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Daily PIB summary**Access and Benefit-Sharing Disbursement by National Biodiversity Authority**

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WHY IN NEWS

- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) disbursed Rs 5.68 crore under the Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) mechanism to State Biodiversity Boards and UT Biodiversity Councils.
- Funds were collected from seed and biotech companies accessing commercial varieties of Okra, Watermelon, and Cucumber.

WHAT IS THE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ACT, 2002?

- Enacted pursuant to India's commitments under the UN Convention on **Biological Diversity (CBD)** to conserve **biological resources** and traditional knowledge.
- **Establishes a three-tier statutory structure:** National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at the central level, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) at state level, and **Biodiversity Management Committees** (BMCs) at local body level.
- Regulates foreign and domestic access to biological resources and associated knowledge to ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing.

ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING (ABS) MECHANISM

- Requires commercial users of bio-resources to deposit a fee or percentage of revenue with the NBA for utilization of genetic materials.
- Where biological resources are procured from traders or open markets without traceable individual farmers, NBA distributes funds across States and UTs where the crop is cultivated.
- In this instance, Rs 3.51 crore collected for Okra access (139 varieties, 28 hybrids) was distributed to 32 SBBs and UT Councils for conservation activities.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Operationalizes the **Nagoya Protocol** on Access and Benefit-Sharing by monetizing commercial plant breeding and redistributing gains to local bio-resource custodians.
- Strengthens the financial autonomy of State Biodiversity Boards for biodiversity documentation, People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), and habitat restoration.

KEY TERMS

- **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS):** Mechanism ensuring that benefits arising from the commercial or research utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly with provider countries and local communities.
- **Nagoya Protocol:** A 2010 supplementary agreement to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity that provides a transparent legal framework for implementing ABS.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- National Biodiversity Authority is a statutory autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Foreign entities require NBA approval to **access Indian** bio-resources, while domestic users notify State Biodiversity Boards.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the **Access and Benefit-Sharing** framework in compensating traditional communities under the **Biological Diversity Act**.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** - Statutory basis for the National Biodiversity Authority and ABS implementation in India.
- **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu - Location of the National Biodiversity Authority headquarters established under **Section 8** of the Act.

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