



Proceedings
74th AUTHORITY MEETING
10th -11th June, 2025

Venue
Basmati Hall, NASC Complex, ICAR
New Delhi

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
Chennai

Proceedings of the 74th Authority Meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority held on 10-11 June 2025 at Basmati Hall, NASC Complex, ICAR, New Delhi

The 74th Authority of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was held on 10-11 June 2025 at Basmati Hall, NASC Complex, ICAR, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.) Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority. The list of participants is given in the **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, Dr. B. Balaji, Member Secretary, NBA welcomed the Chairman, the Members of the authority who joined in person and online.

3. The Chairman, in his remarks, mentioned that he would be demitting the office on 1st July 2025 and this would be the last Authority meeting as the Chairman, NBA. In this regard, he thanked all members for their cooperation in all matters during his tenure. Thereafter, the members of the Authority, felicitated Chairman, NBA with a bouquet, shawl and a potted plant as a mark of recognition of his services rendered to the Authority.

4. The Member Secretary made a detailed presentation on the agenda items, which are as follows:

74.01: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 73rd Authority meeting
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The Member Secretary informed the members that the draft Proceedings of the 73rd meeting of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), held on 21-22 March 2025 at Basmati Hall, NASC Complex, ICAR, New Delhi, were circulated via email on 30 April 2025 to seek their comments. The comments were received from *ex officio* member Shri Rajesh S, IFS, IGF, MoEFCC, Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali, Advisor, MoEFCC and Dr. Gouri Joshi, non-official member. Based on the comments received, it is felt that consensus has not been reached on the agenda item 73.18 and hence it has been placed again as an agenda (Agenda 74.08) item in this meeting. The proceedings on other agenda items has been approved by the Chairperson, NBA. The members confirmed the Proceedings of the 73rd Authority meeting except item No. 73.18.

Decision: The Proceedings of the 73rd Authority Meetings were confirmed except Agenda item No. 73.18 which will be discussed again in this meeting.

74.02: Action Taken Report of the 73rd Authority Meeting
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The Member Secretary explained the actions taken based on the decisions of the 73rd Authority Meeting. The members deliberated on Agenda item no. 73.07, wherein an Authority member representing MoEFCC informed that in the environment-related cases the Hon'ble Supreme court has made certain observations which has relevance in the

biodiversity-related cases also. Hence, he is of the opinion that the contravention cases can be kept in abeyance without submitting to the Adjudicating Officer till clarity is obtained for the environment related cases that has relevance to biodiversity. However, the new contravention cases after 1st April 2024 when the amended Biological Diversity Act 2023 came into force may be submitted to the Adjudicating officer for initiating adjudication procedure.

Further, while discussing the agenda item no 73.51, Dr. Hanchinal R Ramappa, non- official member appreciated the efforts taken by the legal team in bringing the facts of the applications to the member for discussion with the applicants/ companies. In this regard, he suggested that the NBA should deal with the other applications of section 3(2) entities in a similar manner, and hence the NBA may modify the Terms of Reference of the Committee appropriately.

Decision: The actions taken by the NBA on decisions taken in the 73rd Authority meeting were noted by the members

74.03: To consider the decision on ABS applications dealt by the Secretariat and CoR issued to the applicants so far by NBA as per the provisions under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024.

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the recommendations made by the Expert Committee (**EC**) constituted by the NBA to streamline the approval process, as per its 54th and 55th meeting, vide agenda no. 54.20.03 considered and endorsed the recommendations of the EC that NBA Secretariat may deal the applications based on the set precedence. Accordingly, NBA vide O/o dated 19th March 2020 issued an order for processing ABS application in NBA without referring to Expert Committee on ABS. However, in case of any contravention/ complexity such cases alone to be placed in the EC on ABS for examination.

2. Accordingly, the NBA secretariat has cleared 12 applications, agreements signed for 81 applications and closed 14 applications in Form-I, Form-II, Form III, Form 8 and Form-IV between January 2025 and May 2025. Since the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, came into force on 1st April 2024, NBA has issued 134 Certificates of Registration (CoR) to applicants for Form III applications.

Decision: The applications processed, agreements executed and the CoR issued by the NBA Secretariat were ratified by the Authority.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

74.04: To consider the issue of export of Bulk Biological Resources by Section 7 persons

The Member Secretary, NBA apprised that an application from M/s Bhowmik Enterprises, Nagaon, Assam, for the export of 62,936 Agarwood seedlings was received via the Export Cell, DGFT, New Delhi, through an email dated 07.01.2025. It was further informed that the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), through its Order No. F. No. 5-19/2024-SU dated 06.12.2024 and F. No. WL-3/32/2024-WL dated 13.08.2024, issued by the Survey and Utilization and Wild Life Divisions respectively, has granted a 'No Objection' for the proposed export.

2. In this connection, the Member Secretary, NBA also highlighted the complexities and sensitivities involved in the export of bulk biological resources such as Agarwood, Red Sanders, seeds for propagation etc. Recognizing the importance of a holistic review, the matter was placed before three Expert Committees for detailed examination. An interim communication was sent to DGFT, informing that the matter was under active consideration of the Authority and that a response would be furnished in due course.

3. The Member Secretary further informed that DGFT convenes monthly Exim Facilitation Committee (EFC) meetings, often seeking NBA's input. A review of recent EFC agenda revealed that several Indian entities are exporting bulk biological resources and seed material for propagation purposes. However, ambiguity persists under Section 7 regarding the permissibility of such exports [Non-NTAC items] by Indian entities. In this context, DGFT informed that they would wait for NBA's formal response on the application from M/s Bhowmik Enterprises.

4. During the deliberations, it was informed that two out of the three Expert Committees have supported the possibility of allowing export of bulk biological resources by Indian exporters. One EC (Red Sanders) recommended to permit export subject to the amendment in the BD Act (amended in 2023), BD Rules, 2024 and BD(ABS) Regulation 2025, if required. The EC also added the condition that the foreign importer to submit an affidavit declaring that the biological material will not be used for obtaining IPR for commercial purposes. Members raised a query as to whether the Act allows Indians to export the biological resources outside India? In response, it was informed that the Act is silent on this matter. Further members suggested that this issue requires detailed deliberation. Chairperson, NBA explained that as this case has been kept pending with NBA, since long, Authority may allow the Indians to export the bulk biological resources subject to submission of an affidavit by the Importer stating that the importer would comply with the Biological Diversity Act 2002 especially in case an IPR is obtained for commercialization. It was also discussed that for allowing such export by Indians, who has to give approval, whether NBA or SBBs / UTBCs? This needs to be deliberated in the next meeting.

