

YOJANA SUMMARY

**AZADI KA AMRIT
MAHOTSAV**

AUGUST 2023

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) is a flagship initiative of the Govt. It was launched in March 2021 to commemorate 75 years of India's independence. AKAM has become a people's movement wherein the nation has united to celebrate the wonder that is India!

Five Pillars of AKAM

The journey of AKAM began with five pillars- **Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Actions@75, Resolve@75, and Achievements@75**, under which the events were conducted.

- Freedom Struggle commemorates milestones in our history and our unsung heroes;
- Ideas@75 celebrates ideas and ideals that shaped our nation;
- Actions@75 highlights the strides that have been made towards actualising commitments for a new India;
- Resolve@75 reinforces our commitments towards achieving specific goals and targets;
- Achievements@75 showcases India's progress and evolution in various sectors.

Initiatives And Campaigns

- Special initiatives taken under AKAM include **Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar**, which entails the cultural mapping of 6.5 lakh villages in India.
- The '**Ungung Heroes**' initiative recalled and remembered lesser-known, unknown, and forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle.
- The '**Digital District Repository (DDR)**' endeavoured to discover and document stories of people, events, and places linked to the freedom struggle of India at the micro level of the district.
- All this culminated in the **Har Ghar Tiranga** initiative, perhaps the largest campaign under AKAM, which encouraged people to bring the Tiranga home and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's Independence.

Overview Of Events Organised Under AKAM

- The '**Unity in Creativity**' initiative was launched to showcase the distinctive talent from the streets of India on a global platform.
- The **Kalanjali** events that are organised every weekend at Kartavya Path invite thousands of visitors to relish cultural programmes at the amphitheatres of India Gate. The events highlight the socio-cultural nuances of Indian heritage.
- **Vitasta** highlighted the influence of Kashmiri culture on the nation.
- Another event under AKAM - **Dhara**, an Ode to the Knowledge System, has underlined India's ancient scientific knowledge in fields of medicine, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, etc.
- The other major events organised under AKAM include Janjatiya Khel Mahotsav, Madhavpur Ghed Festival, Swadeshi Scientists series, Kalinga Utsav, Kashi Tamil Sangamam, etc.
- Through these events, the feeling of **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** has been mustered in the hearts of the people.
- **Veer Bal Diwas** was celebrated to honour the martyrdom of Baba Fateh Singh and Zorawar Singh, the sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- **125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** was celebrated through a series of events organised across India and culminated with the installation of a bronze statue at Kartavya Path.

- Similarly, the **150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo Ghosh**, the **125th birth anniversary celebrations of Alluri Sitarama Raju**, the **350th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohun Roy** and the **200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati** were celebrated vibrantly across the country.

Campaigns 2.0

- In this second phase of AKAM, **nine new themes** have been identified which are inspired by the Panch Pran articulated by the PM during his Independence Day address on completing our 75th Independence Day.
- These themes include Women and Children, Tribal Empowerment, Water, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Health and Wellness, Inclusive Development, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Cultural Pride, and Unity.

INTEGRATED APPROACH FOR HOLISTIC WELL-BEING

"Our vision for wellness is as global as it is domestic. The world is looking at health and wellness seriously, especially after Covid-19. India has much to offer in this regard. Our yoga and Ayurveda can contribute to a healthy planet."
- PM Modi

The Healthcare System In India

A. Ayushman Bharat

- The Ayushman Bharat initiative was launched in 2018. It comprises **Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** and the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- AB-HWCs deliver **comprehensive primary healthcare services** and wellness activities to the community, while PMJAY offers free hospitalisation and inpatient services to the poor and vulnerable.
- The rollout was intended to be achieved in a time-bound manner by operationalising 1.5 lakh AB-HWCs by December 2022. So far, It has successfully brought 1,59,859 AB-HWCs closer to the community.
- Now, AB-HWCs are now being recognised as the first port of call for healthcare in the community.
- Under the AB-PMJAY, financial protection is provided to 40% of the eligible population. Over 23 crore Ayushman cards were created, and it has empaneled over 28,368 hospitals.
- Since its launch, PMJAY has successfully authorized over 5 crore admissions, amounting to over Rs 61,807 crore; thus saving lives and easing the financial burden of the poor.

B. Digital Transformation

- The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** was launched to develop and support the integrated digital health infrastructure of the country.
- The Mission facilitates the nation's participation in the digital health ecosystem through the creation of **Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA).**
- The **ABHA ID intends to establish:**
 - a unique identity across different healthcare providers,
 - link all healthcare benefits ranging from public health programmes to insurance schemes to the ID,
 - facilitate ease of registration in healthcare facilities across the country, and
 - create longitudinal health records for health data sharing.
- Earlier, patients had to travel long distances to avail themselves of specialist care or go to private providers. Now, e-health initiatives like **eSanjeevani services** available at over 1.11 lakh AB-HWCS have reduced the gap in care access and brought specialist care closer to home.

