

# Campaign to document biodiversity

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**Context-** In a step towards documentation and preservation of India's rich biological diversity, the Union government has launched a national campaign for the updation and verification of the **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR)**.

## **About People's Biodiversity Register (PBRs):**

- The PBRs or People's Biodiversity Registers are a legal document containing comprehensive accounts on local bio-resources. They are created to record traditional knowledge and practices.
- The collaborative effort involves the Union ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Goa State Biodiversity Board, the National Biodiversity Authority and the Government of Goa.
- India has 2.67 PBRs created so far and the government hopes that they shall be a milestone in biodiversity conservation. The PBRs also reflect India's efforts to save its resources from Biopiracy also known as scientific colonialism.
- In the absence of **PBRs Indian products like Neem, turmeric, tamarind, basmati and Darjeeling tea have been patented by foreign firms for commercial exploitation.**
- In order to protect the Biopiracy the UN agency, **The WIPO-World Intellectual Property Organisation** formed an intergovernmental committee on intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional resources and folklore.
- Under this agreement, India has made the law i.e., the **'Biodiversity Act 2002'**, under which **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** was constituted. The NBA has so far constituted 2.77 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) across the country to document various aspects of biodiversity.
- This covers habitat conservation, preservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks, and breeds of animals, microorganisms and the

accumulation of knowledge related to local biological diversity.

- The BMCs consist of local elders, farmers and pastoralists, teachers and students. The data brought by the BMCS documents in different formats are standardized, digitized and transformed into e-PBR.