5. Keeping all this in view, the Authority allowed only in the instant case referred by the DGFT, for the export of bulk biological resources by entities falling under section 7. The matter will be further discussed in the next meeting. To facilitate the above exercise, the Authority directed the NBA secretariat to develop an appropriate application form, fee structure, benefit sharing component (equal to that of Sec 3(2) entity), and procedure for disposing of such cases in light of the provisions of the BD Act and Rules and Regulations. This may further be included appropriately in sector specific guidelines to be brought out by NBA.

Decision:

- (a) The Authority members permitted the NBA Secretariat to dispose of the instant case referred to by the DGFT till date only, by permitting the Indian entities (section 7 entity) to export bulk biological resources under section 7 of the Act, subject to payment of same benefit sharing that would have been paid by the Section 3(2) importer and also subject to submission of an affidavit by the importer [Section 3(2) entity] stating that they will comply with the provisions of the BD Act if they conduct research and go for obtaining a patent for commercialization.
- (b) NBA Secretariat needs to develop an application form, fee, benefit sharing amount and procedure for disposing of such cases under section 7 of the Act. These details will be submitted in the next Authority meeting.
- (c) This matter needs further examination and discussion in respect of similar such cases to develop standard operating procedures in the next meeting.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.05: To consider the modalities for sharing the benefit sharing amount to the benefit claimers as per Rule 21(4) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and BD (ABS) Regulations, 2025

The Member Secretary, NBA informed that NBA receives the benefit-sharing amount from the applicant upon grant of approval. The accrued benefit sharing amounts to be shared with the benefit claimers after deducting five (5%) percentage of the amount by the NBA towards administrative charges, and half of the 5% of the amount retained by the NBA may be shared with the SBB as per Rule 20(9) of the BD Rules, 2004.

2. The Member Secretary informed that the BD(Amendment) Act, 2023, Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025 were notified and also came into force. These amendments made changes to the

modalities for sharing the benefit-sharing amount with the benefit claimants. As per the provisions of the BD Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025, 10% to 15% of the accrued benefits from the use of biological resources shall be retained by the NBA, with half of that amount may be shared with the concerned Board or Council. The remaining benefit-sharing amount (90% or 85%) are distributed among benefit claimers, such as individuals, groups, or organisations, based on the source of the biological resource or associated knowledge. If the source is unknown, the entire benefit sharing may be retained by the Authority and may be utilised by the Authority in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 27 of the Act.

3. Considering the recent amendments, the issue of the percentage of charges to be retained by the NBA with respect to Red Sanders application was discussed in the 4th meeting of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders held on 14 & 15th March 2025 and *EC recommended for retaining 12% of the ABS amount, of which NBA will share 6% with the concerned SBB to meet the administrative expenses. Similarly, the SBB should also share 6% of the 12% collected ABS with the concerned BMCs to meet their administrative expenses.*

4. The Member Secretary, NBA stated that the NBA receives a benefit-sharing amount from the applicants who have obtained approval from the NBA for access to biological resources. As per Rule 21(4), the percentage of the amount to be retained by the NBA in Red Sanders has been recommended by EC on Red Sanders, whereas for other biological resources, the amount to be retained by the NBA, in different scenario are furnished below for deliberation:

S. No.	Scenario	Benefit sharing component to be shared	Charges to be retained by the NBA (preferably 12%) as per Rule 21(4) of the BD Rules, 2024	
			SBB/UTBC	NBA
1	Source of biological resource & associated knowledge thereto is known	88% (to be shared with benefit claimer)	6%	6%
2	Biological resource & associated knowledge thereto accessed from Trader/supplier	88% (to be shared with SBB)	-	12%
3	Source of the Biological resource & associated knowledge is unknown	88% (to be retained by NBA and used as per Section 27)	-	12%

5. The Authority approved NBA secretariat proposal of the 1st scenario i.e., Source of biological resource & associated knowledge thereto is known as given above. Further

the Authority deferred the discussion on 2nd and 3rd scenario to the next Authority meeting. This needs further examination as 2 & 3 can be merged as there will be implementation problems if classified separately.

6. NBA Secretariat proposal to share the benefits accrued before the amendment to the Act / Rules / Regulations to the beneficiaries as per amended Act / Rules / Regulations was discussed at length. As the BD Rules 2024 supersedes the BD Rules 2004, it was decided that the NBA Secretariat may distribute the ABS component as per the amended Rules 2024.

Decision:

- (a) The Authority approved the NBA to retain 12% of the ABS amount, in the event of source of biological resource & associated knowledge thereto is known. Out of which 88% to be shared with the beneficiary. Remaining 12%, may be shared between NBA (6%) and SBBs (6%).
- (b) The Authority deferred the discussion to the next meeting on the two scenarios i.e., the biological resource & associated knowledge thereto accessed from Trader/supplier or source is unknown.
- (c) The Authority approved sharing of the benefits with the beneficiaries for the amount realized before the amendment of the Act / Rules / Regulations, as per the amended Act / Rules / Regulations.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.06: To consider progress made by the Expert Committee on Red Sanders
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The Member Secretary, NBA informed that the Expert Committee on Red Sanders held its fourth meeting on 14th - 15th March, 2025 at Tirupati. During the meeting, the EC considered the issues of checklist for applicants and procedures for granting approval for Red Sander from seized/confiscated and cultivated sources; percentage of Access and Benefit Sharing amount to be retained by NBA, SBB from amongst 10–15% as per Rule 21(4) of the BD Rules, 2024; Request made by two Red sanders applicants for closure and refunding the ABS amount paid; Concept Note Prepared by the Sub-committee for the International Conference on Red Sanders & Biodiversity of Eastern Ghats, Tirupati and Progress by Forest Departments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana,

Karnataka on preparation of Census Data on Live RS trees, uniform Certificate of Origin Issuance to Cultivated RS and modalities adopted for preparation of volume table.

2. The Member Secretary also informed that the decisions emerged in the meeting which has also been captured in the Minutes of the meeting. The Chairperson, NBA, apprised the members of the Authority that based on the recommendation of the 4th meeting of the EC, the drafting committee was formed to prepare the comprehensive report of the EC on Red Sanders. The meeting of the drafting committee was held on 8th and 9th May 2025 at NBA, Chennai. The draft report was prepared by drafting committee, which is in the advanced stage of finalisation. Once the subcommittee completes the task, the main Expert Committee on Red Sanders will consider the draft report at its next meeting and adopt the same after making changes wherever required.

