Honey Village of Kashmir

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Economy*

Why in news?

The village in Kashmir is emerging as a hub for beekeeping, offering people a lucrative livelihood while grappling with challenges in technology and scaling production.

- **Ramhama –** A village in the Budgam district of central Kashmir, has been dubbed the "Honey Village" due to its flourishing apiculture and honey production.

  Apiculture *is the scientific method of rearing and managing honey bee colonies in artificial hives, also known as beekeeping.*

- **Inspiring pioneer –** The movement was pioneered by local beekeeper Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, who started with just 10 bee boxes in 2010.
- **Growth and success –** Mir's success with an annual production of 7,000–8,000 kilograms of honey, has inspired over 100 young people to enter the industry.
- **Economic impact –** Apiculture provides a valuable supplementary source of income for many local people and is a promising sector for boosting the local economy.
- **Government support –** The local honey production has been supported by programs like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Quick Fact

Current status of Honey production in India

• India's honey production is experiencing significant growth, with ***increase in production by 60%*** over the last decade, reaching 1.25 lakh metric tonnes in 2024–25.
• **Export growth –** India is a major global producer and exporter, with exports reaching over 107,000 MT in FY24.
• **Major importers –** Includes the USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.
• **Diverse resources –** India has a vast potential for honey production due to its diverse range of over 500 flowering plant species.
• **Key varieties –** Popular exported varieties include mustard, eucalyptus, lychee, sunflower, and multi-flora Himalayan honey, etc.
• **Top honey producing states –** Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.
• **Agro-based industry –** Beekeeping is recognized as agro-based industry for rural livelihoods, pollination services, and national income.
• **Government support –** The government is promoting apiculture through schemes like the National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) to support beekeepers.

References

1. The Hindu | Honey Village
2. APEDA | Honey Production in India
3. PIB | Honey Production in India

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