- eSanjeevani has catered to 9 crore teleconsultations, where over 57% of beneficiaries were women and 12% were senior citizens.

C. Pandemic Response and Preparedness

- Based on the learnings from the pandemic, the country opted for a '**whole of society**' approach.
- For this, the govt initiated the largest pan-India infrastructure scheme-the **Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM)**.
- PMABHIM focuses on expediting the capacities of health institutions across all levels of care to strengthen infrastructure, surveillance, diagnosis, management, and research.
- Re-emphasizing the role of decentralization, an additional resource of Rs 70,051 crore was allocated to rural and urban local bodies through the XV-Finance Commission Health Sector Grant.

D. Human Resources for Health (HRH)

- The number of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education seats has grown substantially. The country currently has over 1.07 lakh undergraduate seats for medical education.
- Now almost 1.25 lakh nursing graduates are entering the healthcare workforce annually. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has approved the establishment of 157 new nursing colleges in co-location with the existing medical colleges established since 2014.

E. Immunization and Disease Control

- Through **Mission Indradhanush**, many additional vaccines were delivered through routine immunization services, improving the immunization coverage from 62% (2015-16) to 76.4% (2019-21).
- The extensive resources and infrastructure for routine immunization made the largest Covid-19 vaccination drive in the country a phenomenal success across the globe, with over 100 crore doses administered in 9 months, and doubling it to over 200 crore doses in another 9 months.
- Additionally, over 291.5 million doses were supplied to over 100 countries and two United Nations entities under the Vaccine Maitri initiative.
- **Pradhan Mantri TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan** reflects the citizen-centric policies of the Prime Minister, India remains committed to eliminating Tuberculosis by 2025.
- The Government has introduced **Ni-kshay 2.0**, a unique platform that enhances patient support and community engagement.

F. Mental Health and Well- being

- The National Mental Health Survey of India highlighted a 70-92% treatment gap for various mental health disorders.
- The Government introduced Tele-MANAS, the digital arm of the District Mental Health Programme.
 - With 42 established Tele-MANAS cells, the initiative has already received over 1.5 lakh calls.

G. Healthcare Expenditure

- In the past decade, there has been a significant increase in per capita Government health expenditure, witnessing a growth of 74%.
- Additionally, Government-financed health insurance has experienced a substantial rise of 167%.
- Moreover, there has been a notable decline of 16 per cent points in out-of-pocket spending on health since FY 2013-14.

H. Acknowledging the Benefits of Traditional Medicines

- **The Ministry of AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) is vital in promoting traditional medicine in India.
- Establishing **AYUSH Wellness Centres** across the country has made traditional medicine accessible to a wider population, complementing allopathic healthcare services.

Conclusion

India's G20 Presidency is centered around a deep commitment to the people. The spirit of India's G20 Presidency is exemplified in the theme of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future, encapsulated in the ancient Sanskrit ethos of 'वसुधैव कुटुंबकम्'.

SPORTS BINDING THE NATION TOGETHER

Recent Performances

- India had its best-ever Olympics in Tokyo 2020 - with 7 medals, including an Olympic Gold in athletics, which is a first in the history of India.
- We also had our best ever **Paralympics and Deaflympics** with 19 and medals, respectively.
- This was followed by the **Thomas Cup win for the first time in 72 years**, and the current **World Boxing Champion**, Nikhat Zareen, is from India.

Various Steps Taken By Govt To Promote Sports

The govt has launched various schemes including the '**Khelo India Scheme**', '**Target Olympic Podium Scheme**', '**Fit India Movement**', etc.

Regional Diversity Bridged by Sports – Khelo India

- In 2016, the **Khelo India Scheme** was envisaged by the Prime Minister. The scheme is the key to giving athletes from all across the country, a chance to showcase their sporting skills on a national platform and to be identified for further training.
- The scheme supports more than 2500 athletes with a scholarship of Rs 6.28 lakh each annually.
- The athletes are trained in state-of-the-art facilities, and are also given a monthly cash allowance of Rs 10,000.
- Khelo India athletes come from diverse geographic locations and different socio-economic backgrounds and train at the Khelo India Academies in various parts of the country.
- The concept of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is exemplified through these games.
- Commencing in 2018, a total of 8 editions of the **Khelo India University Games** and the **Khelo India Youth Games** have taken place.

Sports Infrastructure Towards Nation Building - Khelo India Centres

- The launch of **1000 Khelo India Centres (KICs) in every district** in the country with employment generation for local coaches has been a significant landmark in the sports ecosystem in India.
- The Central Government's partnership with various states has resulted in **31 Khelo India Centres of Excellence** that are primed to be state-of-the-art training centres for senior and elite athletes with a focus on specific sporting disciplines.

