

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in India

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

Why in News?

Recently, the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has surpassed Rs.200 crore in cumulative disbursements under India's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework.

Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) - This concept is grounded in the principle that when biological resources or associated traditional knowledge are accessed and utilized for commercial or research purposes, the resulting benefits must **be shared fairly and equitably** with relevant stakeholders.

Biopiracy - The unauthorized appropriation or commercial exploitation of biological resources or associated traditional knowledge, typically occurring without proper recognition or equitable benefit-sharing.

- The most recent Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) proceeds resulted from **research and commercial utilization of four specific crops**:
 - Bitter gourd,
 - Okra,
 - Chilli,
 - Onion.
- These proceeds were obtained from seed companies such as **Nunhems India, East-West Seeds India, and Bayer Science and Innovation**.

Major Beneficiaries

State-wise Approximate Allocation



	State	Approx. allocation
1	Madhya Pradesh	₹1.17 crore
2	Maharashtra	₹1.01 crore
3	Andhra Pradesh	₹75.55 lakh
4	Karnataka	₹65.23 lakh
5	Gujarat	₹64.06 lakh
6	Odisha	₹57.63 lakh
7	Bihar	₹47.63 lakh
8	Chhattisgarh	₹39.91 lakh
9	West Bengal	₹36.05 lakh
10	Uttar Pradesh	₹35.72 lakh



Targeted Support

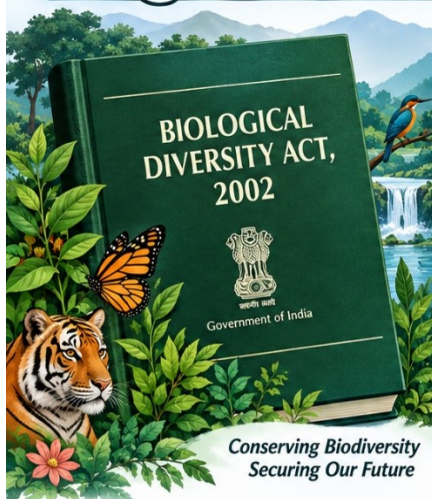


Inclusive Growth



Stronger India

Legal Framework in India



Biological Diversity Act, 2002

The ABS framework in India is primarily associated with the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.

Important institutions



National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)

Statutory body at the national level. Regulates access to biological resources and ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits.



State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)

Function at the state level. Facilitate implementation of biodiversity governance and ABS provisions in states.



Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

Function at the local body level (e.g., Panchayats, Municipalities). Document local biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge and help implement ABS provisions.



Conserve Biodiversity



Respect People



Ensure Fair Benefits



Sustainable Future

These institutions help implement India's biodiversity governance and ABS framework.

- **Allocation of Funds** - State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory (UT) Biodiversity Councils must allocate funds for activities specified under **Section 32(2) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, as outlined in the article.
- **Primary Areas of Fund Utilisation**
 - Development and maintenance of **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)**
 - **Conservation Initiatives** - It encompasses in-situ conservation efforts, as well as ex-situ conservation measures.
 - **Ecosystem Restoration** - This includes the restoration of degraded ecosystems.
 - **Biodiversity Heritage Sites** - It focuses on the strengthening and conservation of biodiversity heritage sites.
 - **Biodiversity Management Committees** - It includes capacity-building initiatives for committee members.
 - **Community Livelihoods** - Funds support the improvement of livelihood opportunities for local communities.

International Linkages of India's ABS Framework

India's Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) framework is aligned with three major international agreements:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** - It serves as a global framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- A core principle of the CBD is the **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** derived from the utilization of genetic resources.
- **Nagoya Protocol** - A supplementary agreement to the CBD.
- It specifically addresses **access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits** resulting from their utilization.
- **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** - It is a global biodiversity framework adopted under the CBD.
- **Target 13** of the GBF is particularly relevant to the **equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization** of genetic resources.

Reference

[DD India | ABS Funds](#)