



International Year
of Cooperatives

Cooperatives Build a Better World

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS COOPERATION POLICY 2025



DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATION



Office of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, A & N Administration

First registered (1946) Cooperative Society of the A&N Islands- Rangachang Land Syndicate Cooperative Ltd.,



A & N State Cooperative Bank Ltd. serving the islanders since 1965.

Ellon Hinengo Ltd, a cooperative society for the tribal community.

Only cooperative society of the country functioning with ships under its fleet.



MESSAGE

The cooperative sector is a powerful vehicle for inclusive and balanced development, especially in geographically unique regions like the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Guided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister vision of “*Sahkar se Samriddhi*” and the National Cooperation Policy 2025, the *Andaman & Nicobar Islands Cooperation Policy 2025* has been framed to promote self-reliance, transparency and people-centric growth through strong and vibrant cooperatives. The policy is formulated to address Island-Specific challenges while creating new opportunities for communities engaged in agriculture, fisheries, tourism and other sectors.

I appreciate the Department of Cooperation, A&N Administration and all stakeholders for their dedicated efforts in shaping this policy. I am confident that its effective implementation will strengthen the cooperative movement, empower local communities and ensure sustainable economic progress of the Islands. I extend my best wishes for the successful realization of the objectives of this policy, contributing to the larger national goal of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

Admiral D.K. Joshi
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

MESSAGE

The vision of “*Sahkar se Samriddhi*” given by our Hon’ble Prime Minister provides the guiding light for making cooperation a strong pillar of growth and prosperity. In line with the National Cooperation Policy 2025 and under the leadership of the Hon’ble Union Minister of Home and Cooperation, this UT-specific Cooperation Policy “*Andaman & Nicobar Islands Cooperation Policy 2025*” has been framed by the Department of Cooperation, A&N Administration to strengthen and modernize the cooperative movement, ensuring inclusivity and sustainability in the unique geographical set-up of our Islands and among diverse communities including tribals engaged in various activities like fisheries, agriculture, tourism etc.

For the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the constant guidance, encouragement and support of the Hon’ble Lt. Governor have been invaluable. His commitment to inclusive development, ecological balance and island-centric needs has ensured that this policy remains rooted in the realities of our Territory while being aligned with the National vision.

I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon’ble Prime Minister, the Hon’ble Union Minister of Home and Cooperation and the Hon’ble Lt. Governor for their inspiring leadership and to all stakeholders and cooperators for their valuable contributions. I am confident that this policy will empower our Department of Cooperation to ensure that cooperatives will become engine of equity, self-reliance and sustainable progress, contributing meaningfully to the larger vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

Chandra Bhushan Kumar, IAS
Chief Secretary
A&N Administration



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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
ANI	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
ANSCB	Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank Ltd.
BBSSL	Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd.
CEF	Cooperative Education Fund
DCCB	District Central Cooperative Bank
FPO	Farmer Producer Organization
FFPO	Fish Farmer Producer Organization
GeM	Government e Marketplace
GI	Geographical Indications
GoI	Government of India
IFFCO	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.
IoT	Internet of Things
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
KCC	Kisan Credit Card
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
KRIBHCO	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.
MoC	Ministry of Cooperation
MPACS	Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Society
MSCS	Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.
NCCF	National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India
NCD	National Cooperative Database
NCDC	National Cooperative Development Corporation
NCEL	National Cooperative Exports Ltd.
NCOL	National Cooperative Organics Ltd.
NDDDB	National Dairy Development Board
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
NUCFDC	National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation
ONDC	Open Network for Digital Commerce
PACS	Primary Agricultural Credit Society
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TSU	Tribhuvan Sahakari University
UCB	Urban Cooperative Bank
UT	Union Territory

Background of Cooperatives in A & N Islands

- I. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a Union Territory located in the Bay of Bengal Southeast of the Indian mainland, situated between 6⁰ and 14⁰ North latitudes and 92⁰ and 94⁰ East longitudes, with a unique geographical (spread across 836 Islands/Islets/Rocky Outcrops, out of which 31 are inhabited Islands), ecological and cultural identity. With a population of 380581(Census 2011), the economy is primarily based on fisheries, small-scale agriculture, tribal economies and eco-tourism. The cooperative model, with its emphasis on collective participation, democratic functioning and mutual benefit, is uniquely suited to address the socio-economic needs of these island communities.
- II. The cooperative movement in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has long been a cornerstone of rural development, particularly in agriculture, credit, consumer and fisheries sectors.
- III. The history of Cooperative Movement started in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the year 1946 with registration of Rangachang Cooperative Land Syndicate, the first Cooperative Society under Cooperative Societies Act 1912.
- IV. The functioning of Cooperative Societies is now regulated under the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation, 1973 and Andaman & Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Rules, 1974.
- V. Cooperatives are guided by core cooperative principles and they are owned by members, operated by members and for the benefit of members

- VI. In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a significant proportion of rural populations, including many from tribal communities such as the Nicobarese, Onges and Great Andamanese, are associated with the cooperative movement.
- VII. The Policy was drafted in consultation and deliberations with various Cooperative Societies and inputs from stakeholders.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

The cooperative principles are guidelines by which cooperatives put their values into practice.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are also organised in a democratic manner.

3. Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing their cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organisations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organisations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that

ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-operatives. They inform the general public - particularly young people and opinion leaders - about the nature and benefits of co-operation.

6. Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7. Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperation Policy 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically member-controlled enterprise.
- 1.2 The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a total of 2,261 registered cooperative societies with an aggregate membership of 1,13,848. These cooperatives operate across diverse sectors, including Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), fisheries, thrift and credit, construction, labour contract, housing, multipurpose activities, plantation, tourism, canteen services, among others. The cooperative network is geographically dispersed across the Union Territory, extending from Diglipur in the North to Campbell Bay in the South. Among the registered societies, 895 cooperatives are currently functional.
- 1.3 This is the first Cooperation Policy formulated for this Union Territory. Over the last 20 years, the world has witnessed significant changes at the individual, societal, national and global levels, driven by globalization and technological advancements, particularly in communication and information technology. These developments have made it essential to establish a policy framework that addresses the emerging needs of the cooperative sector and ensures its sustainability in the evolving economic environment. Recognizing the cooperative movement as a powerful instrument of socio-

economic development, the Policy aims to empower communities, enhance livelihoods and contribute to the sustainable economic growth of the Union Territory.

- 1.4 The constitutional recognition of the right to form cooperative societies and the establishment of a separate Ministry of Cooperation by the Government of India in the year 2021 has opened a new chapter for the cooperative movement across the country. This new phase in the Union Territory requires transformation of the cooperative movement with farmers, women and rural development at its centre, along with strengthening cooperative societies, enabling federations to play a leading role, and ensuring that both the Union Territory Administration and the Central Government provide the necessary support and recognition for these institutions to grow. Hence, a new Cooperation Policy has been formulated for this Union Territory.
- 1.5 The vision of '*Sahkar Se Samriddhi*', as articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, provides a guiding message for the cooperative movement and inspires confidence among all stakeholders. Accordingly, this Policy has been framed in alignment with the National Cooperation Policy, 2025, to promote coordinated efforts by the Union Territory Administration and the cooperative sector towards realizing the vision of '*Sahkar Se Samriddhi*' in the Union Territory.
- 1.6 The task before the Policy drafting Committee was to frame a well-crafted policy to create a roadmap that translates the above vision into reality, by using the strength of the young population, growing aspirations and progress in technology.

1.7 To lay a roadmap for realizing the vision of ‘*Sahkar Se Samriddhi*’ in the Union Territory, this Policy has been formulated to address the island-specific challenges of remoteness, high transportation costs, ecological vulnerability and tribal sensitivities. The Policy intends to facilitate a systematic and orderly, all-around development of the cooperative sector, with a focus on fast-tracking the growth of the rural economy.

1.8 Since the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021, several initiatives have already been undertaken to realize the vision of ‘*Sahkar Se Samriddhi*’. In alignment with these initiatives, the Union Territory shall also undertake appropriate measures to strengthen and modernize the cooperative sector. The major focus areas include:

a) **Strengthening of Cooperative Societies:**

- i. Adoption of new Model Bye-laws circulated by the Ministry of Cooperation to make Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) multipurpose, and adoption of any other Model bye-laws for other cooperative societies.
- ii. Cooperative-led "**White Revolution 2.0**" through strengthening of Dairy Cooperative Societies with the support of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services Department and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- iii. Cooperative-led "**Blue Revolution**" through strengthening of Fisheries Cooperative Societies with the support of the Fisheries Department and the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB).

- iv. Multipurpose PACS to diversify business activities into non-credit areas.
- v. Cooperative societies to be encouraged for participation as buyers and sellers on national digital platforms such as the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

b) Cooperation among Cooperatives:

- i. Affiliation of eligible cooperative societies with national-level cooperative societies in the fields of exports, organic products, seeds and other sectors, as appropriate.
- ii. Participation of primary cooperative societies in nationwide campaigns for cooperation among cooperatives, including functioning as "Bank Mitras" of cooperative banks and facilitating the distribution of RuPay Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to eligible members.

c) Changes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 for cooperative societies

- i. Promotion of awareness on tax reforms and fiscal benefits available to cooperative societies under the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- ii. Promotion of financial literacy, tax compliance and utilization of fiscal incentives and Government support schemes by cooperative societies.

d) Strengthening of Cooperative Banks:

- i. Formation of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), wherever feasible, in accordance with the policies and guidelines issued by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

- ii. Expansion of the business of cooperative banks through opening of new branches.
- iii. One-time settlement of outstanding loans by cooperative banks in accordance with the policies and guidelines issued by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

e) Supporting Cooperative Agro-Based Units:

- i. Promotion of cooperative agro-based units in accordance with the policies of the Government of India.
- ii. Diversification of cooperative agro-based units into value-added products.
- iii. Facilitation of processing, marketing and branding of agricultural and allied produce through cooperative societies.

f) Initiatives in collaboration with National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- i. Formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) through eligible cooperative societies with the support of NCDC.
- ii. Formation of Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) through Fisheries Cooperative Societies with the support of NCDC.
- iii. Creation of awareness on financial assistance and development programmes of NCDC for cooperative societies.

