



Report

of

One Day State Level Cooperative Conference in Sikkim State in the wake of IYC2025

Promotion and Development of Cooperatives in the State of Sikkim

Organised by

National Cooperative Union of India

in collaboration with

Cooperative Department, Sikkim and Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN)

Saturday, 29th March 2025

Auditorium, Sikkim State Cooperative Union, Assam Lingzay, Sikkim



Report on One Day State Level Cooperative Conference in the State of Sikkim **on 29th March 2025**

The United Nations has declared the year 2025 as the *International Year of Cooperative, IYC2025* with the theme: **“Cooperatives Builds a Better World.”**

In alignment with this global initiative and under the guidance & action plan of the Ministry of Cooperation (MoC), the **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)** has planned a series of conferences and seminars across India throughout 2025 to highlight the significant contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development.

As part of these celebrations, NCUI successfully organized a **One Day State Level Cooperative Conference on “Promotion and Development of Cooperatives in the State of Sikkim”** on **29th March 2025**, in collaboration with the **Cooperative Department, Government of Sikkim**, and the **Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN)**. The Conference witnessed the participation of over **600 members from various cooperative societies** across the state.

The primary objectives of the conference were to deliberate on innovative strategies, success stories, and best practices that can enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of cooperatives, both regionally and globally, in the spirit of **IYC2025**.



"The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Mr. Prem Singh Tamang-Golay, along with Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI and other distinguished dignitaries, hoisted the flag of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 ahead of the inauguration of the One-Day State Level Cooperative Conference in Sikkim."

The conference was **inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay)** as the **'Chief Guest'** and also graced by **Shri Arun Kumar Upreti, Hon'ble**

Minister of Cooperation & Rural Development, Government of Sikkim, as the 'Distinguished Guest', and Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI, presided over the conference.



Other dignitaries who graced and enriched the conference are Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President ICA-AP, Dr. Bijender Singh, Vice-President NCUI, Shri K Sivadasan Nair, Vice-President NCUI, the Deputy Speaker, Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Political Secretary to HCM, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, Advisors the Governing Council Members of NCUI, Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, Chief Executive & Smt. Savitri Singh Dy. Chief Executive of NCUI, Head of various Departments & Offices of Govt of Sikkim. Representatives of various apex organizations associated with Cooperatives and large number of members / representatives from a wide range of cooperative societies of Sikkim state.



Dr. Sudhir Mahajan, Chief Executive, NCUI delivered the introductory address highlighting the NCUI's commitment to strengthening the cooperative movement across the country and realigning its approach to better serve the cooperative sector through innovative programs, policy advocacy, and strategic interventions. He underscored transformative role of cooperative in shaping rural economies, empowering communities, and fostering inclusive growth.

Recognizing Sikkim as an 'organic state' he told that there is a vast opportunity to work in sectors like organic items, ecotourism, and aromatic plants to enhance the economic growth of the state.

Referring to the successful model of NCUI Haat, Dr. Mahajan suggested and requested that state government to set up the similar exhibition-cum-sales counters at prominent places in Sikkim State to boost the production of rural artisans and local craftsman associated with cooperatives. He also discussed the need of marketing and value addition to regional resources and widely available organic products in the area to strengthen the economy and increase in farmers income. The objective of conference would serve as a catalyst for cooperative growth in Sikkim with fruitful discussions and collaborations.



Shri Dileep Sanghani, President, NCUI welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) and Hon'ble Minister of Cooperation & Rural Development, Shri Arun Kumar Upreti by presenting them with a bouquet and memento. He said that their presence reflects the commitment to strengthening the cooperative movement in the state of Sikkim. He also welcomed all other dignitaries and delegates

present on the occasion. Shri Sanghani expressed NCUI's continuous commitment to Sikkim's cooperatives and emphasized the organization's support in helping them to expand their reach across the country. He also thanked the Central Government for establishing Tribhuvan Cooperative University, which has been a significant step in the advancement of cooperative education & training.

Sh. Sanghani informed that NCUI is an apex body of the Indian Cooperative movement, underscoring its significant role in fostering cooperative education and training in various cooperative sectors. He highlighted the engorgement of the stakeholders to strengthen cooperative initiatives in rural areas across the state and work towards the vision of making cooperatives a source of social and economic transformation.

Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav, President of ICA-AP, while delivering a special address stressed upon the importance of cooperatives in developing marginalized and under-privileged communities. Dr. Yadav urged the people of Sikkim to market their products through cooperatives. He also emphasized the need to include cooperatives as a subject in the school and college syllabus. He was of the view that this would not only increase awareness of cooperatives among the youth and will help them in coming to the mainstream of the cooperative.



Dr. Yadav further stated that cooperative sectors have empowered women and progressive farmers in every sector, providing them with a source of employment. He further shed light on the establishment of India's first cooperative university, Tribhuvan Cooperative University, which will serve the interests of cooperative members and youth which provide the professionalism in the society.



Mrs Gloria Namchu, Secretary, Cooperation Department, Government of Sikkim made a presentation on International Year of Cooperatives 2025 showcasing the various works & initiatives undertaken by the cooperative department of Sikkim State. She also stated that the Cooperation Department has launched an e-portal aimed at promoting cooperative products and enhancing their accessibility to the general public.

The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Cooperation Department, Shri Arun Kumar Upreti, emphasized the vision of “**Sahkar se Samridhhi**”, an initiative aimed to strengthening the cooperative movement across the country. He highlighted how this vision is instrumental in enhancing the performance, productivity, and profitability of cooperative societies. He also underscored the various initiatives undertaken by the **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)**, particularly in the areas of capacity-building and cooperative education, which are vital for the growth and sustainability of the cooperative sector.





In his inaugural address, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim** emphasized the vital role of the cooperative movement in shaping the future of India's economy. He highlighted the importance of inclusivity, rural empowerment, and resilience through cooperatives. He also endorsed the **Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047** and highlighted the relevance of the forthcoming **National Cooperation Policy**, which aims to further empower cooperatives, especially in rural areas, while focusing on the inclusion of women and youth. He also cited the success story of **Sikkim Milk Union**, an apex cooperative body, as a shining example of how collaborative efforts can lead to growth and sustainability in the cooperative sector. Shri Tamang said that the state would promote organic vegetables production and would give them the same incentives as provided to dairy cooperatives. He further pointed out that the state would make all efforts to boost milk production through cooperatives.

During the conference, the **Hon'ble Chief Minister announced the "Best Cooperative Society Award"** in the Sikkim state, with rewards of **Rs. 10 lakhs, Rs. 7 lakhs, and Rs. 5 lakhs** for the top three cooperative societies. He also **launched the SICUN e-commerce portal**, aimed at promoting cooperative products and enhancing market access. The Chief Minister visited the exhibition stalls where various cooperatives showcased their locally produced goods.



Shri Mangal Jit Rai, Chairman of the Sikkim State Cooperative Union, delivered a vote of thanks, expressing his deep appreciation to all dignitaries, delegates, and participants for their valuable presence and contributions to the said conference. He emphasized the need to strengthen the cooperative movement in the Sikkim state, acknowledging its pivotal role in socio-economic development. He highlighted the various challenges and obstacles faced during strengthening the cooperative movement in Sikkim State. Also assured that the SICUN would work in tandem and strengthen the movement.

During the conference, an exhibition of local products of Sikkim state were set up by different Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies including the apex organizations such as Sikkim Milk Union and SIMFED which exhibited the various organic products from the villages such as freshly harvested vegetables, locally made products by the societies, local trout fishes, etc. Some glimpses:





On March 27, 2025 NCUI in collaboration with the Sikkim State Cooperative Union (SICUN), organized a State-Level Youth Workshop on Cooperation (Cooperative Olympiad) at CAEPHT, Gangtok. The event saw participation from over 100 students across eight colleges and universities. The winners were felicitated by Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang (Golay) at the State-Level Cooperative Conference on March 29, 2025.

The name of the winners is as under:

1. Mr. Bhupendra Adhikari, Sikkim University (First prize)
2. Mr. Soumyabrata Saha, Sikkim Manipal University (Second prize)
3. Ms. Pratima Sharma, Sikkim University (Third prize)
4. Ms. Dipshikha Sengupta, Sikkim Manipal University (Consolation prize)
5. Mr. Abishek Sharma, DIET College (Consolation prize)