- Besides, 266 **Khelo India accredited academies**, 500 private academies, and 27 adopted schools where Khelo India athletes train added to the strength of the sporting infrastructure.
- Close to 17,500 playfields have been geo- tagged so that parents can easily find a place for their children to play around their residential area.

Inclusivity Propelled by Sports

- Special provisions are made for women athletes, such as organising the **Khelo India Women's Leagues** to promote their participation in sports.
- Close to 50% of athletes in the Tokyo Olympics were women, and **almost 50% of the medals were won by them** - Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, and PV Sindhu.
- Constant efforts are on to ensure that sports can act as a catalyst to include youngsters from all parts of the country, with special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir and the LWE-affected areas.
- There is also a special space of inclusion being created for **divyang athletes**. In June 2023, a contingent of 198 divyang Indian athletes participated in the Special Olympics Summer Games 2023 in Berlin.
 - The Government extended financial support of Rs 7.7 crore towards the participation of the Indian contingent and also held a preparatory coaching camp at the Sports Authority of India's JLN Stadium, New Delhi to prepare for the world event.

A Fit India Inspired by Sports

- The PM envisioned the Fit India Movement in 2019 to make fitness a way of life for every citizen, not just for athletes or fitness experts.
- His clarion call of "**Fitness Ki Dose, Adha Ghanta Roz**", echoed across the country making it a People's Movement.
 - Be it the Fit India Freedom Run or the fit India quiz the interest in fitness has grown among all age groups.
- Fit India School Week is held every year, in which more than 2.5 lakh students have participated so far in various fitness-related activities.

Economic Growth Fuelled by Sports

- According to an Invest India report published in February 2023, India is today the **third largest sports goods manufacturer** in Asia.
- 60% of all sports goods manufactured by Indian companies are exported, and the industry generates employment for over 5 lakh people.
 - The Indian sports-goods market is expected to grow to \$6.6 billion by 2027 from \$3.9 billion in 2020-21.
- India became the **second-largest producer of bicycles** globally in the financial year 2022, with exports amounting to over \$461 million.

Conclusion

- Indeed, in the last 9 years, sports in India have come a long way. It is therefore not without reason that several elite international sports bodies have chosen India as the host country in recent years.
- The 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad, the U-17 FIFA Women's World Cup held in 2022, the AIBA World Boxing Championship, and the ISSF Shooting World Cup held in 2023 across various Indian cities are proof of the status that India enjoys today as an emerging sports superpower.

Early Phase

- India's economic journey traces back to the early years, post-independence, when it adopted a **mixed economy model**, combining socialist policies with elements of a market economy.
- While these policies laid the foundation for industrial growth, they also led to unintended consequences such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited competition, and stifled innovation.

Era of 1990s

- The country faced macroeconomic imbalances during the late 1980s and early 1990s, prompting the government to introduce structural reforms in 1991.
- The government implemented policies to dismantle the license raj, encourage foreign direct investment, and promote privatisation.
- The rupee became fully convertible on the current account and partially convertible on the capital account.

Dawn of New Millennium

- Foreign direct investment was further liberalised in the early 2000s. The New Telecom Policy of 1999 catalysed the IT sector boom in India.
- The policy on disinvestment and privatisation gained momentum during this period, with the establishment of a dedicated Ministry to drive these initiatives.
- The **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act** was passed to address the government's historically high combined gross fiscal deficit.
- The banking system was supported through the deregulation of interest rates and the enactment of the SARFAESI Act 2002.
- While global growth averaged 4.8 per cent in 2003-2008, the Indian economy achieved an average growth rate of over 8 per cent.
- Domestic credit growth, especially bank credit, doubled as a share of GDP. This unsustainable credit boom in the millennium's first decade increased banks' non- performing assets.
- As companies' investments turned sour, their ability to repay bank loans declined. This triggered a prolonged period of repairing financial and non-financial sector balance sheets.
- Amendments to the SARFAESI Act 2002, the implementation of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**, the introduction of the '**Asset Quality Review**', the adoption of the **prompt corrective action framework**, **recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, and the **merger of PSBs** were among the measures that helped resolve the issues in banks' and corporations' balance sheets.

New-age Reforms

- The government's economic policy focus since 2014 has been to restore India's growth potential by easing business conditions and significantly enhancing physical and digital infrastructure.
- Simplification of regulatory frameworks through reforms such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA) has enhanced the ease of doing business and thereby improved investor sentiment.
 - Out-of-court settlements in cases of loan default are increasing to avoid the procedures of IBC.

