# 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.

## **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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