Amit Shah launches cooperative ride-hailing 'Bharat Taxi' in Pune

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News

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah formally launched 'Bharat Taxi' services in Pune on Sunday, 15 November 2026 at Talegaon Dabhade, where he also performed the bhoomi pujan for reviving the National Heavy Engineering Cooperative (NHEC). (App rides in Pune–Pimpri-Chinchwad had begun in August 2026 after the Maharashtra launch on 23 July 2026.) Maharashtra Deputy Chief Ministers Sunetra Pawar and Eknath Shinde and Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol attended. It is run by Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd, a multi-State cooperative society. Drivers ('Sarathis') are members and owners of the cooperative; Shah said there is no commission and the full fare goes to the driver's bank account. Share certificates were given to Sarathis. About 32,000 Sarathis have joined in Pune; nationally about 10 lakh Sarathis and 60 lakh customers are registered, with about 20,000 rides a day, Mohol said. The service will extend to Nagpur, Kolhapur and Solapur; a 'Sarathi Didi' facility for women drivers and Ayushman Bharat cover of ₹5 lakh for drivers registered on e-Shram were announced. Bharat Taxi was launched nationally in New Delhi on 5 February 2026.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Launch	15 Nov 2026, Pune (Talegaon Dabhade)
Launched by	Amit Shah – Union Home & Cooperation Minister

Point	Details
Operator	Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd – registered 6 June 2025 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002
Promoters	NCDC, Amul, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, NABARD, NDDB, NCEL
Authorised capital	₹300 crore (Business Standard)
Model	Drivers are member-owners; zero commission; subscription-based
Numbers	Pune – about 32,000 Sarathis; India – 10 lakh Sarathis, 60 lakh customers
National launch	5 Feb 2026, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi; pilot from Dec 2025 (Delhi-NCR, Gujarat)

Background

- Constitution: The 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011) made forming cooperative societies a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c), added Article 43B (a Directive Principle to promote cooperatives) and Part IX-B 'The Co-operative Societies' (Articles 243ZH–243ZT). Because it touched a State List subject without ratification by half the States, the Supreme Court in July 2021 struck down the Part IX-B provisions on State cooperatives (Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah); only the multi-State provisions survive.
- Administration: The Union Ministry of Cooperation was carved out of the Agriculture Ministry on 6 July 2021, with the motto 'Sahakar se Samriddhi' (prosperity through cooperation); Amit Shah is its first minister. Cooperative societies are a State subject; societies working in more than one State come under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 (amended 2023).
- Gig economy: App-based ride-hailing firms ('aggregators') need a licence under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (2019 amendment); the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 were issued under it. The Code on Social Security, 2020 recognised gig and platform workers for the first time; they can register on the e-Shram portal.
- History: The Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904 began India's cooperative movement; the 1912 Act opened the way for non-credit societies. After the 1904 Act, India's first cooperative credit society was started at Tirur in Tiruvallur district (Tamil Nadu Cooperation Department).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu pioneered India's cooperative movement: in 1904 the country's first cooperative credit society began at Tirur (Tiruvallur); the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society (9 April 1904) was the first consumer cooperative in Tamil Nadu; and the urban cooperative bank at Kancheepuram, registered on 8 October 1904, is called the first urban cooperative bank by the State Cooperation Department. The State law is the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983. No official announcement of Bharat Taxi in Tamil Nadu was found.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Launch: 15 Nov 2026, Pune (Talegaon Dabhade); Launched by: Amit Shah – Union Home & Cooperation Minister; Operator: Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd – registered 6 June 2025 under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002; Promoters: NCDC, Amul, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, NABARD, NDDB, NCEL.

What is the background to this news?

Constitution: The 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011) made forming cooperative societies a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c), added Article 43B (a Directive Principle to promote cooperatives) and Part IX-B 'The Co-operative Societies' (Articles 243ZH–243ZT).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The Union Ministry of Cooperation, behind 'Bharat Taxi', was carved out in 2021 from which ministry?

A) Agriculture

B) Rural Development

C) Home Affairs

D) Panchayati Raj

Answer: A – Explanation: 6 July 2021 – the cooperation wing of the Agriculture Ministry became a separate ministry; motto 'Sahakar se Samriddhi'; first minister Amit Shah.

2. The 97th Constitutional Amendment (2011) added the right to form cooperative societies to which Article?

A) Article 19(1)(a)

B) Article 19(1)(b)

C) Article 19(1)(c)

D) Article 19(1)(d)

Answer: C – Explanation: 19(1)(c) – alongside the right to form associations. Article 43B is the Directive Principle on cooperatives; Part IX-B covers co-op societies.

3. In 2021 the Supreme Court struck down the Part IX-B provisions on State cooperatives for want of what?

A) President's assent

B) Ratification by States

C) Rajya Sabha approval

D) Governors' advice

Answer: B – Explanation: Article 368(2) – an amendment touching a State List subject needs ratification by half the State legislatures. Multi-State provisions survive.

4. Tirur, where India's first cooperative credit society was started after the 1904 Act, is in which district?

A) Kancheepuram

B) Chengalpattu

C) Vellore

D) Tiruvallur

Answer: D – Explanation: Tiruvallur (TN Cooperation Dept). In 1904 Triplicane got Tamil Nadu's first consumer cooperative, and Kancheepuram the first urban co-op bank (registered 8 Oct 1904).

5. Which Section of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 requires ride-hailing aggregators to hold a licence?

A) Section 67

B) Section 88

C) Section 93

D) Section 213

Answer: C – Explanation: Section 93 – the 2019 amendment added 'aggregators'; the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 were issued under it.

Sources: Free Press Journal (15 Nov 2026); Punekar News (15 Nov 2026); The Daily Pioneer (6 Feb 2026); Business Standard (19 Jun 2025); News On AIR (5 Feb 2026, national launch); Daily Excelsior/PTI (15 Nov 2026, NHEC); TN Cooperation Dept Policy Note 2025-26. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.