



## National Conference on Cooperation Policy

**For Prelims:** National Conference on Cooperation Policy, Cooperatives, Ministry of Cooperation, 97<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy.

**For Mains:** Government Policies & Interventions, Ministry of Cooperation and Its Significance, Cooperatives in India.

### Why in News?

Recently the **National Conference on Cooperation Policy** concluded in New Delhi.

### What are the Highlights of the Conference?

- The conference was **structured into six important** themes covering not only the whole life cycle of cooperatives but also touching upon all the facets of their business and governance.
- The panel discussions have been held on **following themes:**
  - **Present legal framework, identification of Regulatory policy, Operational barriers and measures** required for their removal leading to Ease of Doing Business and providing a **level playing field to cooperatives** and other economic entities.
  - **Reforms for strengthening governance** including cooperative principles, democratic member control, increasing member participation, transparency, regular elections, Human Resource Policy, leveraging International & National best practices, account keeping & auditing.
  - **Multi Cooperative Vibrant economic entities** by strengthening infrastructure, strengthening equity base, access to capital, diversification of activities, promoting entrepreneurship, promoting branding, marketing, business plan development, innovation, technology adoption and exports
  - **Training, Education, knowledge sharing and Awareness Building** including mainstreaming cooperatives, linking training with entrepreneurship, inclusion of Women, Youth & Weaker Sections.
  - **Promoting new cooperatives**, revitalising defunct ones, promoting cooperation among cooperatives, increasing membership, formalising collectives, developing cooperatives for sustainable growth, mitigating regional imbalances & exploring new sectors.
  - **Promoting social cooperative** and role of cooperatives in social security.
- The ministry is **planning a series of such conferences with different stakeholders**, besides, shortly, another workshop with all cooperative federations to invite their views.
- These efforts will culminate in the formulation of a new robust **National Cooperation Policy**, giving impetus to strengthen the cooperative based economic model in the country to realise the vision and mantra of **Sahkar Se Samaridhi**.

### What is the Ministry of Cooperation?

- **About:**
  - The Government of India, under the guidance of the Prime Minister had carved out a new

[Ministry of Cooperation on 06<sup>th</sup> July 2021](#) with the objective to provide renewed impetus to the growth of the Cooperative Sector and realisation of vision from Cooperation to Prosperity.

- The ministry is working incessantly for development of the cooperative sector for **formulation of new Schemes and the new Cooperation Policy.**

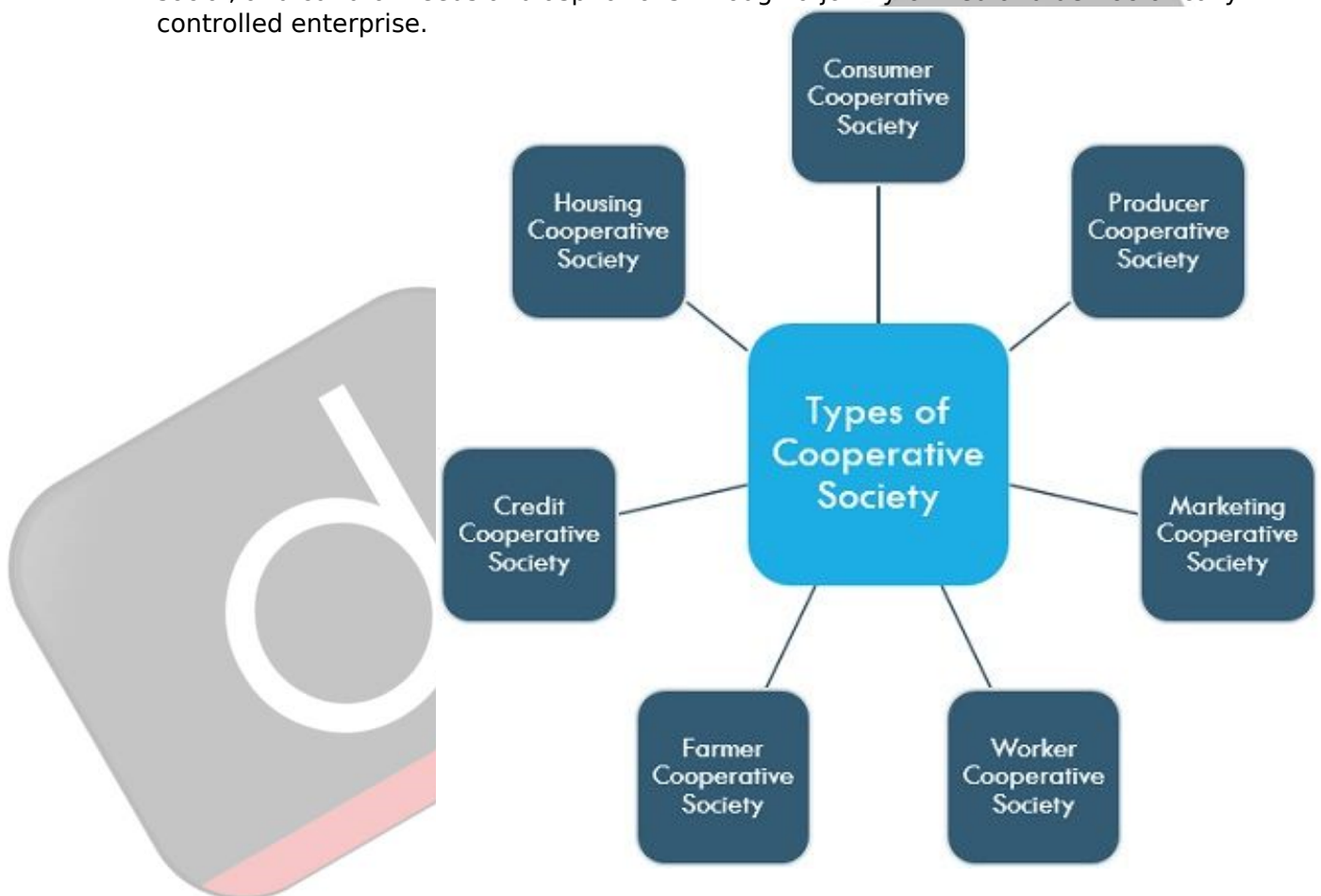
▪ **Significance:**

- It will provide a **separate administrative, legal and policy framework** for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country.
- It will help **deepen Co-operatives as a true people based movement** reaching upto the grassroots.
- It will work to **streamline processes for 'Ease of doing business'** for co-operatives and enable development of Multi-State Co-operatives (MSCS).

## What are 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”.
- The subject ‘**Cooperative Societies**’ is a **State subject** included in Item 32 of List-II (State List) in the [Seventh Schedule of the Constitution](#).

## Way Forward

- New areas are emerging with the advancement of technology and **cooperative societies can play a huge role in making people familiar** with those areas and technologies.
- Principle of the cooperative movement is to unite everyone, even while remaining anonymous. **The cooperative movement has the capacity to solve people’s problems.**
- However, **there are irregularities in cooperatives and to check them there have to be rules and stricter implementation.**
- To strengthen the cooperatives there should be **market linkages for agricultural farmers as well as cooperative societies.**

[Source: PIB](#)

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