- RERA has transformed the real estate sector by making it more organised, resulting in increased new launches and sales of houses.
- **Tax policy reforms**, including the adoption of a **unified Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, reduction in corporate and income tax rates, and the **abolishment of the retrospective tax**, have reduced the tax burden on individuals and businesses.
 - The GST system has exhibited improved buoyancy, with average monthly gross collections consistently rising from INR 0.9 lakh crore in FY18 to INR 1.5 lakh crore in FY23 and INR 1.7 lakh crore in the first quarter of FY24.
- **Large-scale public spending** has also been undertaken since 2014 to address the long-standing infrastructure gaps and logistics bottlenecks.
- The **effective Capital Expenditure** by the Union Government has risen from 2.8 percent of GDP in 2013-14 to 3.8 per cent in 2022-23.
- This investment has aimed to improve connectivity and modernise infrastructure in areas such as road connectivity (Bharatmala), port infrastructure (Sagarmala), electrification, railways, and airports/air routes (UDAN).
- The **National Logistics Policy 2022** supports these initiatives by establishing an overarching logistics ecosystem.
- Recognising the need for consistent and long- term efforts to improve infrastructure in a country as vast as India, the government has established **the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**.
 - Currently, more than 9,000 NIP projects, with a total investment of over INR 108 lakh crore, are at various stages of implementation across different sectors.
- Programmes such as '**Atmanirbhar Bharat**' and '**Make in India**' have aimed to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities and promote exports across various industries.
- **Production Linked Incentives (PLIs)** have been introduced to attract domestic and foreign investments.
- Strategic sectors, including defence, mining, and space, have been opened up to enhance business opportunities for the private sector.
- The government has further liberalised the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, with most sectors now open for 100% FDI under the automatic route.
- Moreover, the New Public Sector Enterprise Policy has been implemented to limit the government's presence in public sector enterprises to only a few strategic sectors.
- **Decriminalising minor economic offences under the Companies of 2013** has greatly improved the ease of doing business.
- Around 25,000 unnecessary compliances have been eliminated and over 1,400 archaic laws have been repealed in the past nine years.
- Initiatives such as the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**, **revision in the definition of MSMEs** under the ambit of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the **introduction of TReDS** to address the delayed payments for MSMEs, the inclusion of **Retail and Wholesale trades as MSMEs**, and the extension of non-tax benefits for three years in case of an upward change in the status of MSME, have all contributed to the sector's resilience.
- Integrating technology and digital platforms has been a common theme throughout these reforms.

- Studies have shown that India's core digital economy has grown 2.4 times higher than the overall economic growth between 2014 and 2019.
- Recent digital initiatives, such as the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** and the **Account Aggregator framework**, hold the potential to enhance economic growth further.
 - The ONDC will provide greater market access for e-commerce businesses.
 - The Account Aggregator framework will also enable more accessible credit for smaller businesses.

Conclusion

Contextually relevant and appropriate economic reforms, considering India's demographic profile and understanding of strategic challenges - political and economic - that technological developments such as advances in Artificial Intelligence and energy transition motivated by climate change considerations pose for the country, will pave the way for bright and steady growth prospects for the country, leading up to 2047.

VISION FOR INDUSTRY

Opportunities For Industries In India

- According to a FICCI-McKinsey report, by 2047, a growing India is expected to become a high-income nation with six times its current per capita income and to create 60 crore jobs to gainfully employ its growing workforce.
- Achieving this potential will make India an approximately Rs 1500 lakh crore (\$19 trillion) economy in real terms by 2047, with the economy growing at a real GDP growth rate of 7.7%.
- Recent policy reforms have created a favourable environment in which Industry can grow. These include the **introduction of the GST**, the launch of the **National Single-Window System**, and a steadily expanding production-linked incentive scheme, etc.
- The Centre's other key initiatives, like the **PM-Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy**, have also provided a facilitating environment for India's manufacturing ecosystem to boom.
 - Overall, manufacturing has the highest potential of all sectors to propel job growth, with the potential to create 60 million to 70 million jobs by 2030.

Areas Essential For India To Realise Its Full Potential In Manufacturing

A. New-age Factory of the World: India's chance to shine amid shifts in global supply chains

- With the Covid-19 pandemic highlighting the challenges of concentrated supply chain companies worldwide are looking for alternatives.
- India could capitalise on this emerging opportunity and capture an increased share of key global supply chains. India is well positioned to leverage Global Value Chains (GVC) for higher economic growth and job creation.
- Steps are being taken and the results are already evident. From just two mobile phone factories in 2014, **India has now become the second-largest mobile phone producer in the world.**
 - In fact, India's exports of smartphones today are worth more than US\$11 billion.
- The aim should be to further increase India's presence in **five to six specific global value chains** (e.g., electronics, chemicals, medical devices) by developing port-proximate clusters.

- Multi-modal logistics parks are being set up in several cities under the government's road-development programme, 'Bharatmala, and these could become world-class, efficient logistics zones for manufacturing.
- Additionally, adopting contract manufacturing to raise capacity utilisation to over 80%, launching supplier development programmes (e.g., innovation grants), and facilitating single-window clearance could raise India's presence in these specific global value chains.

