



Kurukshetra

June Edition



Welcome to PadhAI

KURUKSHETRA MONTHLY COVERAGE

You are here because you understand a fundamental truth of UPSC preparation: ***it's not about reading everything – it's about reading what truly matters, in the right way, at the right time.***

Magazines like Kurukshetra offer deep insights into rural development, governance, social schemes, and grassroots policy implementation. Yet for many aspirants, the challenge lies in separating exam-relevant content from general narratives.

PadhAI's Kurukshetra coverage is designed to do exactly that - ***filter, structure, and align policy discussions with UPSC requirements.***

Why This Kurukshetra Coverage Matters

At PadhAI, we don't reproduce articles. We ***extract core themes***, map them with the syllabus, and connect them with ***Prelims and Mains PYQs***.

Every topic included here:

- carries relevance for ***GS Papers or Essay***,
- strengthens understanding of ***developmental and governance issues, and***
- builds ***analytical depth*** rather than surface-level knowledge.

Nothing is added for volume.

Everything is added for value.

Part of the PadhAI Preparation Ecosystem

This Kurukshetra coverage forms part of a larger, integrated learning system that includes:

- early and concise ***monthly magazines***,
- ***daily PIB summaries*** with exam-focused clarity,
- ***monthly compliance tracking***,
- complete ***Prelims & Mains PYQs with structured answers***,
- relevant ***news article summaries***, and
- ***personal tutor chat support*** for continuous guidance.

The aim is simple:

one trusted ecosystem instead of multiple scattered sources.

Our Guiding Philosophy

At PadhAI, everything is built around one belief:

- *Learn only what matters.*
- *Learn it the right way.*
- *Learn it at the right time.*

We don't believe in shortcuts.

We believe in clarity, consistency, and cumulative preparation.

A Final Note

UPSC preparation is demanding and often overwhelming.

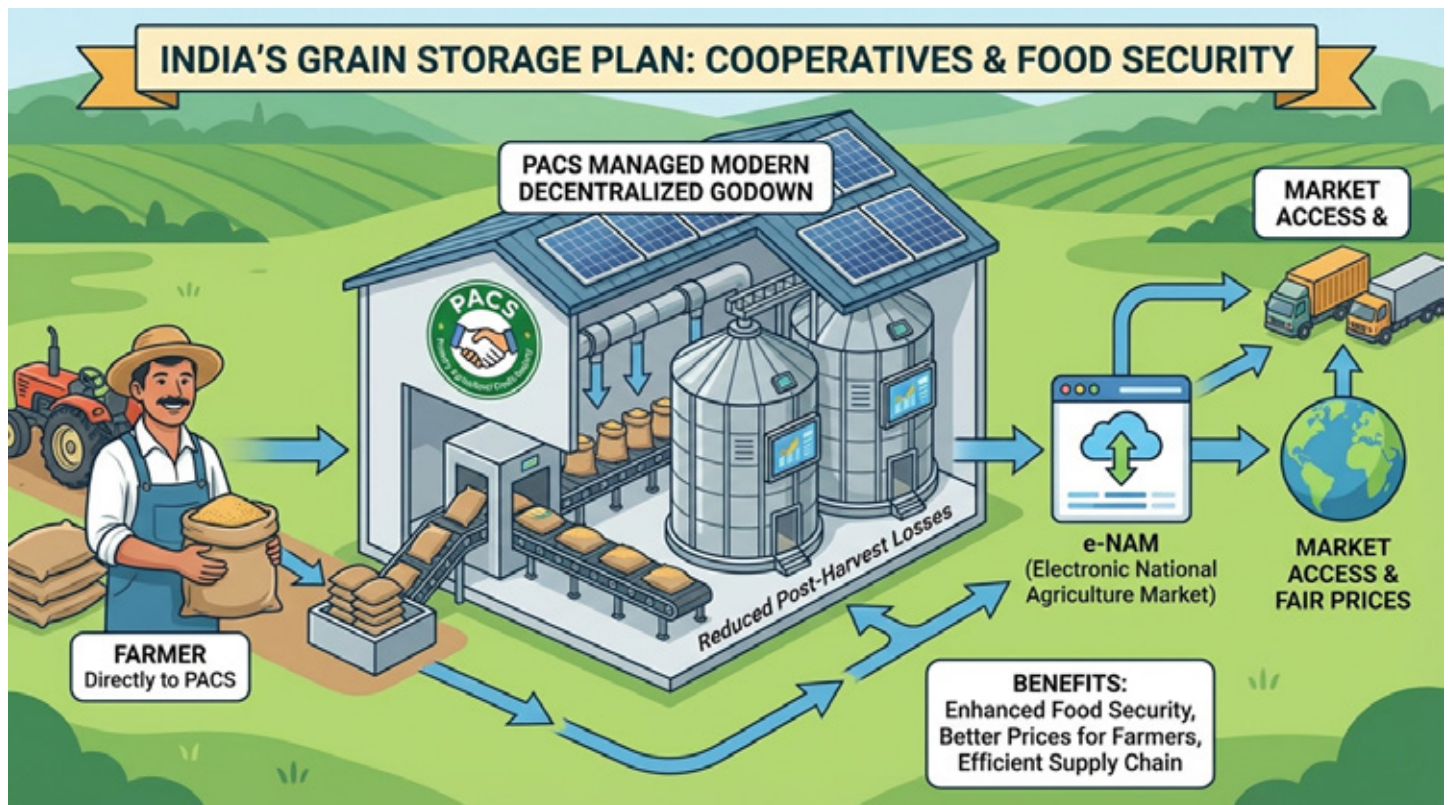
PadhAI exists to ensure you prepare with ***direction, relevance, and confidence*** — never blindly, never alone.

