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8 district central co-op banks may have to show Rs 101cr loss

Maha coop bks stuck with ₹101cr demonetised notes for 8 years

Kolhapur: Eight district central cooperative (DCC) banks in Maharashtra have roughly Rs 101.2 crore of demonetised currency notes lying with them for eight years. The banks are struggling to keep the cash safe. They spray anti-termite chemicals on the notes every three months, and secure them in separate rooms, reports **Abhijeet Patil**.

The MD of one of the eight banks said RBI refused to accept the cash, saying it was not deposited within the time-frame allowed. "We paid the depositors to whom the cash belonged in new notes. The cache has now become a liability and may have to be shown as a loss," said the MD.

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Sahkar Taxi to disrupt market

ALTERNATIVE TO RIDE-HAILING GIANTS SUCH AS UBER, OLA

Sahkar Taxi to disrupt market

NITIN KUMAR
New Delhi, March 30

THE RIDE-HAILING SECTOR is set for a major shake-up once the government launches Sahkar Taxi, a cooperative-based platform, which aims at empowering drivers with direct control over their earnings and operations.

Home and cooperation minister Amit Shah had announced the initiative last week, highlighting its goal to create a fairer alternative to existing ride-hailing giants like Uber, Ola, and Rapido.

Sahkar Taxi will register two-wheeler, auto-rickshaw, and four-wheeler taxis under a multi-state cooperative society (MSCS). Unlike traditional platforms that take commissions of 20%-40% or charge subscription fees, this cooperative model will allow drivers to retain their full earnings. The government has emphasised that the drivers will run the cooperative, rather than merely

DRIVERS IN CHARGE



■ The cooperative model of Sahkar Taxi will allow drivers to retain their full earnings

■ The initiative will be backed by National Cooperative Development Corporation

■ Existing platforms take commissions of 20%-40% or charge subscription fees

■ Home and cooperation minister Amit Shah has said Sahkar Taxi's goal is to create a fairer alternative to existing players such as Uber, Ola, and Rapido

working for it. Officials told *FE* that the society is expected to be registered with the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies by the first quarter of FY26. The cooperative's initial capital will be raised through share capital contributions from its driver-members, each purchasing shares to become stakeholders in the business.

Officials said that the initiative will be backed by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC),

which will assist in planning, promotion, and financial support. This will include funding for setting up the platform, developing the mobile app, and providing loans to drivers for vehicle purchases.

The Sahkar Taxi app will function like existing ride-hailing services, allowing users to book rides and deliveries via smartphones, officials said. However, the key difference will be that drivers will receive their full fare without any

deductions. Officials said this model will not only improve driver incomes but also offer more affordable and stable pricing for customers.

While similar models exist at the state level, like West Bengal's Yatri Sathi and Karnataka's Namma Yatri, Sahkar Taxi will be the first cooperative to operate at a national scale.

West Bengal's Yatri Sathi, managed by the state's IT & ITes department, offers commission-free services to over 70,000 drivers through a subscription-based model. Karnataka's Namma Yatri, built by Bengaluru's Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union in collaboration with Juspay Technologies and ONDC, follows a similar structure and has expanded to multiple cities.

At present, Uber and Ola dominate over 50% of the ride-hailing market. The government hopes that Sahkar Taxi will provide a viable alternative that ensures better earnings for drivers while delivering fair pricing for customers.

'We will restart the closed sugar mills'

‘बंद चीनी मिलों को चालू करेंगे’

पटना, हिन्दुस्तान ब्यूरो। केंद्रीय गृह और सहकारिता मंत्री अमित शाह ने ऐलान किया कि बिहार की सभी बंद चीनी मिलों को चालू किया जाएगा। उन्होंने आह्वान किया कि 2025 के चुनाव में एनडीए की सरकार बनवा दी जाए। चीनी मिलों को खोलने के लिए हम पूरी ऊर्जा लगा देंगे।

उन्होंने कहा कि एक समय था कि बिहार में देश का 30 प्रतिशत चीनी उत्पादन हुआ करता था, पर वर्ष 2005 की पहले की सरकार में यह छह प्रतिशत से भी कम हो गया है। एक-एक कर चीनी मिलें बंद होती गयीं। अमित शाह ने केंद्र और राज्य सरकार की योजनाओं

लीची, मशरूम, मखाना उत्पादन में बिहार नंबर वन

शाह ने कहा कि बिहार में राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान मखाना केंद्र बनाया जा रहा है। किसानों के द्वारा उत्पादित अनाज का एक-एक दाना सरकार खरीद रही है। लीची, मशरूम, मखाना के उत्पादन में बिहार नंबर वन है। वहीं, मक्का में दूसरे, मसूर-शहद में तीसरे, मूंग व गन्ने में पांचवें तथा गेहूं और चावल के उत्पादन में देश में छठे नंबर पर हैं।

के शिलान्यास-उद्घाटन कार्यक्रम में कहा कि सहकारिता क्षेत्र का सबसे बड़ा फायदा बिहार को होने वाला है।

Tribhuvan Cooperative University Bill welcomed

त्रिभुवन सहकारी विवि विधेयक का स्वागत

नई दिल्ली (.वि)। इफको ने लोकसभा में त्रिभुवन सहकारी विश्वविद्यालय विधेयक, 2025 की घोषणा और 26 मार्च 2025 को निचले सदन द्वारा इसके अनुमोदन का स्वागत किया है। विधेयक की घोषणा करते हुए माननीय सहकारिता और गृह मामलों के मंत्री अमित शाह ने कहा कि स्वतंत्रता के 75 वर्षों के बाद, आज देश को अपना पहला सहकारी विश्वविद्यालय मिल रहा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह विधेयक ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूत करेगा, स्वरोजगार और छोटे उद्यमिता के पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को विकसित करेगा, सामाजिक समावेशन को बढ़ाएगा और नवाचार व अनुसंधान में नए मानक स्थापित करने के अवसरों को बढ़ाएगा। इस मौके पर डॉ. उदय शंकर अवस्थी, प्रबंध निदेशक, इफको ने कहा, 'मैं त्रिभुवन सहकारी विश्वविद्यालय विधेयक 2025 की सराहना करता हूं। इस कदम की सराहना करते हुए दिलीप सांघानी, अध्यक्ष, इफको ने कहा कि यह कदम सुनिश्चित करेगा कि सहकारी नेतृत्व की अगली पीढ़ी के बीजों को एक ऐसी प्रणाली के तहत पोषित और संरक्षित किया जाएगा।

Shah unveils schemes, projects worth over Rs 800 cr ahead of Bihar polls

Shah unveils schemes, projects worth over Rs 800 cr ahead of Bihar polls



PATNA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday unveiled schemes and laid the foundation stones for projects, worth over Rs 800 crore, in Bihar on the occasion of International Cooperative Day.

Shah launched schemes, comprising Rs 111 crore from the cooperative department and Rs 421 crore from the urban development and housing department.

He also laid the foundation stones for 133 police buildings, costing Rs 181 crore, and three road transport and national highway projects worth Rs 109 crore.

Shah also remotely inaugurated a makhana processing unit at the Fishermen's Cooperative Society in

Darbhanga district.

He distributed micro ATMs to 'bank mitras' of the Bihar State Cooperative Bank at the state-level conference attended by representatives from primary agriculture cooperatives and other cooperative societies.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, several Union and state ministers and senior officials were present on the occasion.

Shah, who arrived here on Saturday, will address a public rally in Gopalganj district later in the day.

He will also chair a meeting of the NDA leaders at CM's residence here.

—PTI