1.9 Carrying forward the vision and spirit of the aforementioned initiatives, this policy seeks to deepen, diversify and accelerate the transformation of the cooperative sector by introducing comprehensive reforms, especially in Tourism, Fisheries and other potential sectors and innovative measures for its holistic revitalization and growth..

Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision:

To build a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable cooperative ecosystem that harnesses the unique natural resources, human capital and traditional skills of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, fostering self-reliant island prosperity and significantly contributing to India's collective ambition of becoming *Viksit Bharat* by 2047. Guided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "*Sahakar Se Samriddhi*", this policy aims to create an enabling environment for sustainable cooperative development that empowers communities, promotes economic resilience and ensures equitable growth across the Islands.

Mission:

The Policy seeks to establish an enabling legal, economic and institutional framework aimed at strengthening and deepening the cooperative movement at the grassroots level. It envisions transforming cooperative enterprises into professionally managed, transparent, technology-driven and vibrant economic entities that are responsive to members' needs and promote collective production and shared prosperity.

The policy's mission will be achieved through six strategic mission pillars as follows:

- I. **Strengthening the Foundation:** Creating a strong foundation for the cooperative movement.
- II. **Promoting Vibrancy:** Creating a vibrant and self-sustaining ecosystem.
- III. **Making Cooperatives Future Ready:** Transforming cooperatives into professional and sustainable economic entities.
- IV. **Promoting Inclusivity and Deepening Reach:** Promoting cooperative-led inclusive development and cooperatives as a people's movement.

- V. **Entering New and Emerging Sectors:** Promoting the entry of cooperatives into new and emerging sectors.
- VI. **Shaping Young Generation for Cooperative Growth by:** Nurturing a new generation of cooperative-minded youth through experiential learning initiatives that ignite interest, build awareness and foster a deep and enduring connection with the values, spirit and practices of the rural cooperative ecosystem

Objectives:

The policy mission will be achieved through the following 16 objectives over the next 10 years, grouped under six strategic mission pillars:

Strengthening the foundation by:

1. Creating a conducive legal, regulatory and institutional environment through timely reforms to ensure autonomy, promote transparency, ease of doing business, good governance and a level playing field for cooperatives.
2. Fostering accessible and affordable finance and equal business opportunities akin to other economic institutions.
3. Enhancing cooperation among cooperatives, strengthening the cooperative structure, and expanding the geographical reach across the fisheries, agriculture, tourism and service sectors.

Promoting Vibrancy by:

4. Promoting the development of a vibrant cooperative business ecosystem.

5. Encouraging multi-dimensional expansion of cooperative societies, including establishment of multipurpose and marketing cooperatives in every Panchayat, access to national and international markets and increasing members' income.

Making cooperatives future ready by:

6. Enhancing technology adoption for efficient, transparent and digital management of cooperative societies.
7. Enabling the transformation of cooperative societies into professionally managed economic entities based on cooperative principles, with emphasis on processing, value addition and marketing of local produce.

Promoting inclusivity and deepening reach by:

8. Promoting inclusivity and member-centric growth by extending the cooperative network to every part of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and ensuring participation from all sections of the island community.
9. Encouraging cooperatives as a people-driven movement, with active involvement of youth and women, to further strengthen and sustain the cooperative spirit across the Union Territory.

Entering new and emerging sectors by:

10. Promoting and encouraging the entry of cooperatives in new and emerging sectors such as tourism, deep-sea fishing, pisciculture and various service industries to enhance local livelihoods and economic diversification.

11. Encouraging environment-friendly practices to ensure sustainable growth aligned with the ecological sensitivities of this Island.

Shaping Young Generation for Cooperative Growth:

12. Motivating and inspiring youth across the UT to pursue long-term careers in the cooperative sector.
13. Promoting the development of standardized, high-quality, cooperative-focused courses and locally relevant training content.
14. Promoting an ecosystem for skilling and upskilling of youth and women for employment in the cooperative sector.
15. Encouraging the engagement of cooperative sector practitioners as Resource Persons, quality teachers, instructors, trainers and visiting faculty for the cooperative sector.
16. Promoting an ecosystem that facilitates the ease of hiring of suitable candidates by cooperative societies and simplifies the job search process for potential candidates.

2. Strategic Mission Pillar - I: Strengthening the foundation

The foundation of the cooperative movement in the Union Territory will be strengthened by addressing the challenges, creating a conducive environment and capitalizing on available opportunities to ensure its reach to every part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A conducive legal and regulatory framework, access to affordable finance, cooperation among cooperatives and expansion of the cooperative network shall be the pathways to achieving this goal.

- 3.1 To develop a supportive legal and regulatory system through timely reforms that give cooperatives greater independence, to promote openness, simplify their functioning and to ensure good governance and create equal opportunities for all cooperatives.

Strategies to achieve the objective:

3.1.1 To suitably amend the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation and Rules to provide autonomy, transparency, good governance and ease of doing business so as to ensure:

- 3.1.1.1 that cooperatives function independently and are controlled democratically by their members.
- 3.1.1.2 a clear and time-bound system to provide services to cooperative societies in a fair and transparent manner.
- 3.1.1.3 free, fair and regular elections for the Board of Directors and office bearers of cooperatives.
- 3.1.1.4 open, merit-based and transparent recruitment procedures in all cooperative institutions.

