



ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024

[Source: PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, India hosted the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference** in New Delhi for the first time in the organization's 130-year history.

- The **UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025** was launched at the event.

What are the Key Highlights of ICA Global Cooperative Conference 2024?

- **About:** The conference provides a platform for **leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders** to address issues, share practices, and strategies for advancing the cooperative movement.
 - It is organised by the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**. ICA was established in **1895** to promote the [cooperative model](#).
- **Theme:** The theme of the conference is **“Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All,”** which aligns with the Indian Government's vision of **“Sahkar Se Samridhi” (Prosperity through Cooperation)**.
- **Organisations Involved:** The event was organised by [Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited \(IFFCO\)](#) in collaboration with **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)**, **AMUL**, **KRIBHCO** (national level cooperative society), and the Government of India.
- **UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025:** India's Prime Minister launched the [UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025](#), centered on the theme **“Cooperatives Build a Better World.”**
- **Postal Stamp:** A commemorative postal stamp featuring a **lotus** was launched. The **five petals** of the lotus represent the five elements of **nature (Panchatatva)**, highlighting cooperatives' commitment to **environmental, social, and economic sustainability**.
 - Panchatatva includes **earth, water, fire, air, and space**.

Cooperatives in India

- **Constitutional Provision:** [97th Constitutional Amendment, 2011](#) gave **constitutional status** and protection to cooperatives in India.
 - [Part IX B \(Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT\)](#) was added to the Indian Constitution which deals with **cooperative societies** and their functioning.
 - It made the **right to form cooperative societies** a fundamental right under [Article 19 \(1\)](#).
 - A new [Directive Principle of State Policy, Article 43-B](#), was introduced to promote cooperative societies.
- **Promotion of Cooperatives:** The **Ministry of Cooperation** was constituted in **2021** to **strengthen** cooperative movement and deepen its reach up to grassroots.
 - The Union government plans to establish a **cooperative university** and it also plans to unveil a **new cooperative policy**.
- **Contribution of Cooperatives:** India has **over 8 lakh cooperatives**, and **98% of rural areas** are covered by them.
 - About **300 million people** are associated with cooperatives in India.



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following statements: (2020)

1. In terms of short-term credit delivery to the agriculture sector, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) deliver more credit in comparison to Scheduled Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks.
2. One of the most important functions of DCCBs is to provide funds to the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)