Decision:

- (a) The Authority members considered and ratified the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Expert Committee on Red Sanders held on 14th - 15th March, 2025.
- (b) Authority approved the checklist and procedure for access to cultivated red sanders and seized / confiscated / auctioned Red sanders.
- (c) Authority approved the recommendation of the EC i.e., M/s. Putian City and M/s. Shanghai Shenda Import and Export cases where the applicant's request for a refund was not acceded to. A clause to this effect may be incorporated in the agreement for future cases.
- (d) The above-mentioned two cases shall be closed and intimated to the applicant.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.07: To consider the Final Report of the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs
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The Member Secretary apprised the members that the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs constituted “to study the existing administrative structure of the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) and Union Territory Biodiversity Council (UTBC) and suggest reforms to execute various functions mandated under the Biological Diversity Act” have submitted the final report.

2. He further mentioned that the following were the recommendations of the committee:

a. The EC recommends that there should be a full-time Chairman and Member Secretary as envisaged in the rules therein. Every board must have proper office space and logistical support depending upon their specific and local requirements. The EC strongly

recommends deployment of specialized manpower with special reference to legal areas, financial management, scientific knowledge, statistics, GIS and IT, communication and those with administrative experience. Every office must have a full-fledged computer division; it must have a library, and it must have lab facilities wherever required for testing, and they need to be provided with timely provision of funds to avoid any operational issues

b. SBBs/UTBCs to involve NGOs and civil society organizations in line with the provisions of the Amended Biological Diversity Act 2023.

c. Establishing a unified digital communication system for the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), through the NIC (National Informatics Centre), to facilitate efficient internal communication suited to current needs. Strengthening digital infrastructure is essential to effectively address biodiversity challenges in the 21st century. The NBA should develop a dedicated digital portal for processing applications and forms, similar to the Parivesh portal used for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).

d. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) establish a robust and effective Monitoring and Effective Evaluation (MEE) Framework to assess the performance of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs), in accordance with the mandates of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules. This framework should be implemented to conduct evaluations at least once every four years. It is further recommended that the framework be finalized within a period of three years.

e. All SBBs/UTBCs to revise their State/UTBC Rules in line with the recently amended Act and Rules at the earliest to enable effective implementation.

f. All State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) establish dedicated legal cells at their respective levels. A key responsibility of these legal cells will be to coordinate litigation efforts across departments, authorities, and concerned officials, following the model adopted by State Forest Departments.

g. All SBBs/UTBCs populate the relevant, publicly accessible information from PBRs (People's Biodiversity Registers) into e-PBRs, while ensuring that sensitive and confidential Traditional Knowledge (TK) remains protected. The Tree Census format should be incorporated into the e-PBR, with an additional requirement to include Biodiversity Hotspots within the respective states.

h. SBBs and UTBCs to make use of the Section 13(2) r/w Section 25 to constitute expert committees to deal with important and emerging biodiversity issues at the state and UT levels.

i. All SBBs and UTBCs to develop procedures for processing of ABS Applications in line with the latest regulations of the Government of India.

j. All SBBs / UTBCs develop Digital Databases on Medicinal Plants (cultivated and wild) and other Tradable Bioresources at state and UT levels for the purpose of facilitation of the ABS Mechanism.

k. All SBBs / UTBCs develop a Database of Traders and Manufacturers handling biodiversity resources at state level and UT levels for the purpose of facilitation of ABS Mechanism.

l. States and Union Territories to develop their State Level Guidelines for the declaration and management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) including Sacred Groves and Other Effective-area based Conservation Measures (OECM) suited to local conditions, in alignment to the amended Acts and Rules. Options need to be explored whereby BHS should be suitably funded by the Central Government. The EC recommends the geo-tagging of Heritage Trees by the SBBS/UTBCs in their respective States.

m. States and Union Territories to review and submit their respective State List of Normally Traded Commodities (NTC) in accordance with the amended Act and Rules, the most recent Notification on NTC and its amendments to the NBA, for appropriate action.

n. All SBBs/UTBCs to revise or update or prepare the SBSAPs in alignment with the latest NBSAP that uses the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) to move forward in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, using the 'whole of government' and 'whole of society' approach.

In this regard, the members appreciated the efforts taken by the Expert Committee and advised to circulate to SBBs/UtBCs to give their views if any within 15 days.

Decision: The members approved the report in principle submitted by the Expert Committee on SBBs/UTBCs

Action: Member Secretary

74.08: To consider the Eligibility and Entitlement of Travelling Expenditure for the Non-Regular Personnel for Official Tours
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The members of the Authority were informed that this particular Agenda was placed successively for the last two Authority Meetings (72.03 in 72nd & 73.18 in 73rd), wherein consensus could not be achieved. This Agenda was once again placed for its disposal in this 74th Authority Meeting (74.08).

2. In the earlier occasions, some of the members had raised few clarifications/ expressed their concerns/ submitted few suggestions. The Member Secretary has

explained that they were taken into consideration and this new proposal was being submitted for the approval of the Authority.

3. Then, the Accounts Officer (AO) had submitted the new revised proposal in the Authority and explained the modality of how it was arrived. Since three of the members of the Authority had once again submitted their note for clarifications, the Member Secretary has explained the Authority how these clarifications/ changes/ suggestions were taken into consideration, while arriving this revised proposal.

4. The Chairperson, NBA then elaborately explained the members, how difficult for NBA to manage with the skeletal strength of regular staff to cover all the meetings, conferences, etc., He also pointed out that, the CBD Cell was formed with the instructions of the MoEFCC to facilitate the NBA as an effective performance body in the existing scenario. Hence, it becomes very essential to send these Scientific Consultants to represent NBA's Scientific/ Technical field in National Level meetings. He also said that NBA has its top most Scientific functionary only in the Level of 8 as per 7th CPC, (which is equaling only to Scientist "B" in the Ministry) and hence attending at this level in the meetings convened by the Hon'ble Ministers, Secretary to Gol, Additional Secretary level may not be acceptable. Therefore, when we depute these non-permanent Scientific Consultants to represent NBA in such meetings, their entitlement for stay and travel by Air should be appropriately fixed. The nature of work done by the consultants in Ministry and NBA differ substantially and Consultants and Young Professionals need to undertake lot of field visits to various parts of the country for organizing national/ regional workshops, for collecting and collating information and also for monitoring purposes on behalf of NBA. Therefore, Chairman, NBA requested members to see the nature of work in NBA and agree to the proposal placed in this meeting by NBA Secretariat.

