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Daily PIB summary**UPSC daily PIB summary - 31 August 2026**

UPSC Civil Services · 31 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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The National Biodiversity Authority released Access and Benefit-Sharing funds under the Biological Diversity Act, while the Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 to mandate local time synchronization across digital and critical infrastructure.

COMBINED SUMMARY

- **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA):** Disbursed Rs 5.68 crore in Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) proceeds under the **Biological Diversity Act** to State Biodiversity Boards and UT Councils.
- **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Mechanism:** Enables equitable revenue sharing from commercial access to biological resources (Okra, Watermelon, Cucumber varieties) sourced via market traders where local farmer traceability is not feasible.
- **Biological Diversity Act, 2002:** Mandates three-tier governance (NBA, SBBs, **Biodiversity Management Committee(s)**) to regulate biological access, protect traditional knowledge, and enforce benefit-sharing.
- **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026:** Issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs to mandate Indian Standard Time (IST) as the sole legal and commercial time reference.
- **One Nation, One Time Initiative:** Mandates synchronization of critical networks (digital payments, telecom, power grids, railways) using indigenous timing infrastructure like NavIC and White Rabbit Technology.
- **Legal Metrology Act, 2009:** Standardizes weights, measures, and measurement units across commerce and industry to ensure trade accuracy and consumer protection.

1. ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING DISBURSEMENT BY NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY**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.

[Official source](#)

2. LEGAL METROLOGY INDIAN STANDARD TIME RULES 2026

WHY IN NEWS

- Department of Consumer Affairs notified the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2026 under the **Legal Metrology Act, 2009**.
- Rules mandate Indian Standard Time (IST) as the uniform legal, commercial, and administrative time reference, enforcing compliance after a 180-day transition window.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL METROLOGY ACT, 2009?

- Central law enforcing standards of weights, measures, and numerical quantities in commercial transactions and industrial production.
- Administered by the Department of Consumer Affairs to ensure accuracy in trade measurements and protect consumer rights.

KEY PROVISIONS OF THE 2026 RULES

- **Before:** Digital networks, financial institutions, telecom operators, and power grids utilized disparate foreign satellite-based timing signals (such as GPS).
- **After:** All digital, commercial, telecom, power, and government networks must synchronize accurate system timestamps using approved **Indian Standard Time** sources.
- Integrates indigenous timing infrastructure, including NavIC (Navigation with **Indian Constellation**) satellite signals and White Rabbit Technology networks, for precise time dissemination.

WHY IT MATTERS

- Enhances cybersecurity and forensic verification for digital banking, high-frequency stock trading, and critical national infrastructure by eliminating time drift.
- Reduces strategic dependence on foreign atomic clocks and foreign-controlled satellite positioning systems.

KEY TERMS

- **Indian Standard Time (IST):** The standard time observed throughout India, calculated on the basis of 82.5 degrees East longitude passing through Mirzapur, UP.
- **NavIC:** Independent regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO providing accurate positioning and timing service over India and surrounding regions.

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PRELIMS FACTS

- CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) maintains India's Primary Time Standard through atomic clocks.
- **Legal Metrology Act** falls under the Department of Consumer Affairs within the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Discuss the strategic and cyber-security imperative of establishing indigenous time synchronization infrastructure under the 'One Nation, One Time' vision.

KEY DATA

- **Parent Act:** **Legal Metrology Act, 2009** - Statutory foundation empowering the Central Government to frame legal measurement and timing standards.
- **Standard Meridian:** 82°30' E Longitude - Official longitude reference defining Indian Standard Time (UTC+05:30).

[Official source](#)

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