

AMITABH KANT

Former G20 Sherpa, India; Former CEO, NITI Aayog

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ABOUT

Key Governance Reformer and Policy Change Agent. Has been the key driver of Make in India, Startup India, Incredible India, and God's Own Country. Has spearheaded Ease of Doing Business, Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), Production-Linked Incentive Schemes (PLI), the liberalisation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) in infrastructure, and Asset Monetisation programmes and policies for the Government of India. Led the national effort to accelerate India's transition to cleaner energy, spearheading initiatives such as the Green Hydrogen Mission and the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, and pushing ambitious climate finance reform through the Green Development Pact in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

EXPERIENCE

India's G20 Sherpa

Government of India

📅 2022 - 2025 📍 New Delhi

- Served as India's Sherpa to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the G20 Presidency, championing global issues, growth, as well as geopolitical and technological issues.
- Achieved unanimous consensus on all critical development issues, notably amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
- Led the unanimous consensus on the Green Development Pact, which included tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030, scaling up climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars, and the setting of an New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) of at least USD 100 billion. These provisions were picked during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-28) for further deliberations.
- Expanded G20 representation by incorporating the African Union, encompassing 80% of the global population, while prioritising Digital Public Infrastructure, Reform of Multilateral Financial Institutions, and Women-Led Development.
- Developed Bharat Mandapam, venue for the 2023 G20 New Delhi Summit, and Yashobhoomi—India's leading Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) centres.

Chief Executive Officer

NITI Aayog

📅 2016 - 2022 📍 New Delhi

- Spearheaded the Aspirational Districts Program (ADP), elevating 115 backward districts to top performers, recognised by UNDP.
- Pioneered Make in India and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, positioning India as a global manufacturing and export hub.
- Created national transport decarbonisation initiatives such as the Green Hydrogen Mission, India's National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage—which facilitated the procurement of 5,500 E-buses—and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for next-generation Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC) (batteries).
- Introduced competitive federation by ranking States and Union Territories across sectors like Ease of Doing Business and Water Management.
- Developed India's first regional district Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring system and launched the SDG India Index.
- Conceptualised the USD 81 Bn National Asset Monetisation Pipeline, exceeding targets in the first year.
- Drove development of indices like School Education and Quality Index (SEQI)/Water Management/Health Outcome.
- Established the Behavioural Insights Unit (BIU) and launched the Lifestyle For Environment (LiFE) movement for climate action.
- Drove initiatives in sunrise sectors like Mobile Manufacturing, Green Hydrogen, and electric mobility.
- Served in key roles including Director in the Board of the National Highways Authority of India and Member of India's National Statistical Commission.

SOCIAL MEDIA



X (formerly Twitter)

[amitabhk87](#)



LinkedIn

[amitabh-kant-3680b01b1](#)

HONOURS AND RECOGNITIONS



The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (2023) – Government of Japan



Recipient of Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship awarded by the Prime Minister of New Zealand



One Globe Award-2016 for leadership in Transforming Governance for the 21st Century



Golden Peacock Global Award for Leadership in Economic Transformation (2017), Institute of Directors



Recognised as Distinguished Alumni by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) (2024) and St. Stephens College, Delhi University



Outstanding Contribution To Public Service Award, India Business Leader Awards | CNBC TV18 (2023)



Economic Times Policy Change Agent of the Year Award



Bloomberg TV Personality of the Year Award



Impact Leader of the Year Award, BT-PwC India's Best CEOs Award, for contributions as India's G20 Sherpa



NDTV India First Award – Indian of the Year (2024)



NDTV Administrator of the Year Award



Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts (B.A) Honours in Economics

[St. Stephen's College, Delhi](#)

Master of Arts (M.A.) in Economics

[Jawaharlal Nehru University](#)

Chevening Scholar

[United Kingdom Government](#)

EXPERIENCE

Secretary

Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP)

📅 2014 - 2016 📍 New Delhi

- Led transformative initiatives at DIPP, driving "Make in India," "Ease of Doing Business," and "Start Up India," the latter of which continues to produce a surge in startupscontributing to significant economic growth.
- Liberalised the patent and trademarks regime to foster innovation.
- Liberalised the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime of India.
- As Chairman of National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd (NICDIC), drove the development of new infrastructure and urbanisation.

