

# Loss of green cover in the Nilgiris highlighted



STAFF REPORTER

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SHARE ARTICLE

The World Bee Day was marked by the Keystone Foundation with a ceremony at the Nehru Park in Kotagiri on Saturday.

The foundation engaged with locals, including school children, civil societies and practising bee-keepers.

## Urbanisation

T.K.V. Rajan, Founder-director of the Indian Science Monitor spoke at the event. K.K. Suresh, Dean, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam spoke of growing urbanisation and loss of green cover in the Nilgiris. Philip Mulley, Trustee of Keystone Foundation spoke of the indigenous communities in the Nilgiris and of the close links they have with honey gathering and the bees and how they value bee diversity.

Children from Sholurmattam and Garikiyur performed a small play at the event, which showcased the functioning of a small bee colony.

The students spoke of the different types of bees. School teacher Dharmaraj, Nallasiriyar awardee brought children from Sholurmattam for the event and spoke of the need to conserve bee species, especially the indigenous bee species.

A website known as The Honey Portal, a project by Audra Bass, intern with Last Forest Enterprises, would be able to carry information about honey, bees, conservation, and indigenous communities closely associated with bees and honey, said a spokesperson from the Keystone Foundation.

“The portal would be able to provide information to help with conservation of grasslands, forests and other ecosystems related to nesting habitats of bees. This portal is set to go live in a couple of months with information from the Nilgiris and Odisha,” they said,

World Bee Day is celebrated on May 20, which is the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa, a Slovenian bee-keeper who pioneered the modern bee-keeping with movable frames and boxes.