B. Embracing Digital Revolution in Manufacturing

- As per a recent NASSCOM report, the Indian manufacturing industry spent between US\$ 5.5 and US\$ 6.5 billion on Industry-4.0 solutions in FY21.
- Government regulations and private sector investments are pushing Indian manufacturing to adopt digital technology.
- Technology grants and international joint ventures could help secure technology expertise that would help propel manufacturing into the digital future. The ongoing 5G rollout would also play a key role in their transformation to 'smart manufacturing.
- **Support for skilling and upskilling initiatives** will be the need of the hour for manufacturing MSMEs to advance in the future.

C. Leaping Towards Sustainable Manufacturing Future

- Manufacturing has a significant impact on environmental issues because it is a major source of GHG and other pollutants. The future of manufacturing is sustainability.
- Another critical reason for manufacturers to undertake initiatives in sustainability is their substantial financial benefits and global competitiveness.
- Through a number of initiatives, the Indian Government is enticing businesses to adopt sustainable manufacturing, including '**Zero Defect- Zero Effect**, '**Digital India**, and many others.
- To complement these initiatives, manufacturers across the value chain need to prioritise the creation of green alternatives.
- The industry should get together to help define a standard for 'green' labels and establish a robust auditing process for green products.

D. Strengthening Infrastructure

- India has inefficiencies in terms of the large amount of goods transitioning within an industrial value chain, as well as the high cost and lengthy time for the transition.
- The country is already solving these challenges with a variety of interventions, such as the **Industrial Corridor Development Programme, the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, and the National Logistics Policy.**
- Besides hard industrial infrastructure, Indian industry also needs widespread State sponsored urban infrastructure development to be able to capitalise on the window of opportunity provided by the strategic decoupling between China and the West.

Way Ahead

FICCI is confident that as we move ahead on the path towards India@100, the process of reforms will further gather pace and strengthen the foundation on which India will have a world-class industrial sector that is efficient, productive, sustainable, and will imbibe a major export orientation.

"The best way to foresee the future is to create it". - Anonymous

What Is Innovation?

- Innovation is the process of creating value by applying novel solutions to meaningful problems. It is about creating new applications for an invention or an established technology.
- Innovation plays a critical role in shaping the economy of a country.
 - Taking an economic view, the **theory of growth** suggests that the Total Output is defined as a function of Labour, Capital, and Total Factor Productivity of economy.
 - Simply put, total output, or GDP, is increasingly proportional to TFP (Total Factor of Production), where innovation, technology growth, and efficiency gains are the biggest sub- sections of TFP.
- The most developed nations of the world - the USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan, etc. - have traditionally been the most technologically innovative ones.

Steps Taken By India To Promote Innovation

- India established the **National Innovation Foundation (NIF)** under the Department of Science and Technology.
- In 2013, the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy was launched. The Policy aspired to **position India among the top five global scientific powers** with the goal of establishing a strong and viable Science, Research, and Innovation system for a High Technology-led path for India (SRISHTI).
- The Government of India, in 2016, set up **the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** under NITI Aayog. AIM's mandate has been to create a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

Programme Pillars of the Atal Innovation Mission

1. Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)

- With a vision to **Cultivate one million children in India as Neoteric Innovators**, AIM has established ATLs in schools across India.
- ATL is a state-of-the-art space to foster curiosity and innovation in young minds between grades 6th and 12th.
 - The ATLs provide an inhibited space where students create with the idea of "*tod-fod-jod*" - the liberty to create while innovating.
- The flagship initiatives of ATL, ***the ATL Marathon, and Tinkerpreneur***, give the students a platform to create products and pitch them to the world as young business tycoons.
- The best students then get an opportunity to experience industry exposure through the **Student Innovator Programme**.

2. Atal Incubation Centres (AIC)

- AIC aims to nurture innovative start-ups in their pursuit to become scalable and sustainable enterprises.
- It creates and supports cross-sectoral incubators. AICs have been operationalized in Higher Education Institutions - both government and private, research institutes, corporate bodies, etc.

3. Atal Community Innovation Centre (ACIC)

- It is designed to create a thriving ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in regions that have not yet been a part of the growing culture of innovation and lack the systems to support it.

- E.g., tier 2/3 cities, rural and tribal areas, the North East, J&K, and the Ladakh region.

- ACICS innovators from the grassroots and give them equitable opportunities.

4. Atal New India Challenge (ANIC)

- It is a national initiative to seek, select, support, and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance.
- The primary goals of ANIC are to incentivize innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth - Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Applications, etc.

5. Mentors of Change (MoC)

- **Mentor India** is a strategic nation-building voluntary initiative to engage leaders ('Mentors of Change') who can guide and mentor students in the 10,000+ Atal Tinkering Labs that AIM has established across India.
- Today, 6,000+ Mentors across the country are supporting the dream of AIM to nurture young minds. These mentors from across industry and academia volunteer their time regularly in one or more such labs.

