

# Project RE-HAB of Karnataka

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**In news :** In order to mitigate human-elephant conflict a project-REHAB has been launched in Kodagu, Karnataka recently

## What is project RE-HAB?

Project RE-HAB (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) launched in Kodagu **entails installing bee boxes(bee fences) along the periphery of the forest and the villages** with the belief that the elephants will not venture anywhere close to the bees and thus avoid transgressing into human landscape. This idea stems from the **elephants' proven fear of the bees.**

## Aim of the project

Reducing human and elephant fatalities using honey bees as a fence against the pachyderms, without causing any harm to the animals

## More about the project

- **Initiative of:** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), it is a sub-mission of KVIC's National Honey Mission.
- It was launched at four locations around Chelur village in Kodagu district by KVIC chairman
- Locations: These spots are located on the periphery of Nagarahole National Park and Tiger Reserve, known conflict zones.

## How does it work?

- 15 to 20 interspersed bee boxes have been set up by KVIC at each of the four locations.
- The bee boxes are set up in the passageways of human-elephant conflict zones to block the entrance of elephants to human habitations.

- The bee boxes are connected with a string so that when elephants attempt to pass through, a tug causes the bees to swarm the elephant herds and dissuade them from progressing further.
- Bee boxes have been placed on the ground as well as hung from the trees.
- High resolution, night vision cameras have been installed at strategic points to record the impact of bees on elephants and their behaviour in these zones.

### **Impact assessment**

KVIC has involved the College of Forestry under the University of Agriculture and Horticultural Sciences, Ponnampet, for impact assessment of the project.

### **Advantages of the project**

- Project helps dissuading elephants without causing any harm to them
- It is cost effective as compared to various other measures such as digging trenches or erecting fences

### **Elephant attacks in India**

During the year 2015-2020, around 500 people have lost their lives in elephant attacks across India out of which about 170 human fatalities have been reported in Karnataka alone, according to KVIC.