5. The discussion and deliberation continued with a couple of the member's insistence that NBA, being a body drawing grants from the MoEFCC, should declare any new decisions with regard to fixing of entitlements for non-permanent staff after getting concurrence from the IFD and hence this proposal should be sent to the Ministry /IFD by the NBA.

6. On the above issue, the Chairman referring to all the relevant Sections in the BD Act, Rules and Regulations clearly said that NBA is an autonomous and Statutory Organisation established under the Act of Parliament, and the Decisions are to be taken by the approval of the Authority, after which MoEFCC can give directions if required to suitably amend the entitlements approved by the Authority. Then the AO explained the provisions of TA/DA adopted in other various departments and government organizations and submitted that all concerns of the members of the Authority had been taken into

consideration and the revised proposal is now submitted. He also explained that the revised proposal is now broadly divided into four categories as follows:

- (a) Air entitlement with Rs.3000/- for Accommodation and Rs.800/- for food.
- (b) Train journey upto 8 hours of travel and Air entitlement with the approval of the Chairman with Rs.2000/- for accommodation and Rs.800/- for food
- (c) Train journey upto 8 hours of travel and Air entitlement with the approval of the Chairman with Rs.2000/- for accommodation and Rs.800/- for food
- d) Only Train journey with Rs.1000/- for accommodation and Rs.625/- for food (the lowest entitlement as per 7 CPC)

7. In this connection, the Member Secretary has explained that the O.M., issued in 2025 (which superseded all earlier O.Ms on the subject) was considered as per the e-mails sent by three Members, but the exact matching couldn't be done due to difference in the nomenclature of the posts. Hence, the remunerations were taken into consideration, while trying to match the entitlements and eligibility.

8. The proposal submitted by the NBA was finally approved by the Authority with some modifications, as mentioned hereunder with a direction to mention that "the decision of the Authority will be informed to the MoEFCC, for necessary action if required.

9. During the authority meeting, at the end of the discussion, most of the members agreed to the proposal and asked the secretariat to send it to MoEFCC for information with minor modifications, which is reflected in the proceedings.

Decision: a. The Authority members approved the proposal submitted by the NBA with slight modifications.

b. The decision to implement the revised proposal was upheld by the Authority.

c. The members decided that this decision shall be informed to the MoEFCC.

d. The approved revised proposal is placed as hereunder.

PROPOSED TA/DA ENTITLEMENTS FOR NON-REGULAR STAFF IN NBA

S.No	CATEGORY	REMUNERATION	ACCO	FOOD	TRAVEL	REMARKS
I						For Categories above Rs.90,000/=, the accommodation and food are same
01	SC -IV	₹ 1,75,000	₹ 3000	₹ 800	TRAIN AC-II/AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
02	SC-III	₹.1,45,000	₹ 3000	₹ 800	TRAIN AC ii/ AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
03	SC-II	₹.1,20,000	₹ 3000	₹ 800	TRAIN AC ii/ AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
04	SC-I	₹ 90,000	₹ 3000	₹ 800	TRAIN AC ii/ AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
05	CONSULTANT - C	₹ 1,00,000	₹ 3000	₹ 800	TRAIN AC ii/ AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
II						
06	CONSULTANT-B	₹ 80,000	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	For Categories between Rs.40,000/= and Rs.80,000/=, the accommodation is Rs.2,000/= and food is Rs.500/= as per MoEFCC, where as it is proposed for Rs.700/- for food.
07	CONSULTANT-A	₹ 60,000	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
III						
08	SR. YP	₹ 70,000	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
09	YP-III	₹55,000 -61,862	₹ 2000	₹.700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
10	YP-II	₹ 45,000 - ₹ 50,615	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	

11	YP-I	₹ 40,000 - ₹ 44,990	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
12	Li. Exe	₹ 41,000	₹ 2000	₹700	UPTO 8 HRS TRAIN AC-II/ BEYOND AIR ECONOMY with the approval of Chairperson on case to case basis	
	IV					
13	Exe. Asst - IV	₹ 39,000	₹ 1000	₹ 625	TRAIN I/AC-III/CC-AC	As there is no reference available, the lowest entitlements are proposed
14	Exe.Asst-III	₹ 37,000	₹ 1000	₹ 625	TRAIN I/AC-III/CC-AC	
15	Exe. Asst -II	₹ 31,400	₹ 1000	₹ 625	TRAIN I/AC-III/CC-AC	
16	Exe.Asst -I	₹ 26,000	₹ 1000	₹ 625	TRAIN I/AC-III/CC-AC	

Action- Member Secretary

74.09: Seeking guidance to deal with Affidavit cum undertaking submitted by Person covered under Section 3(2) of The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023.

The Member Secretary, NBA apprised the authority members that the foreign applicants are currently facing significant practical challenges in executing the affidavit cum undertaking required under Section 3(2) of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 (Form – 7). He mentioned that the foreign applicants are unable to execute the affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper as per the mandate of Form-7. He informed that the foreign jurisdictions do not recognize or provide Indian non-judicial stamp paper making it practically impossible for a foreign national residing abroad to comply with this requirement.

2. Secondly, Member Secretary. NBA mentioned that the foreign applicants are unable to access Indian notarial services abroad. As such, the requirement to notarize documents in India is not feasible for those residing outside the country.

3. In this regard, he quoted the relevant provisions under the Patent Rules to propose a solution to the issues faced by the foreign applicants. Further, he also quoted that India is a signatory to The Hague Apostille Convention (1961), which allows public documents, including affidavits, to be authenticated via an apostille by the competent authority in the country of origin.

4. Additionally, he mentioned that given the global legal framework and procedural compatibility under Rule 126 of the Indian Patent Rules and the Apostille Convention, it is both reasonable and legally valid for foreign applicants to:

- Swear affidavits before recognized foreign notaries or competent authorities, and
- Submit such documents as are apostilled in accordance with international standards, in lieu of execution on Indian stamp paper.

5. The Member Secretary apprised the members that a format for the Affidavit for the different status of the entity (Section 3(2) and Section 7) has been proposed. In this regard the members agreed to proposed format for the Affidavits.

Decision: The Authority members approved the format for the Affidavits for the different status of the entity, both Section 3(2) and Section 7.

Action: Member Secretary

74.10: To consider the proposal on DST - SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) Scheme

The Member Secretary, NBA explained to the members about the proposal of the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) to seek financial support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under its innovative SHRI (Science and Heritage Research Initiative) scheme.