Conclusion

- With India's growth story standing at an inflection point and its ambitious goal of USD 5 trillion by FY 2025, a well-nurtured innovation ecosystem is a must.
- India is taking rapid strides in nurturing its innovation ecosystem. Sustained efforts over the past decade have moved India in the Global Innovation Index ranking - from 57th in 2018 to 40th in 2022.
- India is delivering innovations at a global scale with deep impact; it houses 100+ unicorns and has given the world a stack of digital public goods like Aadhaar, UPI, and more.
- However, **the country is still evolving in terms of the number of startups per lakh of the population.** There is potential to go over 9X the current number. A lot of work remains to be done in the deep-tech space.
- It is now our duty to engage in a collective *sabka prayas* to realise New India's economic potential and lead the way for New India's decade of technology.

INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

India took on the Presidency of the G20 in a tumultuous global environment. For a grouping that accounts for more than **80% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and 60% of the world's population**, this has been a moment to underscore its relevance.

India's Credibility At An All-Time High

- With a new international order in the making and a fluid global environment, **India's credibility is at an all-time high.** This is evident from following facts:
 - Rising economic power,
 - A nation that remains committed to upholding the rule of law and promoting global peace and security through its longstanding commitment to global multilateralism;
 - Its growing **ability to deliver global public goods.**
 - New Delhi was at the forefront of providing medical supplies and vaccines at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Current State of Global Order

- The global order is passing through an inflection point with the balance of power in flux.
- The post World War order is truly over and, in its place, there is a vacuum that is causing turmoil all around.
- Major **powers are internally focused**, trying to cope with their domestic issues at the expense of their global obligations.
- The advent of Covid-19 accelerated the above trends as the world became more aware of the underlying fault lines and responded by first turning inward and then ushering in new models of engagement and disengagement.
- Older norms are out of favour, while consensus on new norms eludes the world. The crisis of multilateralism has been made worse by the **lack of a broader representation of developing countries and emerging economies in multilateral institutions.**
- **Economic globalisation** also came under stress. *From 'let's trade and become friends, the mantra became 'let's trade among friends!'*
- De-globalisation has emerged as a credible option as nations moved towards decoupling and de-risking.
- Economic interdependence, which was once seen as a global public good, emerged as a challenge as it created vulnerabilities that could be exploited.
 - Nations are moving rapidly towards diversification of their trade partners, and restructuring of global supply chains emerged as a priority area.

G20 Presidency and India's Aim Of Global Leadership

- India's G20 leadership has sought to make the Global South the **Centre point of global conversations.**
- The theme India selected for its G20 presidency is **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (The world is one family).
- During its year-long presidency, New Delhi, through different initiatives, has made an intense effort to showcase India's claim to global leadership.
- A visible dimension of this exercise is reflected in its **participatory nature.**
 - While inaugurating the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diyas Convention in Indore in January 2023, PM Modi noted that India has to make the G20 not just a diplomatic event but a historical event of the people's participation.
 - India has envisaged **jan bhagidari** (people's participation) in the G20 through various civic engagements and its hosting of more than 200 meetings, ranging across 50 cities and 32 working streams.
- Another significant aspect of this participatory diplomacy is the **prioritisation of provinces and regions and the showcasing of cultures** that weren't given due attention earlier.
- As a nation that wants to be a 'leading player' in the global order, India is keen to address the world's pressing issues through its leadership, including climate change, food security, health care, and technology.
- As part of this, New Delhi has **highlighted issues that matter for emerging economies:** digital public infrastructure, entrepreneurship and innovation, climate justice, and affordable access to health care.

Task Of Bringing Nations Together Became Even More Difficult: One Of The Challenges Faced By India

- This is due to rising tensions among major powers in the G20 and the multilateral institutions facing the credibility crisis.

- By focusing on the priorities of the Global South, India has hoped to bring major stakeholders together and revive the faith of the international community in multilateralism.
- It is a tall order, for sure, but New Delhi's diplomatic manoeuvring has ensured that its G20 presidency elevates the conversation on global governance.

Conclusion

New Delhi has tried to revive global faith in the ability of multilateral formats to deliver. India@75 is well positioned to take on an ambitious role on the global stage, and its G20 presidency has underlined its credentials as a credible global interlocutor.

AGRICULTURE - A JOURNEY FROM SHORTAGE TO SURPLUS

Beginning with an acute shortage of food commodities at the time of independence, we are now a proud food surplus nation with a rising trend of agri-exports.