3.1.1.5 democratic, transparent and data-based decision-making processes at every level of cooperative management.

3.1.2 Review and amend the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation, 1973, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Rules, 1974 and the bye-laws of cooperative societies, as required, by adopting best practices from the Cooperative Societies Acts, Rules and bye-laws of other States and Union Territories.

3.1.3 Periodic review and updation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperation Policy in alignment with the National Cooperation Policy and emerging needs of the cooperative sector, to ensure coordinated efforts of the Union Territory Administration and the Government of India towards achieving common goals for cooperative development.

3.1.4 Complete digitalization of the Office of the Registrar and its subordinate offices to make them paperless, thereby facilitating online registration, amendment of bye-laws, elections, audit, inspection, liquidation, settlement of disputes, appeals and other statutory services relating to cooperative societies. Digitize all processes of the Office of the Registrar and its subordinate offices to:

3.1.4.1 Facilitate all communications and interactions with cooperative societies through online digital means, including web portals, e-mail and mobile-based services.

- 3.1.4.2 Maintain a Union Territory-level database of all cooperative societies in the State Data Centre, integrated with the National Cooperative Database (NCD) maintained by the Ministry of Cooperation, to facilitate real-time data exchange and updates.
- 3.1.5 Establish an institutional mechanism for the revival of sick cooperative societies in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- 3.1.6 Create awareness among cooperative societies to avail sector-specific financial incentives, concessions extended under the policies of the Government of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
- 3.1.7 Converge various programmes and schemes related to cooperatives, implemented by different Departments and Ministries of the Government of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, to bring in synergies, avoid duplication and ensure effective implementation based on the Whole-of-Government approach.
- 3.1.8 Strengthen the role of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by promoting them as multipurpose and e-PACS, encouraging them to provide agri-inputs, marketing and other essential services, and facilitating their participation in the implementation of Government schemes at the grassroots level.
- 3.2 To foster accessible, affordable finance and equal business opportunities akin to other economic institutions

Strategies to achieve the objective:

- 3.2.1 Strengthen the two-tier cooperative credit structure comprising the Andaman & Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB) and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to provide affordable credit, maintain their democratic character and promote financial inclusion.
- 3.2.2 Promote the establishment of Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) in uncovered areas, District Central Cooperative Bank (DCCB) in feasible districts, and one Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) in suitable urban centres, subject to viability, to achieve financial inclusion through cooperatives.
- 3.2.3 Encourage the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB) to expand its reach and scope by opening new branches and diversifying financial products and services, subject to viability, to increase their footprints.
- 3.2.4 Promote the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB) being the apex cooperative banking institution of the Union Territory to enhance cooperation among cooperative credit institutions and provide support, capacity building, professionalism, business opportunities and financial inclusion.
- 3.2.5 Promote the adoption of digital technology by the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB), e-PACS and other cooperative credit institutions for improved customer experience, enhanced operational efficiency, robust cybersecurity, prevention of risks and fraud, and seamless delivery of digital financial services, including –

- 3.2.5.1 common banking software for different layers of cooperative banks,
- 3.2.5.2 building a strong institutional arrangement to provide shared IT-infra to rural cooperative banks.

3.2.6 Encourage the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB) and future Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) to associate with the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC) and other national-level institutions for strengthening cooperative banking by:

- 3.2.6.1 adopting and professionally managing common technology platforms to provide a modern banking experience to customers;
- 3.2.6.2 strengthening capital base through institutional support and other appropriate mechanisms;
- 3.2.6.3 improving access to liquidity support and financial stability measures;
- 3.2.6.4 adopting best practices in governance, regulatory compliance, customer protection, ethics and professionalism in accordance with the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India and other competent authorities.

3.2.7 Encourage the Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank (ANSCB) and other cooperative banks to become eligible to handle Government business.

3.2.8 Promote the cooperative credit structure for dispensing long-term credit through cooperative credit institutions.

3.2.9 Constitute a committee to holistically examine the challenges faced by cooperative credit institutions and suggest measures to address these challenges, including issues relating to long-term credit, financial sustainability and deposit mobilization.

3.2.10 Collaborate with the NCDC, NABARD and other financial institutions for preparation of model DPRs, business feasibility studies and bankable project reports for cooperative societies.

3.2.11 Promote effective utilization of the financial assistance, concessional credit and development programmes of the NCDC by cooperative societies.

3.3 To enhance cooperation among cooperatives, strengthen the cooperative structure and expand the geographical reach

Strategies to achieve the objective:

3.3.1 Encourage cooperatives to create new infrastructure and share existing infrastructure on mutually beneficial terms, including:

3.3.1.1 to promote shared use of available physical infrastructure at the Panchayat and District levels in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide common services for food and seed quality control testing labs, including organic product certification, non-food quality control labs, soil testing facilities, veterinary services, warehouses, cold storage for fast perishable goods (such as fish, vegetables, etc.), and responsive and efficient supply chain and logistics,

3.3.1.2 to promote shared use of available digital infrastructure to alleviate the challenges of high costs in technology adoption.