Chief Executive Officer

Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (DMIDC)

📅 2009 - 2014 📍 New Delhi

- Facilitated partnership with Japan for development of sustainable manufacturing cities in India.
- Executed PPP infrastructure projects across six states to create a global manufacturing and trading hub.
- Spearheaded the accelerated development of Yashobhoomi—India's largest convention and exhibition centre spanning 1 million square meters.
- Advocated for Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), boosting industrial competitiveness.
- Introduced manufacturing-led urbanisation models with projects like Shendra-Bidkin Industrial Area and Dholera Special Investment Region.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India 📅 2001 - 2007 📍 New Delhi

- Pioneered 'Incredible India' campaign, showcasing diverse appeal through innovative media.
- Revitalised tourism industry, boosting traffic and infrastructure development.
- Conceptualised 'Atithi Devo Bhava' (Guest is God) initiative to train taxi drivers and tour operators.
- Focused on sustainability and responsible tourism.

Secretary

Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala 📅 1997 - 2001 📍 Kerala

- Rebranded Kerala as 'God's Own Country' and initiated innovative tourism programs, laying groundwork for 'Incredible India' campaign.
- Significantly revitalised Kerala's tourism industry through sustainability efforts, promoting traditional art, culture, and natural attractions.
- Marketed traditional Kerala culture, including Backwaters and Ayurveda, globally, showcasing the state's natural and cultural beauty.

District Collector, Kozhikode (Calicut)

Government of Kerala 📅 1992 - 1997 📍 Kozhikode, Kerala

- Spearheaded modernisation initiatives as District Collector of Kozhikode, focusing on infrastructure and public space revitalization.
- Transformed Mananchira Maidan into a recreational area, widened roads, and extended Calicut airport runway.
- Led road widening projects and removal of encroachments, improving city transportation.
- Established Kozhikode public library and research center, contributing to the city's cultural landscape.
- Played a pivotal role in expanding Calicut airport, leveraging community participation and partnerships.
- Organised 'Malabar Mahotsav' festival, celebrating Calicut's literary legacy with renowned cultural artists.

Managing Director

Kerala State Industrial Development Cooperation (KSIDC)

📅 1987 - 1992 📍 Kerala

- Played a key role in the development of Cochin and Calicut airports, establishing them as major gateways to Kerala.
- Drove the development of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal to ensure a reliable gas supply for industrial needs.
- Successfully developed five industrial growth centers, contributing to significant industrial expansion in the state.
- Supported the growth of the IT industry in Kerala through the establishment of Techno-Park, fostering innovation and technology-driven enterprises.
- Contributed to the value addition of agriculture, with a focus on enhancing the export of spices, particularly cardamom.

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Hindi	Native
Malayalam	Proficient

COURSES

Mid-Term Course, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP ROLES

Chairperson

NIIT University (NU)

Elected Member, Board of Governors

Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER)

Board Member

Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR), DU

Distinguished Fellow (2025)

The Bellagio Center Residency Program, The Rockefeller Foundation

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Nudging Sustainability: G20 and LiFE

📅 2023 📍 India

- As India's G20 Sherpa, shaped and unanimously pushed through the G20 High Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE) during India's G20 Presidency (2022-23).
- Encouraged the use of behavioural science approaches, such as nudging and incentives, to promote environmentally friendly individual and community behaviour, fostering an aspirational shift towards sustainable lifestyles and choices.
- Recognised the crucial role of local communities and traditional knowledge in supporting sustainable lifestyles, empowering these groups to contribute to policy-making and enhancing social inclusion in sustainability efforts.

Strategic Leadership in COVID-19 Response and Recovery

📅 2020 📍 India

Chair of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Empowered Group-6 on Coordinating with Private Sector, NGOs, and International Organisations.

- Coordinated urgent collaborative efforts among over 40 NGOs, private sector players, and international organisations to facilitate comprehensive COVID-19 response strategies.
- Conducted multiple high-level meetings to identify and address key challenges in health service delivery, production of medical equipment, and health system strengthening.
- Facilitated the creation of a Joint Programme Response Plan with the UN in India, focusing on targeted support for vulnerable populations and enhancing health and nutritional services.

Chief Executive

Kerala State Co-operative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd (Matsyafed)

📅 1984 - 1987 📍 Kerala

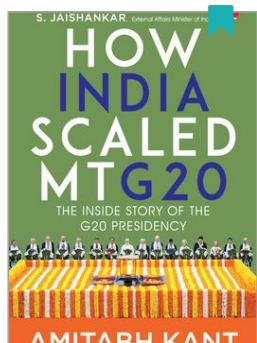
- Implemented "beach level" auctions for fair compensation and formed self-help groups for fisher-folk empowerment.
- Introduced modern technologies like fibreglass boats and outboard motors, enhancing fishing communities' livelihoods.
- Implemented financial models for direct payments and loan repayment, boosting economic capabilities.
- Introduced fisher-women buses for local marketing, facilitating economic opportunities.