If this **Kurukshetra** coverage helps you save time, connect policy with practice, and strengthen your answers, then it has served its purpose.

Welcome to PadhAI.

A community built to prepare — not to overwhelm.

Topic I: Cooperatives and Food Security: The World's Largest Grain Storage Plan



Summary: Food security in India is fundamentally tied to the efficiency of its storage and supply chain infrastructure. Despite being a top global producer of food grains, India faces a significant **storage shortfall of 166 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)**, leading to high post-harvest losses and distress sales. To solve this "Storage Paradox," the government launched the **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector** in 2023 to decentralize storage and empower local farmers through **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)**.

Background: Food security, as defined by the FAO, involves physical and economic access to safe and nutritious food, aligning with **Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger)**. In 2021, India produced 311 MMT of grain but only had a storage capacity of 145 MMT, resulting in an annual economic loss of roughly **₹90,000 crore**. The Ministry of Cooperation initiated this plan on May 31, 2023, to build 700 lakh tonnes of capacity over five years.

Key Points:

- **Decentralized Storage:** The plan aims to build local godowns at the PACS level, reducing transportation costs and helping farmers avoid selling produce at low prices immediately after harvest.
- **PACS Computerization:** As of 2025, **computerization has been completed in 67,930 PACS** to enable real-time tracking, AI-integrated inventory management, and transparent procurement.

- **Convergence of Schemes:** The plan leverages multiple government initiatives, including the **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**, which provides a 3% interest subvention, and the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)**.
- **Grassroots Role of PACS:** With over 1.1 lakh societies and 130 million farmer members, PACS serve as the primary contact point for credit, agri-inputs, and direct procurement at MSP.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. India holds **11% of global cultivable land** but supports 18% of the global population.
2. The storage gap in India is currently estimated at **47%** compared to production.
3. Post-harvest losses in India range between **10–15% annually**.
4. The proposed investment for the grain storage plan is **₹1.25 lakh crore**.
5. NAFED is responsible for maintaining national buffer stocks for commodities like pulses and onions.

MCQ Practice: Q. Under the "World's Largest Grain Storage Plan," which grassroots institutions are being utilized as the primary implementation partners for building decentralized godowns? A) Gram Panchayats B) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) C) District Cooperative Banks D) Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Answer: B (The plan specifically utilizes 67,000 functional PACS to build local storage facilities and promote community-level food security,.)

Topic 2: Building a Resilient Cooperative Sector through Skilling



Summary: India's cooperative sector, comprising **8.5 lakh societies and 29 crore members**, is a pillar of the rural economy. However, it faces challenges such as a **skill mismatch**, digital backwardness, and a lack of youth participation. To build resilience, the government is prioritizing professional education and vocational training, exemplified by the establishment of India's first national cooperative university,.

