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Committed to strengthening cooperative sector: Centre

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By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, April 11: Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, has said the ministry is committed to promoting cooperative-led economic growth with strong inter-state cooperation, in alignment with the vision of 'Sahakar Se Samriddhi'.

Bhutani was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day National Level Review Meeting held in Shillong on Friday.

The two-day review meeting is focused on advancing strategies and initiatives to modernise and strengthen the cooperative sector across the country.

In his address, Bhutani highlighted the importance of collating PAN numbers of all cooperative societies in India to ensure accurate representation of the sector's contribution to the national GDP.

Reiterating the government's dedication to enhancing the cooperative ecosystem, he noted the ministry's flagship initiative—White Revolution 2.0—which aims to uplift rural communities through the dairy sector. **(Contd on P-4)**

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Ministry of Cooperation committed to realise Sahakar Se Samriddhi: Dr. Bhutani



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'Govt committed to promoting cooperative-led economic growth'

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GUARDIAN NEWS BUREAU
 SHILLONG, APR 11: The Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, addressed the inaugural session of the two-day national-level review meeting in Shillong, Meghalaya.

Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya, along with senior officials, took part in a tree plantation drive under the initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative in Inter-



The review meeting, held on April 10 and 11 discussed initiatives and formulation of strategies to further strengthen and modernise the cooperative sector across the country.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah the Ministry is committed to promoting cooperative-led economic growth with robust inter-state cooperation to realize the vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhi."

He stressed on collating the PAN numbers of all cooperative societies of the country to enable more accurate representation of the cooperative sector in the national GDP.

Dr. Bhutani reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to strengthening and advancing the cooperative ecosystem in the country.

The Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation said that White Revolution 2.0 is one of the flagship initiatives, aimed at rural upliftment through the dairy sector. He said that the dairy sector has shining examples of how dairy can empower women and improve child nutrition. He said that we are partnering with institutions like Amul and NDDB to support states Assam, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and other states in expanding dairy infrastructure. The economic potential of animal husbandry now exceeds that of traditional crop cultivation.

Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani said that passing of the bill to establish India's first Tribhuvan Sahkari University is a historic move. This university will standardise cooperative education across states and uplift over 250 existing cooperative institutions.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders including representatives from States and Union Territories, officials from cooperative federations, financial institutions, and policymakers, fostering a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange and strategic alignment.

The States Review Session spotlighted the pivotal role of national-level cooperative institutions such as NCEL, NCOL, BBSSL, NCCF, and NAFED in enhancing the cooperative ecosystem and driving innovation and inclusivity.

Director of IRMA, Anand (Gujarat), outlined the vision of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, the strategic objectives, and proposed institutional structure. The session reflected the Ministry's long-term commitment to developing world-class cooperative education and research infrastructure.

A dedicated workshop on the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, focusing on strategic priorities such as benchmarking cooperative societies, impact assessment, and the formulation of a Business Reform Action Plan for the upcoming fiscal year. Delegations from Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Uttarakhand shared best practices and innovations in cooperative development.

The focus areas of the two-day sessions were on expansion of banking services for cooperative societies and ensure doorstep banking services via micro-ATMs, along with provision of zero-interest loans through RuPay Kisan Credit Cards to members of Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS), Dairy Cooperative Societies and other Cooperative institutions, and strengthening of Rural Cooperative Banking.
