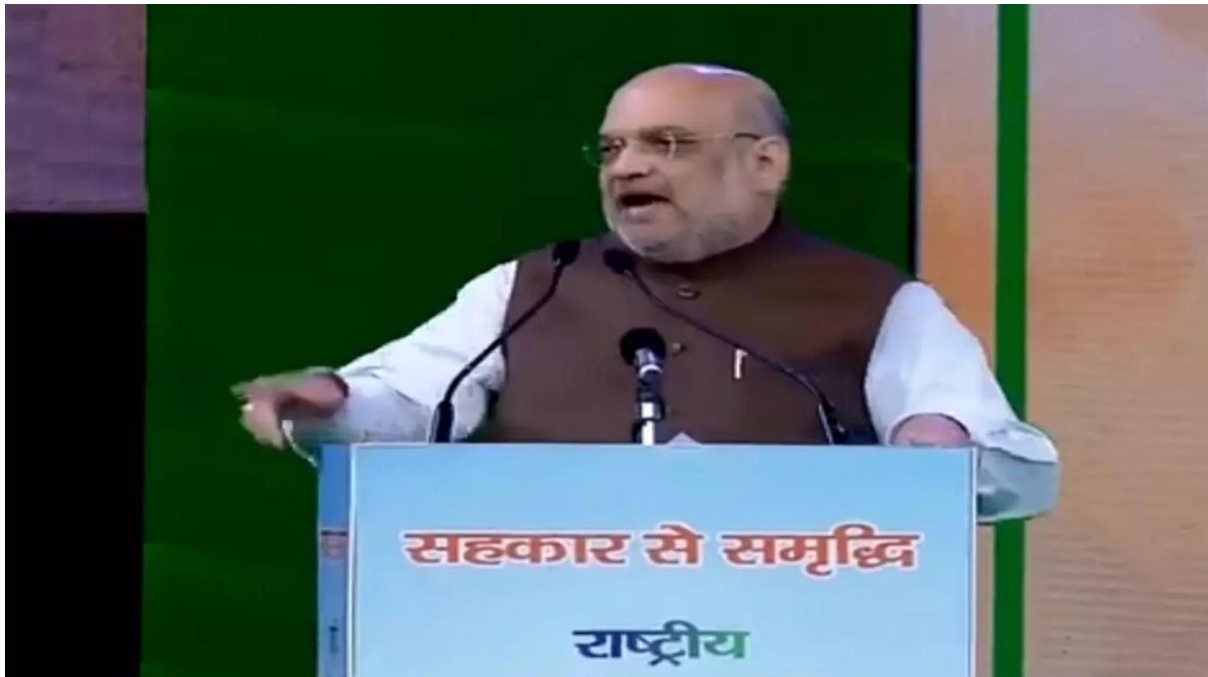


Committee to draft National Cooperation Policy



Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently announced the formation of a committee to draft a National Cooperation Policy document.

Key Points

- The 47-member committee will be headed by former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu. The committee also includes experts from the cooperative sector; Representatives of National/State/District and Primary Co-operative Societies; Secretaries (Cooperatives) and Registrars of Co-operative Societies of the States/UTs; and officers of Central Ministries/Departments.
- This policy is being prepared to realize the government's vision of 'Sahakar Se Prosperity'. Earlier the current National Policy on Cooperation was formulated in 2002.
- This Cooperative Policy Document is being prepared with a view to fulfill the mandate given to the new Ministry of Cooperation, which includes strengthening the cooperative movement in the country, deepening its reach at the grassroots level and promoting a cooperative based economic development model.

Co-operative Societies in India

There are about 8.5 lakh cooperative societies in India, with a member base of about 29 crores. These cooperatives are engaged in various activities like agro-processing, dairying, fisheries, housing, weaving, credit and marketing.

Ministry of Cooperation

The Ministry of Cooperatives has been constituted with the objective of providing a separate administrative, legal and policy framework to strengthen the cooperative movement in India. This ministry will work towards realizing the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation). Simultaneously, it will work to streamline processes for ease of doing business for cooperatives and enable the development of multi-state cooperatives.