New Solitary Bee Species

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Environment*

Why in News?

Recently, researchers from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bengaluru, have discovered 2 new species of rare solitary bees in the Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- **Species identified –**
  - ***Elaphropoda triangulata* –** Named after *triangular markings on its abdomen.*
  - ***Habropoda adi* –** Named in honour of the *Adi indigenous community of Arunachal Pradesh*.

- **Specimen –** Both *the species* currently known from only male specimen, making the discovery significant.
- **Ecological role –** Solitary bees are vital pollinators, maintaining healthy

ecosystems and supporting agriculture.
- **Distinct trait –** Unlike honeybees, solitary bees do not live in colonies; they usually nest alone.

Strategic Significance

- **Biodiversity –** Highlights the rich and under-explored biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh's rainforests.
- **Conservation –** Discovery underscores the importance of protecting fragile ecosystems in the Northeast.
- **Agriculture –** Reinforces the role of pollinators in sustaining crop productivity and ecological balance.

Reference

The Print | Bees