3.3.2 Encourage cooperative federations, apex cooperative institutions, and concerned stakeholders in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to document and disseminate success stories and prevailing best practices in the cooperative sector to promote the spirit of cooperation and their emulation.

3.3.3 Encourage cooperative and their members to open bank accounts with and to avail financial services from cooperative banks.

3.3.4 Enable primary cooperative societies, including PACS, to function as 'Bank Mitra' of cooperative banks operating in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to provide banking products and services, including RuPay Kisan Credit Card, to members at their doorsteps.

3.3.5 Encourage the strengthening and diversification of existing multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and promote the creation of primary dairy cooperatives, primary fisheries cooperatives, and other sectoral primary cooperative societies in areas where such cooperatives do not exist, within the next five years.

3.3.6 Enhance the reach and strengthen cooperatives across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, particularly in remote and geographically isolated areas, by facilitating the requisite institutional and financial support.

- 3.3.7 Encourage the Apex & Central Level of the cooperatives to take on larger responsibilities in supporting their primary members to become more competitive.
- 3.3.8 Encourage primary societies, district, and state-level federations to become members of national cooperatives, such as IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, etc., and the newly formed three national-level MSCS – NCOL, NCEL, and BBSSL.
- 3.3.9 Encourage cooperative unions and federations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to play leading roles in revitalizing the cooperative sector by helping member cooperatives to develop and adopt best practices for transparency and good governance, and deepening the cooperative movement through cooperative advocacy, awareness and member education.

3. Strategic Mission Pillar - II: Promoting vibrancy

The policy envisions vibrant and economically self-reliant cooperatives as the support structure for members to earn higher incomes. It identifies the promotion of a vibrant cooperative ecosystem and its multidimensional expansion as the key pathways to achieve this goal.

4.1 To promote the development of a cooperative business ecosystem

Strategies to achieve the objective:

4.1.1 Encourage the creation of a vibrant ecosystem for the growth and development of cooperative business in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by promoting a self-sustainable business support system. The system shall facilitate access to finance, business research and advisory services for marketing, branding, etc., alongside support from sectoral development and capacity-building institutions.

4.1.2 Develop at least one model cooperative village in each district, centred around a Multipurpose PACS (MPACS) as the growth engine. MPACS shall be encouraged to adopt good governance and business management practices across different business verticals. Other villages in the district shall be encouraged to emulate the model cooperative village and progressively develop into model cooperative villages.

4.1.3 Promote cooperative-led economic clusters for niche rural produce such as coconut, honey, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants, mushrooms, floriculture, poultry and marine produce, etc.

- 4.1.4 Encourage cooperatives to explore marketing opportunities through Geographical Indications (GI), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and trademarks.
 - 4.1.5 Encourage the branding of all organic, agricultural, and dairy products under the aegis of the 'Bharat' Brand as an umbrella brand, and leverage the established brands of this UT.
 - 4.1.6 Promote the participation of cooperatives in national, State/UT, and other fairs and exhibitions, as well as Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), and other e-commerce platforms, to showcase their brands and provide them access to markets.
- 4.2 To promote multi-dimensional expansion, including access to national markets and enhance members' income

Strategies to achieve the objective:

- 4.2.1 Encourage cooperatives to identify and align with export-oriented products under the One District One Product-Districts as Export Hubs initiative.
- 4.2.2 Encourage dairy cooperatives to strengthen dairy production and value addition for the holistic development of dairy cooperatives, employment generation, and women's empowerment.
- 4.2.3 Encourage fisheries cooperatives, including fish seed production, deep-sea fishing, mariculture, and other sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities for the holistic development of fisheries cooperatives, employment generation, and enhancement of members' livelihoods.

- 4.2.4 Encourage the cooperative sector of this UT to become the leader in the organic products market.
- 4.2.5 Encourage exports of cooperative sector products such as coconut-based products, marine products, spices, and other value-added products from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to international markets and enhance the contribution of the cooperative sector to the country's exports.
- 4.2.6 Promote the cultivation of millets, wherever agro-climatically feasible, through farmer members of primary cooperatives, and encourage national cooperative organizations such as NAFED, NCCF, etc., to procure such produce to strengthen food and nutritional security and popularize their consumption as part of a healthy diet.
- 4.2.7 Encourage production of pulses, oilseeds and maize through farmer members of primary cooperative societies by changing cropping pattern and facilitate the support of national cooperative organizations such as NAFED, NCCF etc. to procure them to attain 'atmanirbharta' in edible oil and pulses and reduce dependence on imports.
- 4.2.8 Encourage cooperative societies to promote crop diversification and value addition through the cultivation of locally suitable crops, including maize wherever feasible, and strengthen cooperative-led processing, storage, and marketing to enhance farmers' income and promote sustainable agricultural development.
- 4.2.9 Encourage the enhancement of existing processing capacities, including the manufacturing of value-added products, through

member capital infusion and other appropriate sources of capital, to increase members' incomes.

