

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](#)