Background

- Nearly 85 per cent of the population lived in villages and derived their livelihood from agriculture.
- Despite this, the country was abysmally short of food grains, mainly due to the **aversive policies of the British towards farming**.
- During 1950-51, India produced only 50.82 million metric tonnes of food grains, this was not enough to adequately feed the growing population and compelled India to beg for food grains from the USA and other developed economies.
- Successive wars in 1948, 1962, and 1965, together with recurrent droughts, further deteriorated the situation.
- This grim scenario pushed the country into an unprecedented '**ship- to-mouth**' existence and also defamed India as a '**begging bowl**' nation.
- The USA donated large quantities of wheat under the PL-480 Scheme to save millions of Indians from hunger. But soon, it diminished to a very low level due to strained international relations.

Tales of Transformation

- **Early Years Of Independence**
 - The nation drafted its **First Five-Year Plan (1951-56)** for development, with the highest priority being to increase agricultural production and eliminate hunger.
 - During the **Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66)**, self- sufficiency in food grains was one of the priorities, but it failed miserably due to Chinese aggression (1962), the Indo-Pak War (1965), and a severe and prolonged drought during 1965-66.
 - This led to a colossal food crisis in the country that led to an appeal to people to observe a fast once a week.
- **Green Revolution**
 - In Mexico, a scientist, **Dr Norman Borlaug**, made a breakthrough by developing unique **wheat varieties** that were semi-dwarf, high-yielding, disease-resistant, fast-growing, and highly responsive to fertilisers.
 - The Government of India allowed the import of 18,000 metric tonnes of new wheat varieties in 1966.
 - These seeds were **distributed to farmers in Delhi, Haryana, and Punjab**.

- As a result, farmers could successfully harvest 4-5 tonnes per hectare, in contrast to the earlier one tonne per hectare.
- In 1968, the nation reaped a bumper harvest of 17 million metric tonnes of wheat, up from 11 million tonnes in 1966. This was the **largest leap in wheat production ever recorded in the world.**
- This was termed as the 'Green Revolution. This was followed in rice, and subsequently, production jumped in other crops like sugarcane, cotton, and fruits and vegetables. This laid the foundation for self-sufficiency.

Agriculture Production In India: Current Status

- India is the **world's largest sugar-producing country** and holds the **second position in the production of rice** only after China.
- As the **second-largest producer of wheat**, India had a share of around 14.14 per cent in global wheat production in 2020.
- India is also the **largest producer and consumer of pulses**, with a rapid pace towards self-reliance.
- As per second advance estimates (2022-2023), **production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 323.5 million metric tonnes.**
- As per the third advance estimate, a **record 342.33 million metric tonnes of horticultural production are estimated in 2021-22.**
- Being deficit crops, **oilseeds** were given a special thrust by launching the ***National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm*** during the 12th Five- Year Plan period.
 - Oilseed production grew to 400 lakh metric tonnes in 2022-23 from 108.30 lakh metric tonnes in 1985-86.
- The quantum jump in oilseed production is often referred to as the '**Yellow Revolution**' in the annals of agriculture in India.
- The **per capita per day availability of food grains** has increased from 395 grams in 1951 to 514.5 grams in 2022.
- The production of horticultural crops has recently outpaced the production of food grains, thus making a strong contribution to the nutritional security of the country.
- Being a food surplus nation, the Government is promoting agri-exports in the interest of farmers and 'agripreneurs'.
- As a result, **agri and allied exports have increased from 41.86 billion USD in 2020-21 to 50.24 billion USD in 2021-22.**
- While celebrating the **International Year of Millets (2023)**, India is set to become an international hub for millets, which have been recently named '**Shree Ann**'.
 - Government has set its target to produce 170 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24.

Spectrum of Revolutions

- **White Revolution**
 - Just like food grains, India was struggling with the availability of milk at the time of independence, with a mere production of 17 million metric tonnes.

- The Government had set up dairy schemes in metro cities, but a large part of their supply was met with commercial imports of milk powder.
- In 1964, the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** was set up with Dr Verghese Kurien as its chief.
- NDDB launched an ambitious programme, Operation Flood (OF), during the 1970s to make India self-reliant in milk production.
- The OF programme started a movement to create a network of village-level milk cooperative societies with a robust infrastructure for collection, processing, and marketing of milk.
- It introduced modern liquid milk processing plants and created a national milk grid for moving milk from surplus to deficit areas.
- **By 1976, regular commercial imports of milk had ceased.** Since then, India has never looked back on milk production.
- India has been the **global leader in milk production** for over a decade, with a total production of around 222 million tonnes in 2021-22.
 - It makes up about 24 per cent of the total milk produced worldwide.
- The average **per capita availability of milk** worldwide is 308 grams, whereas in India it **was 444 grams in 2022.**
- This success is often referred to as **White Revolution.** Around 80 million families are getting employment directly from the dairy sector, the majority of whom are small and marginal farmers, and landless households.
- **Blue Revolution**
 - It signifies a surge in fisheries production obtained after independence.
 - India now stands as the **second largest fish- producing country in the world**, accounting for 7.58% of global production.
 - The total fish production has now reached 16.3 million tonnes (2021-22).
 - Currently, India is also a **leading seafood exporter in the world.** The fisheries sector provides livelihood to about 16 million fishermen and fish farmers at the primary level.
 - The Government of India implemented a notable scheme called **'Blue Revolution' -Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries** for a period of five years (2016-16 to 2019-20).
 - It focused mainly on increasing fisheries production and productivity in the inland and marine sectors of the country.
- **Silver Revolution**
 - The country has witnessed another revolution in the poultry sector by becoming the third-largest producer of eggs in the world.
 - Often referred to as the 'Silver Revolution, the country is currently producing 1,29,600 million eggs (2021-22), while it was 1,832 million during 1950-51.