2. The members deliberated on the role of each institution, including CSIR-TKDL, NBA and TDU, in this instant proposal. The member from the CSIR-TKDL informed that the proposal has just been submitted and also mentioned that the CSIR-TKDL will work together with TDU as long as they are on agreeable terms. She further mentioned that similarly, the NBA will have to define the terms and conditions under which their partnership will be in the project.

2. The members deliberated on the role of each institution, including CSIR-TKDL, NBA and TDU, in this instant proposal. The member from the CSIR-TKDL informed that the proposal has just been submitted and also mentioned that the CSIR-TKDL will work together with TDU on agreeable terms, especially in due consideration of the conditions and GoI approvals thereof on the TKDL access. She further mentioned that the CSIR-TKDL has agreed to work with TDU only in reference to secondary publicly available information. She inquired on the NBA's terms and conditions under which their partnership will be in the project, especially considering the People's Biodiversity Register.

3. In this regard, Chairman, NBA explained to the members that the traditional knowledge and bioresources form the core work of the NBA as per the provisions of the Act. He opined that, as the number of personnel in NBA is too few, the NBA has not been able to work on it to the extent required in a fast-changing scenario. This project proposal is on the operationalisation of work on TKDL, and hence NBA is of the opinion that providing in principle approval by the Authority to participate in this project, would help in moving further. Chairman, NBA informed that Dr. Darshan Shankar, Vice Chancellor of the TDU, had served as a non-official member at NBA in the past and has good knowledge on both medicinal plants and the BD Act.

4. Chairman NBA also mentioned that NBA has already conveyed its in-principle consent to participate in the design and development of the proposal, subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions that will be determined by the Authority in due course.

5. The members opined that the project proposal has just been submitted to DST and there is a need for further deliberations on the roles of NBA and TDU, feasibility and modalities of the implementation of the project. The members hence mentioned that this proposal may be taken up for discussion in the next Authority meeting with the required details.

6. Further, the members, except the member from the CSIR-TKDL, ratified the “in principle” approval given by the NBA. The member from CSIR- TKDL suggested that this in principle approval may be considered as only “noted” by the members as the proposal needs more deliberation and clarity on each of the Party’s role and responsibilities.

Decision: a. The members ratified the “in principle” approval given by the NBA to participate in the design and development of the proposal of the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, subject to mutually agreeable terms and conditions that will be determined by the Authority in due course.

b. The members deferred the proposal for the next Authority meeting as there is a need for further deliberations and clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each of the Partners in the project.

Action: Member Secretary

74.11: Reconsideration of Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) in light of the DSI-SHRI Proposal

The Member Secretary informed the members that the NBA had earlier signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) agreement with the CSIR-TKDL in 2019 that has expired on 16.09.2024. To this, Chairman, NBA opined that the NBA has been established as an autonomous statutory body to implement the Biological Diversity Act enacted by the Parliament on issues related to Conservation, sustainable use of biological resources including traditional knowledge associated therewith and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of its use. In this regard, he explained that the NBA, as an autonomous and statutory body, should not have entered into such an agreement with CSIR-TKDL. He further highlighted that no government organization, private agency, public sector company or any autonomous body can withhold any information pertaining to bioresources, traditional knowledge and related matters when requisitioned by NBA. Keeping in view its legal stature, the members deliberated in detail about the legal aspects of the TKDL database and the conditions under which TKDL information is shared and also with respect to the legal mandates of the Biological Diversity Act implemented by the NBA.

Member from CSIR-TKDL Unit clarified that NDAs are general instruments that are signed by two Parties to arrive at a consensus on a subject matter of interest, with specific focus to maintain confidentiality of matters of both Parties while exploring means of cooperation on common interests. The Parties, both NBA and CSIR-TKDL, understand the complexities involved in the works being carried out by each of them, and the effort proposed in the NDA therein was exploratory in nature. Citing the in-principle approval given by the NBA to TDU, the member stated that the effort between the CSIR-TKDL Unit

and the NBA was also along similar lines to understand how the Parties, both under the Gol, can work together. She stated that the MoU was previously placed in their Authority meeting, and the recommendations made thereof by the member of NBA was addressed, and the MoU was shared thereafter with the NBA. She requested that the matter be examined by its merit, and not in any other context.

2. There were different views among the members, and a consensus was not reached. In this regard, the members opined that there is a need for further deliberations on the pros and cons of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CSIR-TKDL.

Decision: The members deferred the Agenda to the next Authority meeting as there is a need for further deliberations with respect to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the CSIR-TKDL. It is felt that the quasi-judicial nature & functioning of NBA cannot be compromised under any circumstances

Action: Member Secretary

74.12: Expert Committee on Materials

The Member Secretary apprised the members that the Expert Committee on Materials have prepared the interim report and are in the process of finalising the final report of the committee. He also mentioned that the 4th meeting of the Expert committee was held on 01-04-2025, where the members carefully examined the seven IPR application in accordance with the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act 2023 and after detail discussion and deliberation, the EC recommendations were recorded, the minutes and proceedings.

Decision: The Authority members approved the minutes and proceedings of the 4th meeting of the Expert Committee on Materials and also noted the interim report prepared by the committee.

Action: Member Secretary

74.13: To consider the proposal of the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, to designate their TDU herbarium as a repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023

The members of the Authority were informed by the Member Secretary, NBA that the MoEFCC in consultation with NBA has designated 18 National Institutions and other Organizations as repositories from time to time to keep safe custody of specimens of the biological resources accessed under the BD Act.

2. In this regard, the Member Secretary, NBA explained that a proposal has been received from the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, to

designate their TDU herbarium as a National repository under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023. As sought for, University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology have submitted the requisite information. In this connection, the Member Secretary, NBA opined that if designated, it will help in ensuring safe custody of “Medicinal Plants of India”, thereby supporting conservation efforts and safe keeping of Indian medicinal plants.

3. The members opined that a Committee headed by Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa, along with members Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Dr. Gouri Joshi and Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, IFGTB shall undertake a field visit to access the proposals in view of the criteria and guidelines issued by NBA (a) TDU herbarium at University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (b) Referral Center Bhavasagara’ at CMLRE, (c) MACS Collection of Microorganisms and National Fungal Culture Collection of India at Agharkar Research Institute, and submit report in the next meeting of the Authority.

Decision: The Authority decided that a Committee headed by Dr. Hanchinal R. Ramappa, along with members Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram, Dr. Gouri Joshi and Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta, IFGTB shall undertake a field visit to assess the proposals in view of the criteria and guidelines issued by NBA (a) TDU herbarium at University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (b) Referral Center Bhavasagara’ at CMLRE, (c) MACS Collection of Microorganisms and National Fungal Culture Collection of India at Agharkar Research Institute, and submit report in the next meeting of the Authority.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.14: To consider extension of deputation tenure of Dr.B.Balaji, Secretary, NBA by two years

The Members ratified the action taken by Chairman in sending the request made by Dr. B Balaji, IFS, Member Secretary, NBA, to MoEFCC for extending his tenure for a further period of two years.

