Threats to Wild Bees

Source: DTE

A study published in ***journal Science*****,** has revealed that over **70% of wild bee species,** crucial for **pollination**, are at risk from pesticide residues in soil.

- **Key Finding of the Study:** Current **pesticide** risk assessments mainly focus on honey bees, ignoring the impact on wild bees that nest in the soil.
    - Pesticides like **cyantraniliprole** harm wild bees by reducing their survival and reproductive success, threatening future generations.
- **Importance of Bees:** Bees are vital for pollinating many food crops, contributing directly to food security. A **third of the world's food production depends** on them according to the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**.
    - Honey bees, living in large colonies, use **social detoxification strategies** (collective behaviors to manage toxins) to buffer pesticide impacts. Wild, solitary bees lack this protection and are more vulnerable to pesticide exposure.
- **Pollination:** It is the process of transferring pollen from the male part of a flower to the female part, which allows the plant to reproduce.
- **Pollinator Decline Impact:** The decline in wild bees populations due to habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change threatens plants that rely on bees for pollination, impacting global **food security**, **Beekeeping (or apiculture)** and biodiversity.

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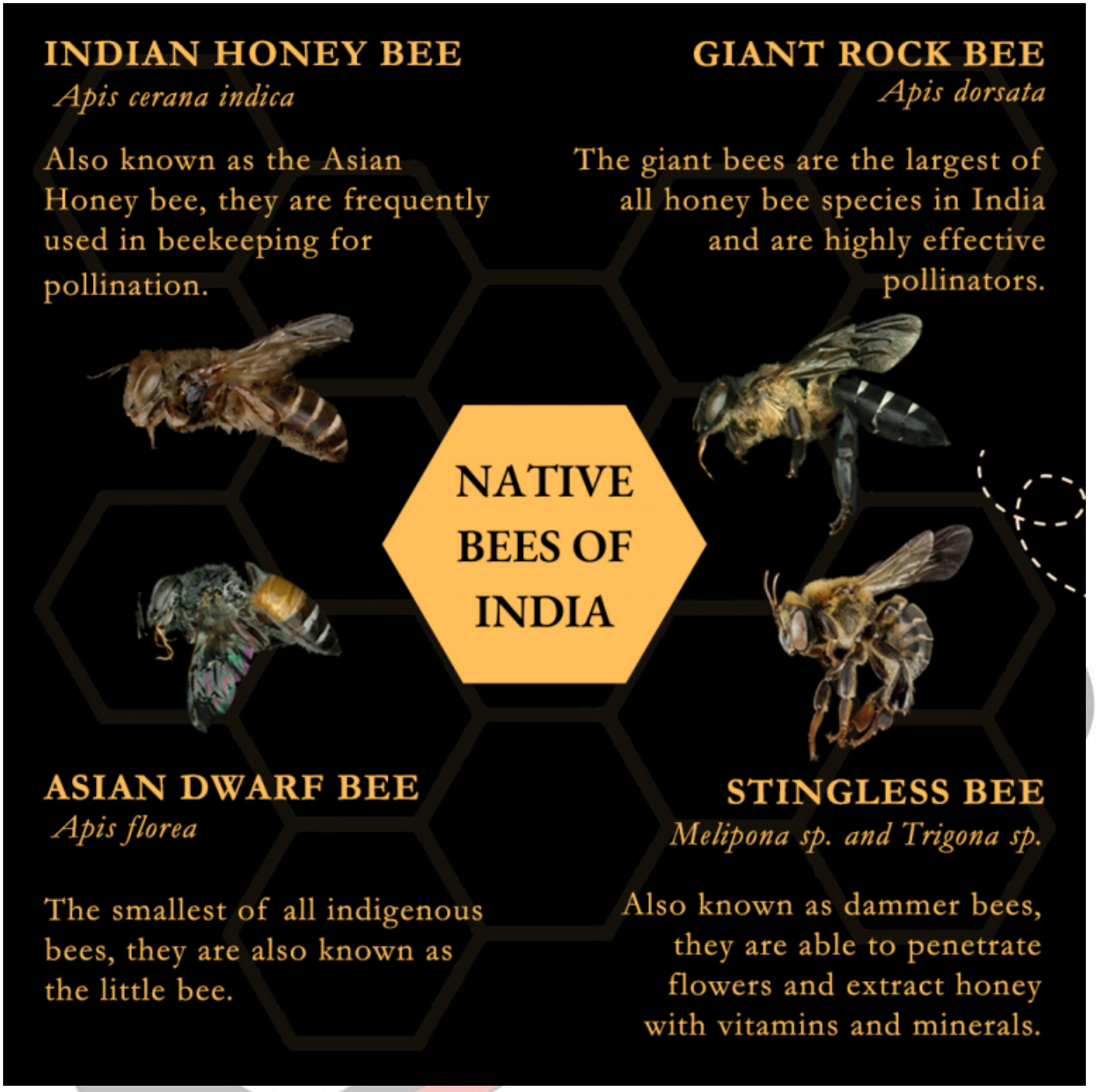

Read more: [World Bee Day]