

Cooperative Literacy Camp – Programme Completion Report

Celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025

Date: 4th July 2025

Venue: Umiya Temple, Himatnagar Block, Sabarkantha District

To mark the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 (IYC 2025), a Cooperative Literacy Camp was organized on 4th July 2025 in Umiya Temple, Himatnagar Block, Sabarkantha District. The event was themed “Cooperatives Build a Better World” and aimed to create greater awareness about the importance and potential of the cooperative movement, especially in rural areas.

The session was attended by several key stakeholders from the cooperative and banking sectors, including:

Shri H. P. Nayak, CEO, DCCB
Shri H. M. Patel, Advisor to the Board
Shri Girish Patel, GM (Loan)
Shri Pravin Patel, GM, DCCB
Shri Naresh Patel, AGM, SK Bank
Staff and field officers of DCCB
Secretaries of various PACS

The session, conducted by the undersigned, began with a brief look at the history of cooperatives in India, tracing back to the Cooperative Credit Societies Act of 1904. Over the last century, the cooperative movement has played a vital role in promoting rural credit, self-reliance, and inclusive development.

Participants were given insights into India’s current cooperative landscape — with over 8 lakh cooperatives (27% of the world’s total) and nearly 29 crore members, cooperatives in India are deeply embedded in sectors like agriculture, housing, and dairy. Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Kerala lead in terms of numbers and membership penetration.

We discussed the legal and policy framework, including the 97th Constitutional Amendment, which gave cooperatives constitutional recognition, and the formation of the Ministry of Cooperation in 2021. The seven cooperative principles — from voluntary membership to community concern — were explained along with key benefits like equal voting rights, shared profits, and collective growth.

The Government’s key initiatives — such as the computerization of 67,000 PACS, formation of 2 lakh new multipurpose PACS, and rollout of model bye-laws — were shared. The session also

highlighted areas of focus for IYC 2025: digital transformation, increased youth and women participation, and PACS as service hubs.

Successful models like Amul, IFFCO and strong PACS like Amalsad and Gadat were shared as case studies. Participants also learned about the role of institutions like NABARD, NCDC, NDDDB, IFFCO, and NAFED, and NABARD's support for PACS modernization, training, infrastructure, and skilling.

In conclusion, the camp emphasized that the spirit of cooperation, backed by technology and inclusive participation, can truly help build a better, fairer rural economy. Participants were encouraged to take forward the cooperative vision with renewed commitment and collaboration.