4.2.10 Constitute a Task Force to envision and recommend pathways for creating an economic framework aimed at expanding the outreach of cooperatives, increasing cooperative membership, and enhancing the contribution of the cooperative sector to the economy of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands over the next 10 years.

4. Strategic Mission Pillar - III: Making Cooperatives future ready

Cooperative societies need to adapt to the latest technologies to bridge the digital divide and become professionally managed economic entities to enhance their operational efficiency, manage infrastructure, products, and services effectively.

5.1 To promote technology adoption for efficient and transparent management

Strategies to achieve the objective:

5.1.1 To strengthen and expand the existing Cooperative Department digital portal into an Integrated Cooperative Digital Platform for data-driven decision-making and enhanced service delivery. The Platform shall consolidate high-quality data within the cooperative sector in the Union Territory and make it readily accessible to stakeholders for innovation and the creation of new services. The Platform may be developed on the foundation of the National Cooperative Database (NCD), incorporating other suitable databases and enabling integration with other digital platforms, wherever feasible.

5.1.2 Encourage collaboration with national sectoral cooperative federations and other technical institutions to support technological upgradation across different cooperative levels and sectors in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5.1.3 Encourage cooperatives to access e-commerce and digital trade platforms such as GeM and Open Network for Digital Commerce to access a large customer base and achieve better pricing.

5.2 To enable the transformation of cooperatives into professionally managed economic entities based on cooperative principles

Strategies to achieve the objective:

5.2.1 Promote the organizational management of cooperative societies along professional lines through the creation of an integrated, standardized, and quality-conscious institutional framework for sector-oriented education and need-based capacity building. This may be achieved by encouraging cooperative unions:

5.2.1.1 to collaborate with existing national, regional, and Union Territory-level education and training institutions/centres in the cooperative sector to facilitate standardized training programmes, harmonized course content, and quality-oriented capacity-building initiatives for cooperative personnel.

5.2.1.2 to ensure a stable and adequate supply of young and qualified manpower for the cooperative sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5.2.1.3 to appropriately synergize with existing skill development centres, training institutes for conducting skill-related courses for the cooperative sector in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

5.2.1.4 to design and deliver curricula and courses to meet the requirements of the cooperative sector.

- 5.2.1.5 to facilitate research and development in the cooperative sector through collaboration with educational, research, and other specialized institutions.
 - 5.2.1.6 to seek the institutionalization of sponsored research and practice-oriented Chairs from cooperative and private sector.
 - 5.2.1.7 to develop Centres of Excellence for focused and quality education, incubation, and research in the cooperative sector.
 - 5.2.1.8 to promote social enterprise incubators in new and emerging sectors for providing need-based assistance.
- 5.2.2 Encourage higher education institutions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands to affiliate with Tribhuvan Sahakari University (TSU) for conducting certification courses relevant to cooperative sectors for students and cooperators to develop skilled manpower for cooperative development in the UT.
- 5.2.3 Encourage the utilization of funds available under the Cooperative Education Fund (CEF) of the Government of India and other appropriate schemes of the Government of India and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for cooperative training, skill development, and the development of cooperative-specific quality academic and training content in appropriate languages for various levels and types of cooperative courses.
- 5.2.4 Facilitate the establishment of an institutional mechanism for innovation and incubation in the cooperative sector through appropriate institutional arrangements and collaboration with

educational, research, technical, and entrepreneurship support institutions, to:

- 5.2.4.1 develop and spread sustainable and innovative business practices and technologies around the locally available resources and means,
 - 5.2.4.2 incubate new cooperatives in emerging fields,
 - 5.2.4.3 promote and spread entrepreneurial skills in the cooperative sector.
- 5.2.5 Encourage cooperative societies to amend their bye-laws suitably to include training, leadership development, management development, and other organizational capacity-building programmes for their board members and employees as an essential element for building human resource capabilities for different categories of jobs.
- 5.2.6 Strive for member education based on cooperative principles and values across all cooperative societies, including new ones, in a time-bound and universal manner.
- 5.2.7 Encourage cooperative societies, cooperative federations, and other cooperative institutions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in collaboration with national cooperative institutions wherever appropriate, to institute fellowships to support research scholars in reputed universities, colleges, and research institutions for pursuing doctoral and post-doctoral research in important areas of the cooperative sector.
- 5.2.8 Encourage the establishment of cooperative learning centres at the grassroots level through cooperative societies, cooperative federations, unions, and other cooperative institutions. These

centres should preferably use local and other appropriate languages for extension, awareness, and capacity-building activities to ensure better uptake.

5.2.9 Encourage cooperative federations and apex cooperative institutions to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to evaluate the performance of member cooperative societies. Sector-specific performance ratings may be developed to identify areas of strength and improvement in cooperative societies.

5.2.10 Promote a higher level of professionalism in cooperative societies by fostering responsive governance, effective leadership, and employee competence through transparent, merit-based, and technology-enabled recruitment practices.

5. Strategic Mission Pillar - IV: Promoting inclusivity and deepening reach

This policy prioritizes the inclusion of youth and women to ensure increased representation across all sections of society. It envisions the partnership and collaboration of cooperative federations/societies to promote cooperatives as a people's movement.

