

Amul and IFFCO Ranked World's Top Two Cooperatives

Context:

- Two Indian farmer-owned cooperatives — **Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd - GCMMF)** and **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** — have achieved global recognition by securing the **top two positions** in the **ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025**, released in **Doha, Qatar**.
- The ranking was published by the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** in collaboration with **EURICSE** (European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises).

Key Highlights:

1. Global Ranking:

- **Amul (GCMMF) — Rank 1** globally.
- **IFFCO — Rank 2** globally.
- Both cooperatives represent **India's strong cooperative movement**, particularly in the **agriculture and rural sectors**.

2. Ranking Criteria:

- Based on **GDP per capita performance** and overall **economic impact**.
- Evaluated the **turnover, employment generation, and social contribution** of cooperative enterprises.

3. About the ICA World Cooperative Monitor:

- An **annual report** by the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and **EURICSE**.
- It analyses and ranks the **largest cooperatives and mutuals** worldwide based on **economic size and social relevance**.
- Highlights the role of cooperatives in achieving **inclusive growth and sustainable development**.

4. About the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA):

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

- A global body representing over **3 million cooperatives** and **1 billion cooperative members** worldwide.
- Works to promote the **values of self-help, democracy, equality, and solidarity**.

5. About EURICSE:

- **Full form:** European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises.
- Based in **Italy**, it supports **research and policy analysis** related to cooperatives and social enterprises.

About the Indian Cooperatives Recognised

1. Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd - GCMMF):

- **Established:** 1946 in Anand, Gujarat.
- **Founder:** Tribhuvandas Patel under the guidance of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and **Dr. Verghese Kurien**.
- **Structure:** A federation of **18 district milk unions** covering over **3.6 million milk producers**.
- **Significance:**
 - Backbone of India's **White Revolution**.
 - Contributes to **rural livelihoods, women's empowerment, and nutritional security**.
 - Symbol of India's **successful cooperative model** in dairy production.

2. IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited):

- **Established:** 1967.
- **Members:** Over **36,000 cooperative societies** representing millions of farmers.
- **Operations:** Produces and distributes **fertilisers, soil nutrients, and agricultural inputs**.
- **Significance:**
 - One of the world's **largest fertiliser cooperatives**.

- Focuses on **sustainable agriculture, green initiatives, and rural development.**
- Promotes use of **bio-fertilisers, nanotechnology-based fertilisers, and digital agriculture platforms.**

Global Significance:

- Recognition of **India's cooperative strength** on a **global platform.**
- Demonstrates how **member-owned enterprises** can drive **inclusive growth** and **socio-economic empowerment.**
- Supports India's image as a **leader in cooperative innovation** and **rural transformation.**

Connection to UN International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025:

- The recognition coincides with the conclusion of the **UN International Year of Cooperatives 2025**, hosted in **Doha.**
- The IYC theme emphasizes **"Empowering Communities through Cooperatives".**
- Highlights cooperatives as key vehicles for achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

UPSC Relevance:

GS Paper 2 - Governance & Social Justice

- Role of **cooperatives in inclusive development.**
- Importance of **democratic and member-based organisations.**
- Contribution of **Amul and IFFCO** to **rural empowerment** and **food security.**

GS Paper 3 - Economy

- **Agricultural growth** through cooperative models.
 - **Value addition** in the dairy and fertiliser sectors.
 - Contribution to **sustainable economic development.**
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Conclusion:

The global recognition of **Amul** and **IFFCO** as the top two cooperatives underscores the **success of India's cooperative model**, which blends **economic efficiency** with **social equity**.

It validates India's long-standing commitment to **grassroots development**, **self-reliance**, and **collective prosperity** — principles deeply rooted in the cooperative movement.

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