



# **BASAI News Updates**

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# Panel set up to draft cooperation policy

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**NEW DELHI:** Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah has set up a national-level committee for drafting a national cooperation policy document, a government statement said on Tuesday.



Amit Shah

The move is in line with steps to revamp the country's cooperative sector to boost growth. The government has named the upcoming national policy "Sahakar Se Samridhi" (prosperity through cooperatives).

farmers, is also currently underway, according to Tuesday's statement.

"A national cooperation policy will soon be prepared which will have a holistic approach from PACS upwards," the statement said. The vision of the policy will be to promote a "cooperative-based economic development model", it added.

According to the statement, the panel is led by former Union minister Suresh Prabhu and comprises 47 members from various states.

The national committee set up for a new policy includes experts from the cooperatives sector as well as representatives from states, districts and PACS, the statement added

The Union government plans to expand the scope of economic activities undertaken by rural cooperatives to boost employment. New model bylaws, a draft of which has been circulated to states, is also being worked on, HT reported on July 15.

Cooperatives are collectives owned jointly by members, who share profits among them — such as a farm-based business or a rural bank. Milk brand Amul and fertiliser manufacturer IFFCO, are among leading cooperatives in the country. India has nearly 850,000 cooperative societies with a total membership of nearly 290 million people, making it a large sector of the economy.

The central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a separate ministry of cooperation in July 2021, carving it out of the farm ministry. Since the ministry was formed, it has brought in several policy changes.

A programme to digitise primary agricultural cooperative societies (PACS), which are last-mile entities that lend credit to

# MP farmers destroy garlic harvest as prices fall; onion rates also hit

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**NEW DELHI:** Growers of garlic are destroying their harvests in Madhya Pradesh as prices have crashed on oversupply, while rates of onions are trending lower too, benefiting consumers but hurting farmers, according to cultivators and market data.

**TRADERS SAY MP FARMERS YIELDED NEARLY 2 MILLION TONNES THIS SEASON, BUT PRICES DROPPED TO ₹3-8 PER KG**

Farmers in Madhya Pradesh, a major garlic producer, yielded nearly two million tonnes this season, benefiting from incentives under the "one district one product" scheme, which aims at

pushing exports, but the glut drove down rates sharply to between ₹300 and ₹800 per quintal in some areas, or just ₹3 to ₹8 per kg, said Ratan Patel, a trader in Sehore district.

"Many farmers have burnt their produce because it is a perishable item. Nobody wants to incur more costs by transporting them to markets," Patel said.

Prices of garlic vary between ₹4,000 and ₹6,000 a quintal when demand surges.

Onion rates are also trending lower, said Anil Ghanawat of Shetkari Sanghatana, a Maharashtra-based farmers' union. "Export demand is weaker because countries such as Bangladesh have shifted to other suppliers because of frequent export bans by India," he added.