



## Multistate Cooperatives

**For Prelims:** Multistate Cooperatives, Constitution (97<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Act, 2011, Constitutional Provisions Related to Cooperatives.

**For Mains:** Loopholes in the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

### Why in News

The Centre has decided to amend the **Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002** to “plug the loopholes in the Act”.

- Earlier, a new [Ministry of Cooperation](#) was formed.

### Key Points

- **About the Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002:**
  - **Multi State Cooperative Societies:** Although **Cooperatives is a state subject**, there are **many societies** such as those for sugar and milk, banks, milk unions etc whose members and areas of operation are **spread across more than one state**.
    - For example, most sugar mills along the districts on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border procure cane from both states.
    - **Maharashtra has the highest number of such cooperative societies** at 567, followed by Uttar Pradesh (147) and New Delhi (133).
    - The **MSCS Act** was passed to govern such cooperatives.
  - **Legal Jurisdiction:** Their board of directors has representation from all states they operate in.
    - Administrative and financial control of these societies is **with the central registrar**, with the law making it clear that no state government official can wield any control on them.
    - The exclusive control of the central registrar was meant **to allow smooth functioning of these societies, without interference of state authorities**.
- **Associated Concerns:**
  - **Lack of Checks and Balances:** While the system for state-registered societies includes **checks and balances at multiple layers** to ensure transparency in the process, these layers do not exist in the case of multi state societies.
    - The **central registrar can only allow inspection of the societies** under special conditions.
    - Further, inspections can happen only after prior intimation to societies.
  - **Weak Institutional Infrastructure of Central Registrar:** The on-ground infrastructure for central registrar is thin — there are **no officers or offices at state level**, with most work being carried out either online or through correspondence.
    - Due to this, the **grievance redressal mechanism has become very poor**.
    - This has led to several instances when credit societies have launched **ponzi schemes** taking advantage of these loopholes.
- **Possible Reforms/Amendments:**

- **Strengthening Institutional Infrastructure:** The Centre government after consultation with various stakeholders should strengthen necessary institutional infrastructure to ensure better governance of the societies. For example:
  - Increasing the manpower.
  - Technology shall be used to bring in transparency.
- **Involving States:** The administrative control of such societies should be vested in the state commissioners.

## Cooperatives in India

### ▪ Definition:

- The **International Cooperative Alliance** (ICA) defines a **Cooperative** as “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.”

#### • Examples of Successful Cooperatives in India:

- [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India \(NAFED\)](#),
- [Indian Farmers Fertilisers Cooperative Limited \(IFFCO\)](#)
- AMUL

### ▪ Constitutional Provisions:

- The [Constitution \(97<sup>th</sup> Amendment\) Act, 2011](#) added a **new Part IXB** regarding the cooperatives working in India.
  - The word “**cooperatives**” was added after “**unions and associations**” in Article 19(1)(c) under Part III of the Constitution.
    - This enables all the citizens to form cooperatives by giving it the status of **fundamental right** of citizens.
  - A **new Article 43B** was added in the [Directive Principles of State Policy](#) (Part IV) regarding the “promotion of cooperative societies”.

### ▪ Supreme Court Judgement:

- In July, 2021, the Supreme Court **struck down certain provisions of the 97th Amendment Act, 2011**.
  - As per the SC, **Part IX B (Articles 243ZH to 243ZT)** has “significantly and substantially impacted” State legislatures’ “exclusive legislative power” over its co-operative sector.
  - Also, the provisions in the 97<sup>th</sup> Amendment were passed by Parliament without getting them **ratified by State legislatures** as required by the Constitution.
  - The SC held that states have exclusive power to legislate on topics reserved exclusively to them (cooperatives are a part of State list).
    - The 97<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment required ratification by at least one-half of the state legislatures as per Article 368(2).
    - Since the ratification was not done in the case of the 97th amendment, it was liable to strike it down.
    - It **upheld the validity of the provisions of Part IX B which are related to Multi State Cooperative Societies (MSCS)**.
    - It said that in case of MSCS with objects not confined to one state, the legislative power would be that of the Union of India.

[Source: IE](#)

## Use of Drone in Pesticide Application

**For Prelims:** Drones, Draft Drone Rules, 2021.

**For Mains:** Doubling farmer's income by 2022, Uses of drone technology in agriculture & their advantages.

## Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has released **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for **drone application in Agriculture**.