Action: Secretariat, NBA

74.15: Revision of Recruitment Rules for National Biodiversity Authority

The Member Secretary made a presentation on the agenda items explaining the reason to amend and the changes proposed to be made in the RR.

2. During the meeting, one of the members suggested changing the designation of the Stenographer post and merging it with the LDC/UDC cadre for the purpose of creating better promotional prospects for them.

3. However, it was clarified to the members that the NBA has only solitary posts in all wings, except in the Steno Cadre. Therefore, retaining the Stenographers within their existing cadre would be more appropriate and beneficial for them, as it would provide promotion opportunities in accordance with the DoPT guidelines outlined in the year 2011. The members accepted and agreed with this explanation.
4. One of the members further stated that the Recruitment Rules (RR) be sent to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for approval. It was explained that since the NBA is an autonomous and statutory body, prior approval from DoPT is not required for amending or revising its Recruitment Rules as per the Ministry's letter dated 1st February 2005.
5. Finally, after the discussion, the members of the Authority considered and accepted the proposed amendments to the revised recruitment rules of NBA.

Decision: The members of the Authority approved the proposed amendments to the revised recruitment rules of NBA and advised the Secretariat to submit to the MoEFCC for further necessary action.

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

74.16: To Consider the Decision taken on Form-13 (formerly Form B) applications
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The members of the Authority were informed by the Member Secretary, NBA that according to Regulation 13(3) of the Guidelines on Access to Biological Resources and associated knowledge and benefits sharing Regulations, 2014, NBA has to accord approval within a period of 45 days for Form -B applications received from Indian researcher/ Government institution who intends to carry/ send the biological resources outside India to undertake basic research or carry out certain urgent studies to avert emergencies like epidemics etc.

2. The member secretary informed the members of Authority that under agenda item 32.06 of 32nd Authority meeting, it was decided as follows:

- a) *The Chairman, NBA is authorized to accord approval or otherwise for Form-B applications, without referring to the SBB and the EC on ABS.*
- b) *The approval or otherwise on the applications accorded shall be placed in the subsequent authority meetings for ratification.*

3. The Member Secretary also informed the members of Authority that the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 came into force from 21st December 2004. Rule 20 of the BD Rules, 2004 has introduced Form-13 which will replace Form B application. The Member Secretary informed that NBA has granted approval to seven applications and closed five applications of Form-13 (formerly Form B) applications during March 2025 to May 2025.

Decision: The Authority considered and ratified the decisions taken on the approval to seven applications and closed five applications of Form-13 (formerly Form B).

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

74.17: Details of Form-E (formerly Form C) applications received by the NBA

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the Authority that in its 37th meeting held in March 2016 under agenda item 37.14.02, the Authority decided that the Indian researchers / scientists should provide prior intimation to the NBA in the prescribed format viz., Form-C (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025) for deposition of microorganisms in other country's repository for claim of novel species for publication in journals. NBA has received 337 intimations since March 2016 – May 2025, and the same has been reported to the Authority from time to time. He informed that since March 2025, the Secretariat has received 4 Form-C (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025) applications during March 2025 to May 2025.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information on the 4 Form-C applications (Form-E in Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025).

Action: Member Secretary, NBA

74.18: To consider the decisions taken on the applications for access to Red Sanders

The members were informed that the applications seeking approval for accessing the Red Sanders wood were scrutinized as per the procedure approved by the Authority in its 32nd (32.07) & 35th (35.03 & 35.19.01) meetings. In the 32nd Authority meeting (32.07), the Authority authorised the Chairman, NBA, to accord approval to such applications without following the normal procedure and also directed the NBA Secretariat to place such approvals in the subsequent Authority meeting for ratification. Accordingly, the Chairperson, NBA approved 2 applications during March 2025 to May 2025, which are furnished below for ratification.

Sl. No.	Appl. No.	Name of the applicant	Quantity (in MTs)	Approval granted on	5% of BS received by NBA	
					in USD	in INR
1.	INBA1202 305104	M/s. Powergrip Resources Pte Limited	81.380	03-04-25	53,587.40	45,85,784.00
2.	INBA1202 506837	M/s. Baba Exim Limited	23.164	15-05-25	0.00	0.00*
Total			104.544		53,587.40	45,85,784.00

*Applicant has already paid the ABS amount under agreement dt. 05.02.2019 towards application no. #2488 dt. 31.01.2019.

Decision: The Authority ratified the approval granted to two Red Sanders applications by the NBA Secretariat.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.19: To consider the termination of agreements executed with applicants

The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members of the Authority that NBA provides approval for the activities envisaged in the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 in the form of agreement which is executed between the applicant and NBA on mutually agreed terms. In this regard, NBA had signed 920 agreements under Form-I, Form-II, Form-IV applications, till now.

2. He further explained that the agreements entered between the applicant and NBA include period of the agreement, duration of access, benefit sharing component, do's and don'ts. As a part of monitoring, it is found that 78 applicants have complied with the terms and conditions laid down in the agreement. Those 78 applications were closed by the NBA Secretariat since 2022, and during the period March, 2025 to May 2025, seven more applications were closed due to the following reasons:

- (i) completion of the period of the agreement, or
- (ii) upon request from the applicant for termination; or
- (iii) not undertaking the activity for which approval was granted,
- (iv) the activity mentioned in the agreement was completed.

Decision: The members noted and ratified the termination of the seven agreements by NBA.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.20: To consider the closure of Form 13 (formerly Form B) approvals by NBA

The Member Secretary, NBA informed that the NBA had granted approval to 216 applicants for sending/carrying the biological resources outside India for conducting

non-commercial research or research for emergency purpose outside India by Indian Researchers/Government Institutions, as per regulation 13 of ABS Guidelines, 2014.

2. He further explained that out of the above-mentioned approvals, NBA had closed 76 applications till November, 2024 after the applicant complied with all obligations on the approval granted/upon request of the applicant. He further stated that during the period March to May 2025, 28 more applications were closed as the applicant complied with all obligations on the approval granted/upon request of the applicant.