Background: Globally, cooperatives employ 10% of the workforce and market over 50% of agricultural output. In India, the **2025 Budget** announced the creation of five **National Centres of Excellence for Skilling** to address the dual mandate of cooperatives: protecting member interests while remaining business-viable.

Key Points:

- **Sahkari University:** The **Tribhuvan Sahkari University Act, 2025**, transformed IRMA into a national university to provide multidisciplinary education and set global standards for the sector.
- **Institutional Innovations:** New reforms like the **National Cooperative Export Limited (NCEL)** and **Multi-State Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS)** aim to improve export readiness and agri-innovation.
- **Digital Transformation:** Digital dashboards and AI tools are being integrated to improve transparency and allow cooperatives to participate in formal markets via platforms like **e-NAM**,.
- **Focus on Youth and Women:** Incubation and focused skill programs are being developed to boost entrepreneurship in sectors like dairy, crafts, and food processing.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

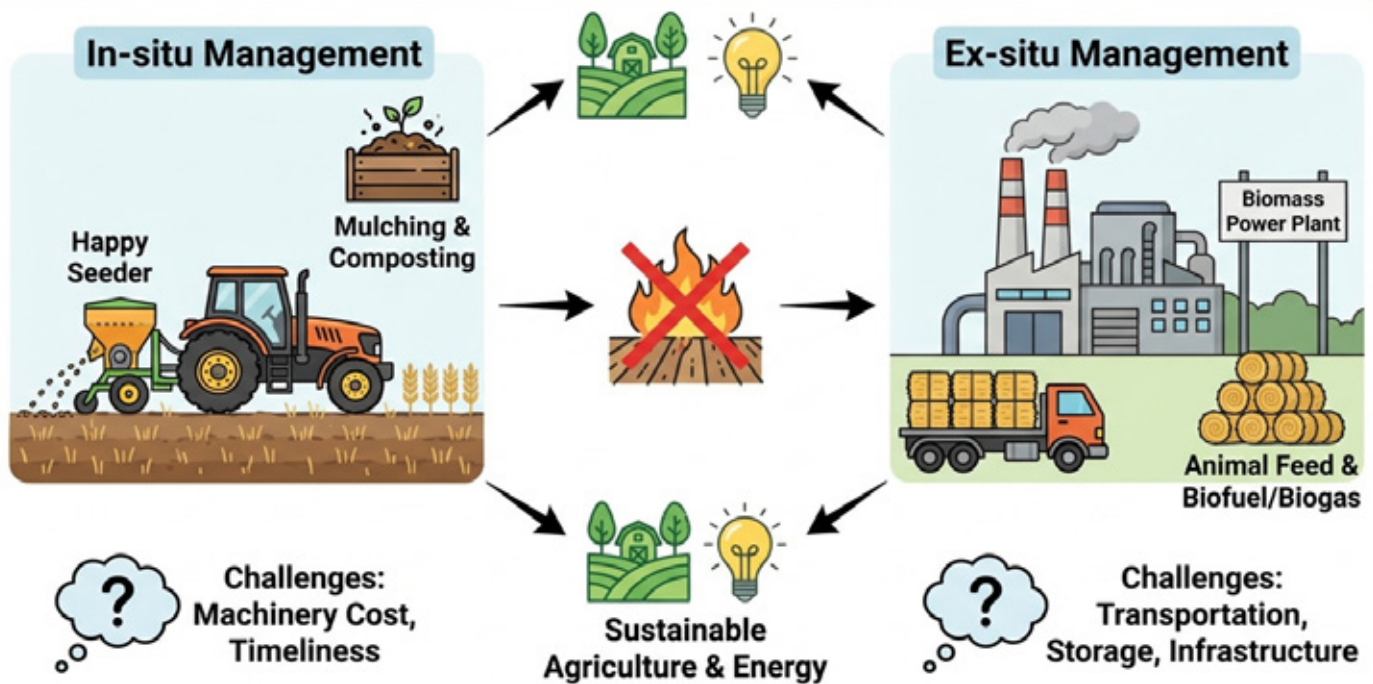
1. Cooperatives represent over **12% of the global population**.
2. The top 300 cooperatives worldwide generate a combined turnover of **\$2,409 billion**.
3. Most of India's low-skilled workforce is found in sectors like trade, transport, and storage.
4. The **SANKALP and STRIVE** schemes are being tailored to meet cooperative-specific training needs,.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which 2025 legislative act established India's first national cooperative university to provide skilled manpower for the sector? A) The Cooperative Societies Amendment Act, 2025 B) The Skill India Mission Act, 2025 C) The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Act, 2025 D) The National Cooperative Education Act, 2025

Answer: C (The Tribhuvan Sahkari University Act, 2025, transformed IRMA into the nation's first cooperative university.)

