National Cooperation Policy, 2025

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Economy*

Why in News?

Recently, the Union Minister of Cooperation informed Parliament about the National Cooperation Policy's objectives, achievements, and initiatives in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.

- **Aim –** It is a ***national policy framework with 16 objectives*** to strengthen cooperatives through various initiatives.

  Cooperatives are voluntary, self-governed associations formed to serve the common economic, social and cultural interests of their members, especially the economically weaker sections.

- **Launched in –** 2025
- **Nodal Ministry –** The Ministry of Cooperation.
- **Objectives –** It aims to ***triple the cooperative sector's contribution to GDP by 2034.***
- It aims to bring in at least 50 crore people under the ambit of cooperatives and make them stakeholders in the equitable growth.
- **Target –** It is to have *at least one cooperative organization in every village in India.*
- **Focus –** Dalits, Adivasis and women are at the core of the policy.
- **Key Features –**

Domain	Achievements & Initiatives

New Institutions	• **NUCFDC –** National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited, an umbrella body for Urban Cooperative Banks. - Recognised as Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) by RBI. • **Sahakar Sarathi Limited –** Provides IT infrastructure and digital banking services to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs). • **Tribhuvan Sahkari University –** Apex national institution for standardised, industry-driven cooperative education and training. • **NCEL (National Cooperative Export Limited)** – Promotes export of cooperative sector products to international markets. • **BBSSL (Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited) –** Seed-focused cooperative for production, certification, procurement, processing, storage, branding, and packaging. • **NCOL (National Cooperative Organics Limited) –** Umbrella body for organic products aggregation, certification, testing, storage, processing, logistics, marketing, and finance facilitation.
Governance Reform	• Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, amended in 2023 to facilitate good governance and transparency.
Financial Environment	• Accessible and affordable finance. • Equal business opportunities for cooperatives.
Expansion & Markets	• Multi-dimensional expansion, including international markets and increasing members' income.
Digitalisation	• Adoption of technology for efficient and transparent management. • *Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)* for linkage with NABARD, SCBs, and DCCBs.
New & Emerging Sectors	• Promotion of cooperatives in new and emerging sectors (e.g., mobility through Bharat Taxi).
Sustainability & Circular Economy	• Environment-friendly practices with new cooperatives, namely, - Inputs & Services Delivery Society (dairy productivity). - Gomay Sahkari Samiti (manure, renewable energy, organic fertilizers).
Data & Inclusion	• National Cooperation Database with gender and weaker section disaggregated data.
Cooperative Business Models	• **Bharat Taxi –** India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform with zero commission; profits distributed to drivers.

The International Day of Cooperatives is celebrated annually on 5th July.

- **Significance –** The Policy aims to make cooperatives key drivers for Viksit Bharat 2047 through Sahkar-se-Samriddhi.
- The policy promotes inclusive participation of women, youth, SC/STs.
- Suggests expansion of cooperatives into new sectors like clean energy, waste management, and technology.
- Financial inclusion through digital platforms and DBT.

India has more than one-fourth of the world's cooperatives.

Quick Facts

Constitutional provisions for Co-operative Societies
• **7th schedule –** - **Entry 44 of the List I –** Union List for objects not confined to one State. - **Entry 32 of the List II –** State List for objects confined to one State. • **Fundamental Rights –** Article 19(1)(c) deals with the right to form cooperative societies. • **Directive Principles of State Policy –** Article 43B mentions about state policy for the promotion of cooperatives. • **Part IX B –** 'The Cooperative Societies' was inserted with provisions for incorporation, regulation and winding up of co-operative societies. • Article 19(1) (c), Article 43B, part IX B were added by *97th constitutional amendment act.*

Reference

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