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PP-492 [Beekeeping for Rural Development]

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Title: "Api-Tourism Centre in Nashik, Maharashtra: A Unique Model for Sustainable Tourism"

BASWANT
Honey Bee Park

Honey bees are among the most vital pollinators on our planet, contributing to over 75% of global food crops. They play a key role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting ecosystems, and ensuring food security. However, rapid urbanization, pesticide overuse, habitat loss, and climate change have caused a steep decline in bee populations worldwide. Recognizing the urgent need for action, Baswant Honeybee Park was created.

Baswant Honey Bee Park was created as a dedicated space to protect and nurture bee species, raise public awareness, and train communities in sustainable beekeeping practices. Baswant Honey Bee Park is a dedicated space designed to protect, nurture, and celebrate the vital role of honey bees in our ecosystem. Baswant Honeybee park is a blend of conservation, education, and hands-on training. This park stands as a living example of how people and nature can thrive together.

At the heart of the project lies the Centre Attraction Point – a unique installation that delivers a powerful message: bees are essential for the sustenance of life on Earth. This focal feature draws visitors in, inspiring them to appreciate how deeply human life and nature depend on these tiny yet powerful pollinators.

Visitors enter through the information tunnel, an interactive walkway where they can learn about different bee species and the impact of pollination on food production. The walkway is lined with informative signboards and bee-friendly plant displays, guided tours are available to make the experience more engaging and educational.

Surrounding the central feature is the Bee Zone, a thriving, pesticide-free habitat filled with carefully selected native flowering plants that bloom throughout the year. This ensures a continuous supply of nectar and pollen, not only for honey bees but also for butterflies, solitary bees, and other beneficial insects. The zone is designed to mimic a natural ecosystem, providing shelter, food, and breeding areas for pollinators.

A major highlight of Honey Bee Park is its Beekeeping Training Centre, designed for both classroom learning and hands-on practice. Trainees learn essential skills such as bee biology, hive management, sustainable honey harvesting, and production of value-added products like beeswax candles, propolis and royal jelly.

The center hosts workshops for farmers, students, and women entrepreneurs, ensuring that knowledge spreads beyond the park boundaries. Every visit supports conservation efforts and helps fund training programs for local communities. This is a combination of conservation, education, and livelihoods.

Honey Bee Park also serves as a hub for eco-tourism and community engagement. We organize school visits, awareness drives and honey-tasting sessions. These activities not only educate but also generate revenue to support conservation work. Visitors leave with a deeper appreciation for bees and a greater understanding of how their own actions can help protect pollinators.

The park houses a Bee Museum that showcases a wide range of beekeeping equipment and tools, including wooden hives, honey extractors, protective gear, smokers, and hive inspection kits. Each display is accompanied by informative descriptions explaining its purpose and use, allowing visitors to understand beekeeping practices in a practical and visual way.

Benefits & Impact:

- **Environmental:** Increased pollination, biodiversity enhancement, and protection of native bee species.
- **Economic:** Income generation from honey and bee products, rural job creation, and training-based livelihoods.
- **Social:** Education, awareness, and empowerment, especially for women and young people through skill-building.

BASWANT
Honey Bee Park

BASWANT HONEY BEE PARK, Pimpalgaon (B), NASHIK, (MS) India

www.baswant.com

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Api - Tourism Centre in Nashik, Maharashtra, India

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Api-Tourism Centre in Nashik, Maharashtra, India: A Unique Model for Sustainable Tourism

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The Baswant Honey Bee Park, also known as the Api-Tourism Centre, located in Nashik, Maharashtra, India, offers a unique blend of education and tourism that highlights the vital role of beekeeping in agriculture and food security. Established in 2019 as India's first integrated Agri-Api Tourism project, it spans 15 acres and aims to educate students and the general public on the importance of bees, sustainable farming, and environmental conservation.

The centre features a variety of interactive experiences designed to educate visitors about the fascinating world of bees. These include guided tours of the apiaries and bee museums, where visitors can observe all species of bees. The bee floral and vegetable gardens showcase the plants crucial for maintaining healthy bee populations, offering visitors a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between nature and agriculture. Additionally, visitors have the opportunity to taste and purchase honey produced on-site, learn about honey processing, and explore the medicinal and cosmetic uses of bee products. A key aspect of the Api-Tourism Centre is its commitment to promoting health and sustainability. Workshops on Apitherapy (bee-based therapy), beeswax candle-making, and cooking with honey offer visitors hands-on experiences. The museum also features exhibits on the growing interest in sustainable agriculture and the impact of urbanization on natural ecosystems, using art and monuments to convey these themes.

The Centre has seen a steady increase in visitors, with approximately 400 people attending on weekdays and around 800 on weekends. Till date more than 1,30,000 visitors have visited this project. This growth reflects the increasing demand for cultural and eco-tourism that preserves both natural and cultural values. Over the last five years, the Api-Tourism Centre has emerged as a leading destination for both domestic and international tourists, becoming a model for integrating education, sustainability, and tourism in a unique and impactful way.