Topic 3: Crop Residue Burning: Challenges and Management

Crop Residue Burning: Challenges and Management



Summary: Crop residue burning is a critical environmental issue in North India, primarily triggered by the **short sowing window** between the rice and wheat crops. Every year, India generates approximately **686 million tonnes** of residue, which, when burned, leads to massive soil nutrient loss and severe air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region. Sustainable management requires a mix of financial incentives, technological support, and infrastructure for industrial use.

Background: The practice became prevalent after 1986 with the introduction of **mechanized harvesting**, which left stubble that was difficult to remove manually. Burning rice straw emits significant amounts of **CO₂, CH₄, N₂O**, and carcinogenic particulates like PM2.5.

Key Points:

- **In-situ Management:** Involves using machinery like **Happy Seeders, Super Seeders, and Rotavators** to incorporate stubble back into the soil, which helps conserve moisture.
- **Ex-situ Utilization:** Residues can be converted into **biomass energy**, composting, or industrial products like paper and packaging boards.
- **Nutrient Loss:** Burning leads to the loss of **80% of key soil nutrients** (N, P, K, S) and organic carbon, deteriorating soil health and fertility.
- **Fodder Potential:** Compressing surplus straw into bales can address the national **fodder deficit**, which peaks at 43.5% in western India.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Rice alone contributes **34% of India's total crop residue**.
2. Straw burning emits roughly **70% of its carbon as CO₂**.

3. Crop residue burning can cost India approximately **₹90,000 crore annually** in economic losses.
4. Using residue as mulch can increase soil organic carbon from **0.3% to 0.5%**.

MCQ Practice: Q. Which of the following is considered an "In-situ" management technique for crop residue? A) Converting straw into biomass for power plants B) Using the Happy Seeder for stubble incorporation in the field C) Converting residue into bio-ethanol and biodiesel D) Transporting straw to deficit regions for use as fodder

Answer: B (Using a Happy Seeder is a primary method for managing residue in-situ by incorporating it back into the soil.)

Topic 4: Inclusive Rural Growth through Cooperatives



Summary: Cooperatives are transformative models for rural development because they offer **economies of scale** and improve the bargaining power of small farmers. By moving toward a decentralized, multifunctional model, cooperatives can lead the "Sahkar se Samridhi" vision, ensuring food security and employment while preserving social harmony in villages.

Background: The creation of the **Ministry of Cooperation in 2021** signaled a move away from the traditional "top-down" supply-leading models toward farmer-controlled institutions. The goal is for every village to have a cooperative managing all local economic activities.

Key Points:

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- **Collective Strength:** Cooperatives enable small and marginal farmers to gain better access to credit, infrastructure, and markets.
- **Economic Impact:** Direct procurement by cooperatives eliminates food wastage and ensures **fair prices** for both producers and consumers.
- **Social Capital:** Beyond economics, cooperatives foster **trust, shared responsibility, and communal peace**.
- **Vertical Integration:** Future growth depends on shifting from fragmented, horizontal models to integrated systems that manage the entire value chain from storage to retail.

Prelims Facts (One Liners):

1. Agriculture remains the primary employer in rural India but is constrained by **fragmented land holdings**.
2. There are approximately **8 lakh cooperative units** in India.
3. Cooperatives manage **94% of Fair Price Shops in Tamil Nadu**.
4. The **Amul model** is the premier example of a cooperative revolutionizing the dairy sector.

MCQ Practice: Q. What is the primary social benefit of the cooperative model in rural areas according to the vision of "Sahkar se Samridhhi"? A) Centralization of political power in villages B) Elimination of all private sector competition C) Fostering of social capital and shared responsibility among community members D) Mandatory conversion of all private land into collective farms

Answer: C (Cooperatives are instruments of collective empowerment that foster social capital and communal resilience,,)