivity and impact. As IYC 2025 formally came to a close, it left behind a lasting legacy, reaffirming that cooperatives are not merely economic institutions, but a people-driven movement capable of shaping a more equitable and sustainable future. (Source: Indian Cooperative)







## Bharat Taxi climbs App Store Charts; massive surge in Users, Drivers



Even before its formal nationwide launch, Sahakar Taxi, branded on app stores as Bharat Taxi and promoted by Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Ltd., is fast gaining recognition as a credible public mobility platform across India. Anchored in a cooperative model, the initiative is attracting strong interest from both drivers and passengers, positioning itself as a viable alternative to commission-driven private cab aggregators. Public response to the platform has been notably strong. The Bharat Taxi app has already crossed one lakh downloads, with adoption accelerating steadily. More than four lakh customers have registered nationwide so far, with a surge by an estimated 40,000 to 45,000 per day. The sharp rise in user numbers signals growing anticipation ahead of the platform's official rollout. Amid the growing popularity, users have been advised to download only the official Bharat Taxi app, as instances of fake and misleading applications have surfaced. The

cooperative has issued advisories to raise awareness and safeguard passengers and drivers from potential fraud. A key driver of Sahakar Taxi's appeal is its driver-first approach. Unlike private platforms that impose high commissions and multiple surcharges, Sahakar Taxi follows a cooperative structure that requires only a nominal membership fee. Drivers retain the entire fare from each trip, a transparent model that has resonated strongly with taxi operators seeking predictable incomes and relief from commission-heavy systems.

## 77th Republic Day Celebrations on 26th January 2026

### Gujarat SCARDB (Kheti bank)



Gujarat SCARDB (Kheti bank) celebrated 77th Republic Day with flag hoisting ceremony and carried out Tiranga Yatra, and Swadeshi Rally at its head office in Ahmedabad. Shri Kiritbhai Patel, General Manager, Gujarat SCARDB hoisted the flag with active participation by the senior bank officials and staff.

### Tamil Nadu CSARDB

Tamil Nadu CSARDB celebrated 77th Republic Day with flag hoisting by Thiru. M. Murugan, Addl. Registrar & MD, Tamil Nadu CSARDB at their head office in Chennai. Tmt. R. Anandi, Joint Registrar & GM, Tamil Nadu CSARDB along with bank staff members participated in the event.



### Punjab SCADB



Exposure visit of 13 delegates from Gujarat SCARDB's including Directors and senior officials to Punjab SCADB organised from 07th to 13th January 2026 at Punjab SCADB's head office in Chandigarh.

### Uttar Pradesh SGVB

Uttar Pradesh SGVB organized voter oath taking ceremony in the presence of all officers/employees on the occasion of "National Voter Day 2026" on 23rd January, 2026 and also celebrated 77th Republic Day with flag hoisting ceremony at their head office in Lucknow.



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