Decision: The members ratified the termination of the 28 Form 13 (formerly Form B) applications.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.21: To consider the constitution / extension of the Expert Committees

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the Expert Committees listed below that have been constituted or extended by the National Biodiversity Authority:

1. Expert Committee to examine the extant Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 and ABS Regulation, 2014 and to suggest required modifications thereof - Term Extended
2. Expert Committee on Red Sanders - Term Extended
3. Expert Committee on Red Sanders – Addition of a non-official member
4. A drafting committee under Expert Committee on Red Sanders- Newly Constituted

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.22: National Level Celebration – IDB 2025 at Udaipur
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The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members that the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board (RSBB) under the aegis of Ministry of Environment Forests, Climate Change celebrated the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2025 at Udaipur on 22nd May, 2025 on the theme “**Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development**,”. He further mentioned that the NBA, in collaboration with RSBB, organised an exhibition highlighting the efforts and initiatives aimed at biodiversity conservation. BMC members from various SBBs participated in the Exhibition.

Decision: The members noted the action taken in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.23: Notification of Biological Diversity (ABS) Regulations, 2025

The Member Secretary, informed the members of the Authority that NBA secretariat vide Gazette Notification No. 332 dated 30th April, 2025, has notified the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025. As per Regulation 1(2) of the said BD (ABS) Regulations, 2025, these regulations came into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Accordingly, the BD(ABS) Regulations, 2025 came into effect on 30th April, 2025. Based on the notification, the BD(ABS) Regulations, 2025, is followed for granting approvals by the NBA Secretariat from 30th April, 2025 onwards.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.24: Notification of amendments to the Rule 19 of the BD Rules 2024

The Member Secretary, informed the members of the Authority that based on the decision of the 72nd Authority agenda no. 72.01, NBA Secretariat forwarded the draft notification for amendments to Rule 19 to the MoEFCC for notification. Accordingly, MoEFCC vide Gazette Notification No. 295(E) dated 7th May, 2025, notified the said amendments. The said notification will come into force on 1st November 2025.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.25: Access and benefit sharing amount realized during March, 2025 to May 2025

The Member Secretary, informed the members that in accordance with Section 21 of the BD Act 2002, the NBA received a sum of INR 2,07,49,958/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Forty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Eight Only) as benefit-sharing component in the National Biodiversity Fund after execution of agreements in 26 applications.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.26: Generating Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCC) during March to May, 2025

The Member Secretary apprised the members of the Authority that under the Article 17 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, Parties are obligated to issue a permit or its equivalent at the time of access, serving as evidence that the access to genetic resources was based on prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms were established.

2. In this regard, he informed that since India is a party to the Nagoya Protocol, NBA has uploaded details of 3,555 approvals granted in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH) platform, generating Internationally Recognised Certificate of compliance since October 2014. So far, India has issued 3,555 IRCCs in the ABSCH portal. These IRCCs account for 62.48% of the total certificates published globally (i.e 5690 IRCCs issued worldwide). Since March 2025 to May 2025, India has published 19 IRCCs in the ABSCH platform.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.27: The activities undertaken by NBA for the promotion of “Mission LiFE - Lifestyle for Environment”
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The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members of the Authority that as per the OM of MoEFCC vide No. 8-6/2023-EE-LiFE dated 13th January, 2023, all Divisions of MoEFCC were requested to promote the theme of Mission LiFE through various citizen centric functions and activities to ensure maximum public outreach.

2. Accordingly, the NBA actively highlighted the Mission LiFE themes, especially Action Point 65: Start Biodiversity Conservation at Community Level, which has direct relevance to the core mandates of the NBA, among the different stakeholders. Since January 2025 to May 2025, NBA conducted 04 (four) such activities to promote ‘Mission LiFE’ themes.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.28: National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt, and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR)

The Member Secretary mentioned that The National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (NIRANTAR) was constituted vide Order dated 22nd November 2022 by Ministry of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Govt. of India to undertake to enhance cooperation and collaboration among various institutes of the Ministry. The NIRANTAR platform is being headed by a High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, MoEFCC. Four thematic verticals were established within the NIRANTAR platform. In that the National Biodiversity Authority falls under the "Ecosystem Survey and Analysis" vertical.

2. He further informed that so far, under NIRANTAR, 15 meetings were conducted by the Ministry and was attended by Dr. B. Balaji, Member Secretary, NBA. Out of which a review meeting was conducted on 30th April, 2025 under the chairmanship of Addl. DGF (FC/WL), MoEFCC. During the meeting, discussions were held on the preparation of Vision plan @ 2047, focusing on sustainability and innovation strategies, Key performance indicators of all the institutes under NIRANTAR, onboarding of all staff in the institutes onto the iGOT platform and development of domain-specific courses under Mission Karmayogi. Further, NBA has prepared Vision plan @ 2047 and are in the process of onboarding staffs onto the iGOT platform.

3. In this regard, it was also stated that, MoEFCC vide OM dt. F. No. 17-18/2022-RT dt. 21.02.2025, sought nominations for the High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) of NIRANTAR from all the institutes under NIRANTAR. In this regard, NBA nominated Shri A. K. Goyal, IFS (Retd.) & Shri Surendra Kumar IFS (Retd.) as the members of High Powered Steering Committee.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.29: To consider the development of ABS end-to-end portal by UNDP in association with NBA
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The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members that Pursuant to the discussion held with the MoEFCC officials from time to time, it was decided to develop ABS end to end portal so as to have transparency in process and reduce the timelines for undertaking various activities. Further, Rule 11(y) of the BD Rules, 2024 provides that Authority may develop an online Information Technology portal for the discharge of its various functions under the Act in a transparent and accountable manner.

2. In this regard, the Member Secretary, NBA mentioned that Consequently, NBA has joined hands with UNDP for developing an ABS end-to-end portal connecting NBA-SBB-BMC and other stakeholders for receiving and processing of ABS application, distribution of benefits to the beneficiaries / BMCs, monitoring the utilisation of funds at

the level of BMCs. The NBA is in discussions with the officials of UNDP and the content developer regarding the development of the software within a period of at least 8 months. So far, the NBA has approved the Software Requirements Specification (SRS) document (approximately 300 pages) prepared by UNDP, and the engagement of a software agency is in process.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.30: Participation of NBA officers in the Conferences / Meetings / Capacity Building Programmes
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The Member Secretary, NBA informed the members that NBA Secretariat has provided inputs to MoEFCC for various international instruments including multilateral/bilateral discussions, cabinet notes, and field visits which are as follows:

1. Visit of Chairman, NBA to Ladakh for Interacting with SBB & BMC's
2. 11th round of India-EU FTA negotiations
3. Review meeting with 12 Pilot States for the progress made on the EPBR
4. A meeting with the representatives of M/s. Namdhari Seeds Pvt. Ltd. to discuss issues related to the seed sector in compliance with the ABS mechanism.