Way Forward

- The agriculture sector is experiencing several challenges in the form of climate change, deteriorating natural resources, low fertility and low productivity, and increasing demand for quality produce.

- To address such challenges and make Indian agriculture future-ready, the Government has taken initiatives like National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Agri-Tech Infrastructure Fund, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana on a national platform.
- While **natural farming** is the new mantra, **emerging technologies** such as drones, remote sensing, precision agriculture, and IT applications are also finding their way into modern agriculture.
- As a recent phenomenon, agri-startups are providing farm solutions to farmers, mostly on a real-time basis, by employing digital tools and innovations.
- Rising from self-reliance, Indian agriculture is now moving forward to become a global powerhouse of agriculture.

SWEET REVOLUTION A BOOM IN HONEY PRODUCTION

- India has witnessed the exemplary fast-paced growth of beekeeping as an agro-based subsidiary occupation. Today, India produces approximately 70000 metric tonnes of honey annually from all four species of honey bees.
- In India, beekeeping is practiced in mountains, foothills, forests, agricultural lands, mangrove forests, etc. The technique involved in beekeeping varies from region to region. The main harvest is from ***Apis dorsta, Apis cerana, and Apis mellifera.***
- Today, beekeeping is an important, sustainable, and integral agricultural activity under the rural development programme in India since it provides nutritional, economic, and ecological security and balance.

Apiculture

- Apiculture is the **practice of keeping and managing honeybees** for the production of honey and other related products. Honey is a natural sweetener that has a variety of health benefits.
- The product is also used for manufacturing other products, such as beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, and-pollen.
- The components of apiculture include bee colonies, beekeepers, beekeeping equipment, and the products produced from the bee colonies.
- **Bees also play a crucial role in pollination**, which is essential for growing crops and fruits.
- In comparison to other forms of agriculture, apiculture requires less land and water and has a lower carbon footprint.

Benefits of Honey



- Honey is rich in nutrients and antioxidants, antibacterial properties, and can play a role in diabetes management as part of a balanced diet.
- It plays a role in many home remedies and alternative medicine treatments. India has good potential for beekeeping and to become a major honey-exporting nation.
- Honey production provides a sustainable income source, requiring only low-cost investment and using the natural resource base.
- The major geographical regions facilitating beekeeping development are classified into the Southern peninsular region, the Northeast region, Indo Gangetic plains, and the Northern Hill region.
- Other apiculture products such as royal jelly, beeswax, pollens, etc., are also used extensively in different sectors like pharmaceuticals, food, beverage, beauty, and others.

Sweet Revolution

- Sweet Revolution is aimed at promoting apiculture, popularly known as 'beekeeping' for accelerating the production of quality honey and other related products.
- Scaling up beekeeping will increase farmers' income, generate employment, ensure food security and bee conservation, and increase crop productivity and pollination.

Government Initiatives

- To provide a booster shot to Sweet Revolution, the Government launched the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)**, for the overall promotion and development of scientific beekeeping in mission mode.
- The scheme is being implemented through the **National Bee Board (NBB)** as a Central Sector Scheme.
 - The main objective of NBB is the overall development of Beekeeping by promoting Scientific Beekeeping in India, increasing the productivity of crops through pollination and increasing honey production for increasing the income of beekeepers/farmers.
- The **Madhu Kranti Portal** for ensuring the source of honey was launched in April 2021.
 - More than 10,000 beekeepers and honey societies/farms/companies with 16 lakh honey bees are registered with National Bee Boards and linked to the Madhu Kranti Portal.

Honey Production in India: Current Status

- Concentrated efforts through NBHM increased honey production by about 1,33,200 Metric Tonnes in 2021-2022.
- India has exported 74413 Metric Tonnes of natural honey to the World, worth Rs 1221 crore during 2020-2021.
- As a result, **India is among the world's top five honey producers.**

Conclusion

- An organised and tech-driven bee-farming sector is an excellent way to generate employment opportunities, through skill-building projects.
- It will help attain Sustainable Development **Goals 1** (No Poverty), **2** (Zero Hunger), **3** (Good Health and Well-Being), and **15** (Biodiversity and Vibrant Ecosystem).