6.1 To promote inclusivity and member centrality

Strategies to achieve the objective:

6.1.1 Encourage the participation of women, youth, small and marginal farmers, Scheduled Tribes, specially-abled persons and other weaker sections in cooperative societies, ensuring their inclusive representation and assignment of significant roles.

6.1.2 Strengthen and promote cooperatives for the weaker and marginalized sections in sectors such as fisheries, handicrafts, minor forest and agriculture produce, etc.

6.1.3 Support the collection and maintenance of disaggregated data on gender, weaker sections etc. in cooperative societies and share with the NCD for targeted interventions.

6.1.4 Facilitate the development and adoption of model bye-laws for cooperatives across different tiers and sectors with a focus on strengthening members to:

6.1.4.1 ensure the active participation of members,

- 6.1.4.2 make provision for a mechanism that collects member-centric feedback and promote the activation of dormant members,
- 6.1.4.3 promote membership among women and weaker sections of the community,
- 6.1.4.4 ensure centrality of members in decision-making,
- 6.1.4.5 ensure transparent and corruption-free organizational governance,
- 6.1.4.6 promote the induction of young and qualified manpower for various positions.

6.1.5 Strengthen members of primary cooperative societies by encouraging state federations/ unions to:

- 6.1.5.1 promote an effective and continuous member education programme based on cooperative principles and values that educates, sensitizes, and makes members aware of their rights, duties, and responsibilities,
- 6.1.5.2 focus on enhancing members' entrepreneurial skills,
- 6.1.5.3 encourage primary cooperatives to enhance members' income levels.

6.2 Cooperatives as a people's movement

Strategies to achieve the objective:

- 6.2.1 Promote awareness of the cooperative movement among school students through suitable educational and extracurricular activities in coordination with the Education Department and other concerned authorities.

6.2.2 Encourage State/district cooperative federations/unions to take a leading role in promoting member education, entrepreneurial skill development, and income enhancement initiatives among women, youth and the weaker sections. This will strengthen the economic viability and professional management of cooperatives and encourage greater participation in the cooperative movement:

6.2.2.1 by fostering mass-level awareness to motivate the young generation, particularly women and the weaker sections, to actively participate in the cooperative movement,

6.2.2.2 by showcasing and disseminating success stories of cooperatives that highlight how they contribute to the emancipation of the poor and marginalized,

6.2.2.3 by leveraging various channels, including social media, to share success stories, utilizing the existing social media infrastructure of state/district level cooperative federations/ unions/societies.

6. Strategic Mission Pillar - V: Entering new and emerging sectors

The policy encourages cooperative societies to enter into new and emerging sectors suitable for cooperatives to enhance their presence and member base in future. It encourages cooperatives to practice environment-friendly practices to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as clean energy, sustainable agriculture, reverse land degradation, etc.

7.1 To promote and encourage the entry of cooperatives in new and emerging sectors

Strategies to achieve the objective:

7.1.1 Encourage primary cooperative societies to convert into multipurpose cooperatives to diversify their businesses into new areas such as PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra, warehousing, Common Service Centre, Fair Price Shop, LPG distributorship, petrol/diesel retail outlet, PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendra, operation & maintenance of rural piped water supply scheme, etc., subject to viability, for transforming them into financially and operationally self-reliant entities.

7.1.2 Promote the entry and growth of cooperatives in new and emerging sectors (Deep Sea fishing, organic farming, spice cultivation, coconut based industry, tourism etc), in coordination with line departments, to enhance business diversification and member income.

7.2 To promote environment-friendly practices and a circular economy for sustainability

Strategies to achieve the objective:

7.2.1 Encourage the adoption of circular economy practices through the promotion of digitalization and emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, reverse logistics, and other innovative solutions in cooperative societies, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, coconut and allied activities, handicrafts, and other island-specific sectors, to promote resource efficiency, value addition, waste reduction, and environmental sustainability, by:

7.2.1.1 promoting suitable use cases as pilots to assess their applicability in the cooperative sector for adoption.

7.2.2 Encourage PACS member farmers to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices and cropping patterns, and harness renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biogas, and other locally suitable technologies on farmlands and cooperative assets, with a special focus on reducing the carbon footprint and mitigating climate risks.

7.2.3 Encourage Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) to promote the practice of organic farming, natural farming, agroforestry, and the reclamation of degraded land through awareness generation and capacity building, with the support of the relevant line Departments of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and in convergence with the applicable Government schemes.

7.2.4 Encourage primary dairy cooperatives and other eligible cooperative societies to promote decentralized biogas production at the village level through awareness generation, technical support in convergence with the relevant line Departments of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and applicable Government of India schemes.

7. Strategic Mission Pillar - VI: Shaping young generation for cooperative growth

Inspire the young generation through the success stories of cooperative societies and the biographies of veteran cooperators. Provide cooperative-oriented experiential learning to develop a fair understanding of the rural economy, cooperative values and principles, and the functioning of cooperative societies. Impart professional education and training in multiple domains, including cooperative history, laws, auditing and accounting, finance, governance, operations, and cooperative-focused business management. This also includes equipping and enhancing the technical skills of rural youth for meaningful employment in the cooperative sector. The Cooperative Unions/Federations and their affiliated institutions will lead these initiatives.