Decision: The Authority members noted the information in this regard.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.31.1 Contravention Cases to be placed before the Adjudicating Officer

The Member Secretary, NBA apprised the members that an Authority member had requested the following:

"There are 242 applications currently kept in abeyance, with 102 of these filed under the Office Memorandum issued by the MoEFCC for dealing with the contravention application filed and pending before 01.04.2024. NBA, secretary has to submit all the case-wise details and reasons pending before the amendment of the Act in the next authority meeting."

In this regard, the Member Secretary informed the members that, as per the request of the Authority member, the case-wise details of the 242 contravention applications have been placed before the Authority. The members noted the information placed by the NBA.

Decision: The members noted the case-wise details of the 242 contravention applications placed before the Authority.

Action: Member-Secretary, NBA

74.31.2: Avoidance of potential conflicts of interest and legal implications under the BD Act as amended.

The Member Secretary, NBA explained that the amendment to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, mandates the appointment of Adjudicating Officers (AOs) under Section 55A for the purpose of determining penalties under Section 55. To avoid potential legal implications and conflicts of interest, he mentioned that this agenda has been presented to the Authority, seeking valuable input on whether Secretaries to the State Ministry/Department of Environment and Forests, who are also mostly the members/some of them are chairman of the State Biodiversity Boards, can serve as the Adjudicating Officer under Section 55A.

2. Chairman, NBA deliberated that the Adjudicating Officer is an officer who holds quasi-judicial powers, as per Section 55A of the Act r/w Rule 23 of the BD Rules, to adjudicate the complaint filed before him. If a member of the SBB also acts as an Adjudicating Officer, potential issues may arise from the stakeholders on the fairness and objectivity of the decisions/orders passed by the AO thereby deviating from fundamental principle of "*Nemo Judex In Causa Sua*" ("*no one should be made a judge in their cause*") This could also lead to increased legal challenges, potential appeals before the NGT, and reputational risks for the Authority as well. There will be a lack of clear separation between regulatory functions and the adjudication process, which may result in reduced trust among affected parties. A similar issue may also arise in the notifications issued by the Central Government if the Joint Secretary level officer representing the MoEFCC, is also appointed as the adjudicating officer.

3. However, the members opined that as the key MoEFCC official's (*Ex-officio* member) input is essential and as he was not present in the meeting, the agenda need to be deferred to the next Authority meeting for deliberations.

Decision: The Authority members deferred the Agenda to the next meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from and to the chair.

Annex-I

List of members present on 10.06.2025

1. **Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)** Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai E-mail: chairman@nba.nic.in
2. **Shri. Raghu Kumar Kodali**, Advisor, CS-III Division, Ministry of Environment Forest Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: kodali_rk@gov.in
3. **Shri. Rajesh S, IFS**, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: rajesh.skumar@gov.in
4. **Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan**, Scientist E, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi Email: srivastava.pks@gov.in; anilkumar.v@gov.in
5. **Dr. Koustubha Upadhyaya**, Advisor (Ayurveda) Ministry of Ayush, New Delhi E-mail: adviser-ayush@gov.in
6. **Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta**, Scientist-G, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore Em-mail: ghoshm@icfre.org
7. **Dr Gyanendra Pratap Singh**, Director, ICAR- National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), Pusa, New Delhi Email: gp.singh-icar@nic.in; director.nbpgr@gmail.com ; director.nbpgr@nic.in ;
8. **Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri**, Head TKDL, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Anusandhan Bhavan, 2, Rafi Marg New Delhi- 110 001 Email: viswajanani.sattigeri@csir.res.in
9. **Shri. Alok Prem Nagar**, Joint Secretary (Governance), M/o Panchayati Raj, Jeevan Bharati Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 Email: ap.nagar@gov.in
10. **Shri H.B. Abo, IFS**, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Department of Environment and Forests, SFRI, Van Vihar Chimpur, P.B.No: 157 Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh - 791 111. E-mail: apbb2010@gmail.com , abobengia03@gmail.com
11. **Dr. B. Balaji, IFS**, Member Secretary, NBA, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113 Email: secretary@nba.nic.in

Non official members

12. **Shri Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa**, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad-581118 Email: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com; rrhanchinal@gmail.com

13. **Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram**, Retired Professor and Dean, Keishamehong Longjam Leikai, 84C, Imphal, Manipur 795004 Email: jmlaishram@rediffmail.com

14. **Dr. Gouri Joshi**, 401, Balwant ashram, Behind Nirmity Elite, Law College Road, Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra - 41 1004. Email: Bonjaee.envirolegal@gmail.com; bonjaee@gmail.com Mobile. 9225613409

List of members present on 11.06.2025

1. **Shri C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)** Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai E-mail: chairman@nba.nic.in

2. **Shri. Rajesh S, IFS**, Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment Forests Climate Change, New Delhi E-mail: rajesh.skumar@gov.in

3. **Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan**, Scientist E, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Prithvi Bhawan, opposite India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi Email: srivastava.pks@gov.in; anilkumar.v@gov.in

4. **Dr. Modhumita Dasgupta**, Scientist-G, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore Em-mail: ghoshm@icfre.org

5. **Dr. Viswajanani Sattigeri**, Head TKDL, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Anusandhan Bhavan, 2, Rafi Marg New Delhi- 110 001 Email: viswajanani.sattigeri@csir.res.in

6. **Shri H.B. Abo, IFS**, Member Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Department of Environment and Forests, SFRI, Van Vihar Chimpur, P.B.No: 157 Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh - 791 111. E-mail: apbb2010@gmail.com , abobengia03@gmail.com

7. **Dr. B. Balaji, IFS**, Member Secretary, NBA, 5th Floor, TICEL Bio Park, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113 Email: secretary@nba.nic.in

Non official members

8. **Shri Hanchinal Rayappa Ramappa**, 142, MIG-II, KHB Colony, DN Koppa, Dharwad-581118 Email: rrhanchinal@rediffmail.com ; rrhanchinal@gmail.com

9. **Dr. Joykumar Meitei Laishram**, Retired Professor and Dean, Keishamehong Longjam Leikai, 84C, Imphal, Manipur 795004 Email: jmlaishram@rediffmail.com

10. **Dr. Gouri Joshi**, 401, Balwant ashram, Behind Nirmity Elite, Law College Road, Erandwane, Pune, Maharashtra - 41 1004. Email: bonjaee.envirolegal@gmail.com; bonjaee@gmail.com