



India's First National Cooperative University

[Source: TH](#)

Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated [Tribhuvan Sahkari University](#) in Anand, Gujarat, India's **first national cooperative university**, aligning with the government's vision of '**Sahkar se Samridhhi**' (Prosperity through Cooperation) to strengthen the **cooperative sector** through education.

Tribhuvan Sahkari University (TSU)

- **About:** TSU is named after **Tribhuvandas Kishibhai Patel**, a key figure in India's cooperative history and founder of **Amul**. His work, alongside **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, helped transform the cooperative movement in Gujarat starting in **1946**.
 - The university will be registered under the [Societies Registration Act, 1860](#).
- **Objective:** It aims to strengthen the **cooperative sector** by offering **degree, diploma, and PhD courses** in **cooperative management, accounting, finance, marketing, cooperative law, and rural development** to build a **skilled workforce**.
 - It aims to **train over 20 lakh professionals** in 5 years, covering key areas like **dairy, fisheries, and agricultural credit cooperatives**.
 - A dedicated **Research and Development (R&D) Council** will be established to drive **innovation**, ensure **transparency**, and promote **best practices** across rural cooperative institutions.

Cooperative Sector in India

- It includes **member-owned organizations** that work together to meet **common social and economic needs** through **mutual help** and **fair sharing of resources**, playing a key role in **rural development** and promoting **financial inclusion**.
- The **right to form cooperative societies** was made a **Fundamental Right** under **Article 19(1)(c)** by the [97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011](#).
- The sector is primarily governed by the **Cooperative Societies Act, 1912** and the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002**.
 - The **MSCS (Amendment) Act, 2023** seeks to strengthen **governance, accountability, and transparency** in multi-state cooperatives.

DEVELOPMENTAL GROUPS IN INDIA

Self-Help Groups (SHGs)

- Self-governed peer-controlled information group of people with similar socio-economic backgrounds and interests
 - Members allowed: 5-20 | Registration not required
 - SHGs use savings amounts for giving loans to members
- NABARD's SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (1992)** - To connect SHGs with formal banking institutions
- ~88% of SHGs in India have all-women members
- Success Stories:**
 - Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) since 1972
 - Kudumbashree (1998) in Kerala

Cooperative Societies

- People-centred** enterprises, owned, controlled, and run by and for their members.
 - Capital raised through shared contributions from members.
- Regulating Acts:**
 - Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002
 - State Cooperative Societies Acts
- 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011):**
 - Right to form cooperatives - a fundamental right (Article 19(1)(c))
 - Article 43B (DPSP) - Promotion of Cooperatives
 - Part IX-B titled "The Co-operative Societies" (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
- Examples:** AMUL, IFFCO and PACS

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

- Pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development
- Registered as:**
 - Societies:** Societies Registration Act, 1860
 - Trusts:** Indian Trusts Act, 1882
 - Companies:** Section 8 Companies Act, 2013
- Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Article 19(1)(c)**
 - Article 43**
 - Concurrent List mentions** Charities and charitable institutions

FCRA mandates registration for all NGOs intending to receive foreign donations.

Prominent NGOs:

- NGO Pratham:** Pioneered the **ASER report** to assess the learning levels of children in rural India.
- Akshaya Patra Foundation:** Provided nutritious mid-day meals to school children.

NGO-DARPAN Platform - An interface between NGOs and Government Bodies.



Read More: [India's Cooperative Sector](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/india-s-first-national-cooperative-university)