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**Bengaluru:** Honeybees, a big contributor to ecology, will soon get the state insect tag. SP Sheshadri, chairman, Karnataka Biodiversity Board, said there'll be an official declaration soon.

If all goes as per KBB's plans, Karnataka will be the first state to have a 'state insect'. Karnataka has adopted the Southern Wing Butterfly, Indian Roller and elephant as state butterfly, bird and animal respectively. "Honeybees help farmers as they play a crucial role in pollinating crops. They maintain ecological balance, and many involved in bee-keeping get commercial benefit too. Due to these factors, we decided to declare it as the state insect," said Sheshadri, after meeting members of the National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. TNN