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Jharkhand has highest allowance for cattle feed in country: Minister

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Ranchi: Jharkhand Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Minister Wednesday said that the state has emerged as a national leader in cattle welfare with the highest daily allowance for cattle feed, in Ranchi.

Shilpi Neha Tirkey said Jharkhand is the only state that provides ₹100 per day for cattle fodder, while other states provide allowance between ₹30 and ₹40. She was speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop, titled “Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in the Context of Ecological Balance and Modernity”. It was organised by the Jharkhand Gau Seva Aayog at the Animal Husbandry Building in Ranchi. Tirkey said that the Commission’s chairperson and vice-chairperson have a clear vision and are actively contributing to the cause. **ENS**

Pawars at it again, throw their hat in Baramati co-op sugar factory polls

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SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AMID talks of a merger between the two NCP factions, their leaders Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar will go against each other again, this time in the Malegaon co-operative sugar mill elections in Baramati.

Maharashtra deputy CM Ajit Pawar, as head of the Nilkantheshwar panel, has announced his candidature for the cooperative elections to the chairman post. Sharad Pawar, who started his political career with the co-operative sector, has also announced his candidature as representative of NCP (SP)'s Baliraja Sahakari Bachav panel. His grandson and Ajit's nephew Yugendra Pawar is leading the panel. The election is scheduled for June 22.

Taking potshots at Ajit, senior Pawar said as a leader he never took any position in co-

operative sugar factories elections. "We have to support others and make them big instead of keeping posts with us. We were ready to cooperate, but some people do not have the mentality to take the people along with them. Therefore, we had no option but to contest this election," he said.

Political observers said this 'small' election for one of the



'Prestige on the line'

Political observers feel this 'small' election for one co-operative sugar factory, is a matter of prestige for Sharad Pawar. "It shows, Pawar never takes polls for granted," a commentator said.

co-operative sugar factories, is important and prestigious for Sharad Pawar.

"This is the third time the Pawars are pitted against each other: in Lok Sabha and assembly polls, and now, sugar factory elections. The control over sugar factories is important to connect with the locally influential farmers. And, both the Pawars understand this. Therefore, each one is vying for the other's post," a political observer said. "It also shows that whether the election is small or big, Pawar never takes it for granted but contests polls seriously to gain control," he added.

In Lok Sabha elections, Sharad Pawar's daughter and three-time Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule defeated Ajit Pawar's spouse Sunetra Pawar in Baramati. In the assembly elections, Ajit Pawar defeated his nephew Yugendra Pawar in Baramati by over one lakh votes.

Co-ops take the wheel: Sahakar Taxi app set to rival Uber, Ola

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SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 19 June

India's first app-based taxi service under the cooperative model, aimed at taking on Uber and Ola, called the Sahakar Taxi Cooperative, has been registered under the Multi-State Co-Operative Societies Act with an authorised share capital of ₹300 crore, senior officials said.

The taxi service, which is initially expected to start operations in Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra around December, will gradually expand its footprint across the country.

A few months ago, Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah announced the intention to launch a taxi ride-hailing service in the cooperative sector called Sahakar Taxi. The platform would also allow registration of two-wheelers, rickshaws, taxis, and four-wheelers.

The Sahakar Taxi Cooperative has been promoted by eight major cooperatives: the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Anand Milk Union, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (Nafed), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), Indian Farmers Ferti-



Road ahead

- The taxi registered with an authorised share capital of ₹300 crore
- Expected to start operations from Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra around December
- Nearly 400 drivers are expected to be initially onboarded in the new taxi service
- It is expected to create employment opportunities in Tier-II and Tier-III Cities

liser Cooperative (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative (KRIBHCO), National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), and National Cooperative Exports.

Each promoter has already committed ₹10 crore, amounting to around ₹80 crore in initial capital for the taxi cooperative.

Around 400 drivers are expected to be onboarded initially.

Each will be allowed to purchase five shares of ₹100 each to become members of the cooperative six months after joining.

"Unlike Uber and Ola, this taxi service will operate on three major principles: first, ensuring fair pricing for both drivers and passengers (concepts like surge pricing will not be permitted); second, redistribution of profits to drivers; and third, provision of social security for drivers," a senior official directly involved in the project said.

He added that the cooperative taxi service will not operate for profit, and all earnings will be redistributed among the drivers, with a portion allocated for their social security benefits.

"We have already initiated discussions with technology partners to develop a ride-sharing application for the service," the official explained.

An interim board has been formed to oversee initial operations. Rohit Gupta, deputy managing director of NCDC, is serving as chairman of the board. Other key members include V Sridhar (NDDB), Tarun Handa (Nafed), Naveen Kumar (Nabard), Santosh Shukla (IFFCO), and L P Godwin (KRIBHCO), among others.