- The use of **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) commonly known as drones** have great potential to **revolutionize Indian agriculture** and ensure the **country's food security**.
- The drones were used for the first time in warding off **locust attacks** in various states of the country.
- Earlier, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched a Drone-Based vaccine delivery model named, **Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone)**.

## Key Points

- **About Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):** The SOP for drone regulation for pesticide application covers:
  - **Important aspects like statutory provisions**, flying permissions, area distance restrictions, weight classification, overcrowded areas restriction, drone registration, safety insurance, piloting certification, operation plan, air flight zones, weather conditions,
  - **SOPs for pre, post and during operation, emergency handling plan.**
- **Drone Technology in Use of Application of Pesticides:**
  - **Pesticides:** Pesticides are one of the important agri-inputs to **address protection of crops against a large number of pests** that can wash away entire investment of farmers and hence they act as an essential input that yields substantial returns to the farmers.
  - **Conventional Spraying of Pesticide:** Conventional methods of pesticide spray application lead to several problems like:
    - Excessive application of chemicals, lower spray uniformity, unnecessary deposition and non-uniform coverage.
    - Resulting in excessive usage, water & soil pollution as well as higher expenditure on pesticides.
    - With conventional manual sprayers, the safety of operators is also a major concern.
  - **Use of Drone Technology:** The use of drone technology as a modern farming technique is aimed at making production more efficient through **precise spraying of pesticides and crop nutrients**.
    - This approach would not only **ensure accuracy, uniformity in spray across the field**, reduction in the overall use of chemicals within the area, but will also take care of the safety of the operators.
- **Other Uses of Drone Technology in Agriculture & Their Advantages:**
  - **Crop Monitoring:** Drones are well-equipped with many features like multi-spectral and photo cameras.
    - Drones can be used for assessing the health of any vegetation or crop, field areas inflicted by weeds, infections and pests.
  - **Optimum Nutrient Delivery:** Based on an assessment, the exact amounts of chemicals needed to fight infestations can be applied thereby optimizing the overall cost for the farmer.
    - This will further help in **doubling farmer's income by 2022**.
  - **Better Crop Management:** Drone planting systems have also been developed by many start-ups which allow drones to shoot pods, their seeds and spray vital nutrients into the soil.
    - Thus, this technology increases consistency and efficiency of crop management, besides reducing the cost.
    - This will help in enhancing the productivity as well as efficiency of the agriculture

sector.

- Use of drones in agriculture may also give **ample opportunities to provide employment to people in rural areas.**

## Rules for Drone Regulations in India

- [Drone Rules, 2021.](#)
- [National Counter Rogue Drones Guidelines 2019.](#)

[Source: PIB](#)

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## Sri Aurobindo

### Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister has set up a 53-member committee to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of spiritual leader **Sri Aurobindo** on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### Key Points

- About: [//](#)



- Aurobindo Ghose was born in Calcutta on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1872. He was a yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist **who propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth** through spiritual evolution.
- He died on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1950 in Pondicherry.

- **Education:**

- His education began in a **Christian convent school in Darjeeling.**
- He entered the University of Cambridge, where he became **proficient in two classical and several modern European languages.**

- **In 1892, he held various administrative posts in Baroda (Vadodara) and Calcutta (Kolkata).**
- He began the **study of Yoga and Indian languages, including classical Sanskrit.**
- **Indian Revolutionary Movement:**
  - From 1902 to 1910 he partook in the **struggle to free India from the British.** As a result of his political activities, **he was imprisoned in 1908 (Alipore Bomb case).**
  - Two years later **he fled British India and found refuge in the French colony of Pondichéry (Puducherry),** where he devoted himself for the rest of his life to the development of his **“integral” yoga with an aim** of a fulfilled and spiritually transformed life on earth.
- **Spirituality:**
  - In Pondichéry he founded **a community of spiritual seekers, which took shape as the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926.**
  - He believed that the **basic principles of matter, life, and mind would be succeeded through terrestrial evolution by the principle of supermind as an intermediate power** between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite.
- **Literary Works:**
  - An English newspaper called **Bande Mataram (in 1905).**
  - Bases of Yoga
  - Bhagavad Gita and Its Message
  - The Future Evolution of Man
  - Rebirth and Karma
  - Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol
  - Hour of God

**[Source: IE](#)**

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