Sub-Collector

Thalassery, Government of Kerala 📅 1982 - 1984 📍 Thalassery, Kerala

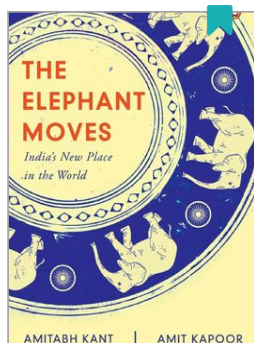
- Initiated infrastructural transformation by relocating the fish market to the beach area.
- Implemented road widening and promoted cycling & walking means for enhanced mobility.
- Fostered communal harmony through initiatives like the Tellicherry Carnival.

BOOKS



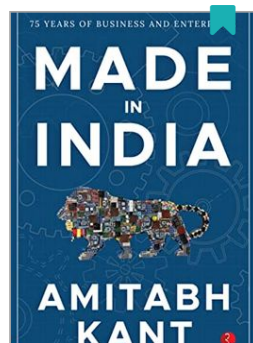
How India Scaled Mt. G20: The Inside Story of the G20 Presidency (2025)

Amitabh Kant



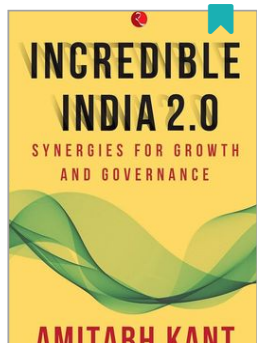
The Elephant Moves: India's New Place in the World (2024)

Amitabh Kant and Amit Kapoor



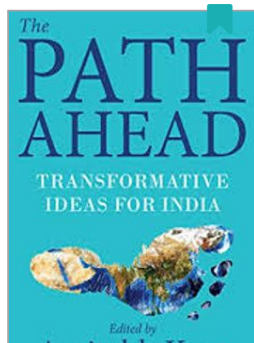
Made in India: 75 Years of Business and Enterprise (2023)

Amitabh Kant



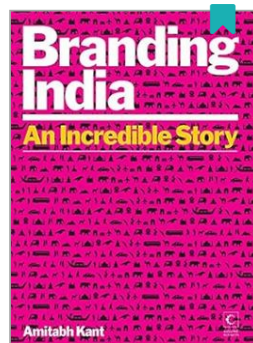
Incredible India 2.0 (2019)

Amitabh Kant



The Path Ahead- Transformative Ideas for India (2018)

Edited by Amitabh Kant



Branding India - An Incredible Story (2009)

Amitabh Kant

Transforming India's Districts

📅 2018 📍 India

- As CEO of NITI Aayog, launched the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) in 2018 to transform 115 of the most backward districts across 28 states, focusing on enhancing human development and reducing regional disparities in India.
- Established a framework based on convergence of government schemes, collaboration among Central and State officials, and competitive performance measurement among districts.
- Implemented a real-time monitoring dashboard for monthly performance rankings, promoting transparency and accountability in development efforts.
- Engaged prestigious partners for capacity building and innovative solutions, targeting improvement of living standards and achieving inclusive growth.

Promoting Yoga, Ayurveda, and Medical Tourism

📅 2001 📍 India

- As Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, spearheaded initiatives to promote yoga, Ayurveda, and wellness, enhancing India's status as a global wellness destination.
- Positioned India as a leader in "medical tourism" by integrating traditional practices with contemporary healthcare offerings.

Empowering Fishermen and Coastal Communities

📅 1984 📍 Kerala

- Dedicated 3 years to empowering the local fisherman community in Kerala.
- Implemented "beach level" auctions, increasing fishermen's earnings by connecting them directly to market demand.
- Established self-help groups to foster collaboration, mutual support, and community empowerment.
- Enhanced financial access by enabling fishermen to open bank accounts and secure loans for sustainable practices.
- Improved transportation options for fisher women, promoting market access and gender equality within the community.
- Addressed social challenges through programs focused on health, education, and livelihoods for holistic community development.

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS



Steering Board Member, "Shaping the Future of Production Systems" at WEF, Champion of the EDISON Alliance for digital inclusion in developing nations.



Member of the Regional Action Group on South Asia at WEF, former Chair of the Regional Strategy Group India, fostering regional collaboration.



Former member of the Management Board of the OECD-International Transport Forum (ITF), contributing to global transport policy.