8.1 To motivate and inspire youth, especially those in rural areas, to pursue long-term careers in cooperative enterprises.

Strategies to achieve the objectives:

8.1.1 Encourage cooperative Unions and Federations to launch district-level awareness programs in this UT by organizing seminars, workshops, dramas, films, and videos and share success stories in schools, colleges and social media platforms to motivate youth toward the cooperative movement.

8.1.2 Promote the development of future cooperative leaders to manage cooperative societies professionally.

8.2 To promote the development of standardized, high-quality, cooperative-focused courses and the creation of authoritative content.

Strategies to achieve the objectives:

- 8.2.1 Encourage Cooperative Unions to identify, design and develop cooperative-focused certificate, diploma, and degree programmes through a consultative process involving National educational institutions and to ensure that upon successful completion, candidates are employment-ready and equipped with the competencies and skill sets required for suitable employment in the cooperative sector.
- 8.2.2 Encourage higher education institutions in the UT to offer certified cooperative courses to make cooperative education easily accessible to all.
- 8.3 To promote an ecosystem for skilling and upskilling of youth and women for employment in the cooperative sector

Strategies to achieve the objectives:

- 8.3.1 Encourage the Cooperative Union to create and maintain a database of training institutions established or funded by the Government of India and the Andaman & Nicobar Administration offering programmes for training and skill development of ground-level workers for technical and non-technical roles in cooperative societies.
- 8.3.2 Encourage the Cooperative Union to establish partnerships and enter into MoUs with training and skill development institutions established by the GoI, the A&N Administration, and other recognized organizations to strengthen education,

training, skill development, and capacity building in the cooperative sector.

8.3.3 Promote financial & digital literacy among rural and semi-urban youth to make them employable in the cooperative sector.

8.4 To ensure the availability of cooperative sector practitioners as part-time resource persons, quality teachers, instructors, trainers and visiting faculty in sufficient numbers, in the cooperative sector.

Strategies to achieve the objectives:

8.4.1 Encourage the Cooperative Union to develop and recommend standardized recruitment guidelines and eligibility criteria, including educational qualifications, teaching experience, and other relevant parameters, for various categories of teachers, instructors, trainers, resource persons, visiting faculty, and part-time resource persons engaged in cooperative education and training programmes.

8.4.2 Encourage the Cooperative Union to develop and recommend an appropriate and attractive remuneration framework for various categories of teachers, instructors, trainers, resource persons, visiting faculty, and part-time resource persons engaged in cooperative education and training programmes.

8.4.3 Encourage the Cooperative Union to create and maintain a pool of certified teachers, instructors, trainers, and resource persons through a structured capacity-building and certification system, while continuously enhancing the academic and professional

capabilities of existing teachers, instructors, and trainers engaged in cooperative education and training programmes.

8.4.4 Encourage the Cooperative Union to develop and maintain a database of cooperative teachers, instructors, resource persons and trainers, including information on their qualifications, location, experience and areas of expertise.

8.5 **To develop an ecosystem that facilitates the ease of hiring of suitable candidates by cooperatives and simplifies the job search process for potential candidates.**

Strategies to achieve the objectives

8.5.1 Encourage cooperative societies in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to utilize the National Digital Cooperative Employment Exchange proposed to be established by national level apex organization, for efficiently matching job seekers with employment opportunities and recruiting employees in accordance with their requirements.

8. Monitoring and implementation structure

- 9.1 The implementation of this policy in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands will adhere to the principles of cooperative federalism.
- 9.2 Considering the structure of the cooperative sector in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the smooth and effective implementation of this Policy requires the active participation of the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, the relevant Departments of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Cooperative Unions/Federations, cooperative societies, and other relevant stakeholders. It shall also involve sectoral development and financing institutions, including NABARD, NCDRC, NDDDB, NFDB, and other relevant institutions, wherever applicable.
- 9.3 To ensure the policy is implemented effectively and within a set timeframe, an 'Implementation & Monitoring Cell' will be created within the A&N Administration. This cell will receive support from a dedicated Project Management Unit for technical assistance on the subject, documentation, coordination, monitoring, reporting, and more.
- 9.4 A detailed action plan, complete with intervention-specific timelines for the implementation of the policy, will be finalized soon after the release of the Policy.
- 9.5 Monitoring of the implementation of the Policy will be done through:
 - 9.5.1 A UT Level Steering Committee on Cooperation Policy, under the Chairmanship of such authority as may be notified

by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, shall periodically review the progress of implementation and recommend corrective measures, wherever required.

9.5.2 A UT Level Policy Implementation and Monitoring Committee, under the Chairmanship of such authority as may be notified by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration to be established for coordination with districts, troubleshooting implementation bottlenecks, periodic monitoring and evaluation, etc. and shall also periodically review the progress of implementation and recommend corrective measures, wherever required.

Little Andaman Service Cooperative Society Ltd.



Jaya Housing Cooperative Society Ltd



Subhashgram PACS, Diglipur



Agro Women Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd.





DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATION
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION