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ADARSH VIDYA PRASARAK SANSTHA'S

**ADARSH COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE & SCIENCE**

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## One-Day Multidisciplinary National Conference “From Local to Global: Cooperative Gateways to a Sustainable Future”

**Date: 11th April 2026**

A One-Day Multidisciplinary National Conference on the theme “*From Local to Global: Cooperative Gateways to a Sustainable Future*” was successfully organized on



Saturday, 11th April 2026 by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Adarsh College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Badlapur, in association with the Research Culture Society Vadodara Gujrat. The conference was conducted in hybrid mode, allowing both offline and online participation, thereby ensuring wider reach and engagement.

The conference aimed to create a platform for academicians, researchers, professionals, and students to deliberate on the role of cooperatives in socio-economic transformation. It focused on promoting research, enhancing analytical and presentation skills, and encouraging interdisciplinary dialogue.

The conference featured insightful addresses by eminent experts, three focused technical sessions, and **39 research paper presentations** covering a wide range of multidisciplinary themes. It fostered constructive discussions on historical foundations, contemporary challenges, technological integration, and policy recommendations for strengthening the cooperative movement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Inaugural Function & Keynote Address:**

The conference commenced with a formal welcome of the guests followed by an inspiring inaugural session graced by honourable members of Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha including Dr. Uday Suresh Kotwal – President, Shri Janardan Bhagaji Ghorpade – Chairman, College Governing Council, Shri Tushar Sharad Apte – treasurer, Shri. Nandkishore Patkar, Shri Vivek Prabhakar Mule – Joint Secretary, and Shri Ramchandra Pandharinath Shete. The session started with lighting the lamp by the dignitaries on





the dais. The chief guest **Dr. Suva Kanta Mohanty**, Director, Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) Pune was present online for the inaugural session.

In her concept note, **Principal and Convenor** of the conference **Dr. Sangeeta Pande** beautifully articulated the vision and relevance of the conference theme. She emphasized that cooperatives have historically been powerful tools for grassroots development and self-reliance in India. She highlighted how, in the present era, cooperatives must evolve

from traditional models to become dynamic “gateways” that connect local communities with global opportunities for sustainable growth. The inaugural session set a constructive tone by emphasizing the relevance of cooperatives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In his inaugural address, **Dr. Uday Kotwal**, the President of **Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha** highlighted the historical perspective of the cooperative movement in India, with special emphasis on the cooperative banking sector of Maharashtra. He highlighted the significant role and contributions of pioneering institutions such as Saraswat Bank, Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank (KJSB), and DNS Bank. He further briefed the participants about the structure and functioning of cooperative societies in rural areas and their importance in promoting financial inclusion and sustainable grassroots development. Concluding his speech, Dr. Kotwal extended his best wishes for the grand success of the conference and warmly welcomed all dignitaries, guests, and participants on behalf of the management of Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha.



**Shri Ram Patkar** member of AVPS highlighted the vital role of cooperatives in the current economic scenario and stressed the need to strengthen cooperative institutions for sustainable development. He encouraged researchers to undertake meaningful, solution-oriented studies and appreciated the college’s initiative in organizing the conference. He urged participants to actively engage in academic deliberations for the growth and betterment of the cooperative sector.

In his keynote address delivered online, **Dr. Suva Kanta Mohanty** outlined the government’s vision to transform India’s cooperative sector through greater transparency, accountability, and democratic values. He highlighted the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the upcoming National Cooperative Policy 2025, led by Amit Shah, as key steps towards modernizing the sector and replacing the 2002 policy.

The government aims to establish 2 lakhs multipurpose PACS, digitize 53,000 existing ones, and integrate them with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to better serve small farmers with credit, storage, marketing, and digital services.

Dr. Mohanty cited successful models such as Amul, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, Cosmos Bank, Saraswat Bank, and Kudumbashree as examples of the cooperative movement's strength and diversification. He also mentioned financial support through NCDC and NABARD, tax concessions, the new Tribhuvan Sahkari University in Gujarat, and the export success of National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL), which has shipped over 13.5 lakh metric tons of produce worth more than ₹5,500 crore to 28 countries.

Dr. Mohanty stressed that cooperatives are vital tools for both economic growth and social transformation, aiming to create local jobs, reduce migration, and promote inclusive development. He expressed confidence that, based on trust and collective strength, the cooperative sector will play a key role in building a modern and inclusive India.

The keynote was highly constructive, offering practical perspectives and inspiring the participants to explore innovative models that integrate traditional cooperative values with modern challenges of globalization and sustainability.

**Mr. Laxmikant M. Satpute**, Conference Coordinator, delivered a comprehensive address on the conference. He lucidly explained the context, objectives, and academic significance of the conference, emphasizing its relevance to current issues in the field and expected outcomes. In his vote of thanks, He expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, esteemed guests, resource persons, paper presenters, and participants for their gracious presence and valuable contributions. He thanked the management of Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha for their constant support and extended appreciation to the organizing committee, faculty members, and student volunteers for their efforts.

#### **Technical Sessions:**

The conference featured three well-structured and enriching technical sessions, all conducted in hybrid mode providing a platform for scholarly presentation and constructive discussion. Each session was enriched by the guidance of eminent resource persons and rapporteurs. A total of **39 research papers** were presented by faculty members, research scholars, and students from various institutions across India.

#### **Technical Session I:**



This session focused on the **Historical Perspective of Cooperative Sectors**. Hon. **Shri Shreekant Patwardhan**, **National Committee Member of Sahakar Bharati**, served as the Resource Person via online, while **Ms. Ashwini Pravin Bulakh** chaired the session. Twelve research papers were presented in hybrid mode. The session was efficiently managed by session in charges Ms. Devashree Apte and Ms. Purva Patankar.

In this session, Shreekant Patwardhan delivered a concise analysis on **“Historical Perspective and Cooperative Sector in the World** with special focus on India.” He observed that cooperation has been deeply embedded in Indian civilization since ancient times through self-sufficient village systems and mutual assistance. He traced the modern cooperative movement to 19th-century Europe, crediting the Rochdale Pioneers (1844) with establishing its core principles — one member, one vote, democratic control, and equitable surplus sharing.

Hon. **Shri Shreekant Patwardhan** highlighted the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), founded in 1895, for promoting global cooperation and cited successful examples from Japan, Israel, and Kenya. In the Indian context, he pointed to the 1954 All India Rural Credit Survey as a turning point that led to the three-tier credit structure. He praised India's White Revolution (Operation Flood) in the dairy sector. He noted that post-1991 liberalization brought competitive challenges, demanding higher efficiency and transparency. The 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011) and the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation (2021) provided new impetus.

Shri. Patwardhan flagged current issues such as political interference, weak governance, lack of accountability, and declining youth participation. He emphasized the need for ethical leadership, transparency, technology, and youth engagement, stating that "cooperation cannot exist without values." In conclusion, he affirmed that the cooperative movement is a vital tool for economic growth, social harmony, and inclusive development, and will play a key role in India becoming a global economic power.

The session provided a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of cooperative movements in India and their significant contributions to community development and financial inclusion. Shri Shreekant Patwardhan appreciated the quality of the presentations and remarked that a strong understanding of our cooperative history is essential for building resilient models for the future.

#### **Technical Session II:**

This session explored the **Cooperative Sector in the Era of Globalization**. **Hon. Shri Anant Kulkarni**, CEO of **Kalyan Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.**, acted as the **Resource Person**, with **Dr. Mandar Paranjape** serving as the **Rapporteur**. Four research papers were presented. The session was efficiently coordinated by **Daksha Halkare** and **Nikita Tare**.

In his speech, **Hon. Shri Anant Kulkarni** focused on the practical aspects of cooperative banking and its relevance in the modern financial system. He emphasized the role of cooperative banks in providing accessible and affordable financial services to the common people, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas. He pointed out that cooperative banks serve as a crucial link between formal banking systems and grassroots communities.



He highlighted the importance of **customer trust, transparency, and efficient management** in ensuring the sustainability of cooperative banks. He also stressed the need for adopting modern banking technologies, including digital banking services, to meet the evolving expectations of customers.

The discussions in this session were centered on the challenges and opportunities faced by cooperatives in a globalized economy, with emphasis on modernization, transparency, and adaptability. Shri Anant Kulkarni praised the presenters and stressed that cooperatives must embrace technology and sustainable practices to remain competitive in the global arena.

### Technical Session III:

This session addressed the **Cooperative Sector and Viksit Bharat @2047**. **Hon. Dr. Shivaji Pawar, I/C Principal of Mulund College of Commerce**, was the **Resource Person**, with **Shri Mandar Thakur** serving as the **Rapporteur**. Twenty-two research papers were presented in hybrid mode. Ms. Raina Hinger and Ms. Maitreyee Singh effectively handled the responsibilities as session in charges.

The session effectively highlighted the crucial role of cooperatives in realizing the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, focusing on innovation, digital transformation, and inclusive growth. Dr. Shivaji Pawar commended the depth of the research and remarked that cooperatives hold immense potential to contribute meaningfully to the nation's development goals through innovation and inclusive strategies.

### Valedictory Function:



The conference concluded with a formal valedictory session. **Hon. Shri Satish Marathe, Director on the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India**, graced the occasion as chief guest. Dr. Sangeeta Pande, Principal, honourable members of Adarsh Vidya Prasarak Sanstha including Dr. Uday Suresh Kotwal – President, Shri Janardan Bhagaji Ghorpade – Chairman, College Governing Council, Shri Tushar Sharad Apte – Secretary, Shri Vivek Prabhakar Mule – Joint Secretary, and Shri Ramchandra Pandharinath Shete -Treasurer were present for the function.

**Dr. Sangeeta Pande, Principal and Convenor of the conference, presented a brief report on the proceedings and objectives of the conference.** In her address, she highlighted the significance of organizing such academic events and emphasized the role of cooperative movements in achieving sustainable and inclusive development in alignment with the national vision of *Viksit Bharat @ 2047*.

As a part of the valedictory proceedings, feedback from the participants was invited. **Amey Ranade** and **Sunil Datt Gavare** shared their views regarding the conference and appreciated the relevance of the theme, the quality of the deliberations, and the effective organization of the programme. They also acknowledged the conference as a meaningful platform for academic interaction and exchange of ideas.

In his address, **Hon. Shri Satish Marathe**, recipient of the prestigious **Sahakar Ratna Award (2015)**, an eminent and versatile personality with vast experience in the cooperative sector, traced the origin of cooperatives as a response to socio-economic challenges in rural

areas and highlighted their core principles of mutual assistance, democratic governance, and collective welfare. He emphasized the vital role played by various cooperative institutions including Vikas societies, milk procurement societies, district cooperative banks, and state-level cooperatives etc. in strengthening the rural economy and financial stability.

He praised NABARD's significant contributions to financial inclusion, rural industrialization, and development in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and rural industries. He also highlighted the role of cooperatives in agricultural import and export activities.



Concluding his address, Satish Marathe highlighted the government's new initiatives and schemes aimed at strengthening the cooperative sector. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of these schemes, along with the rapid digitalization of cooperative banks, to improve efficiency, transparency, and financial inclusion in both rural and urban areas.

In his address **Dr. Uday Kotwal** encouraged the organization of such academic events to strengthen research

culture and higher education in the institution.

**Dr. Snehal Deshmukh**, Co-coordinator of the conference, delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the entire Adarsh College team for the grand success of the event.

In conclusion, the conference served as a vibrant platform for intellectual exchange, meaningful deliberations, and collaborative learning. It successfully underscored the enduring relevance of cooperative models in addressing contemporary challenges while remaining firmly rooted in local values. This event has made a significant contribution to the promotion of research culture and quality enhancement at the institution. Certificates were then conferred to all participants by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. Conference feedback forms were collected from the participants. The conference concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem.

Mr. Laxmikant Satpute  
Coordinator

Dr Snehal Deshmukh  
Co -coordinator

Dr. Sangeeta Pande  
Principal