

What is the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)?

November 22, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About International Cooperative Alliance (ICA):

- The ICA is a **non-profit international association** which unites, **represents** and serves **cooperatives worldwide**.
- **Founded in 1895**, it is **one of the oldest non-governmental organisations** and **one of the largest** ones measured by the **number of people represented** with **one billion cooperative members** on the planet.
- It is the **apex body representing cooperatives**, which are estimated to be **around 3 million worldwide**, providing a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise, and coordinated action for and about cooperatives.
- The ICA is the **guardian of the Statement on the Cooperative Identity**, which includes a definition, 10 values, and 7 operational principles; it is the minimum common denominator for all cooperatives in all sectors and all regions.
- The ICA's **members are international and national cooperative organisations** from all sectors of the economy.
- More than **306 organisations from 105 countries** are members of the ICA.
- ICA operates a **central office in Brussels, Belgium**, and four regional offices for Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe.
- The ICA structure also **has sectoral organisations** for cooperatives active in agriculture, industry and services, consumer retail, banking, fisheries, health, housing, and insurance.

Why in News?

- **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** has taken the initiative **to host the ICA General Assembly and Global Cooperative Conference**.
- The Global Cooperative Conference in India will also **mark the official launch of the 'UN International Year of Cooperatives-2025'**.
- The **theme** of the conference is **"Cooperatives Build Prosperity for All"**.

Q1: What is a Cooperative?

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

News: India to host global conference of cooperatives for the first time

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/international-cooperative-alliance-ica/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.