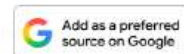




Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria and Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav at the event (Photo/PIB)

Local-level planning imperative for documenting local biodiversity and traditional knowledge: Bhupender Yadav

ANI | Updated: Sep 06, 2026 15:35 IST



New Delhi [India], September 6 (ANI): The 16th National Meet of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) was inaugurated on Sunday in Chandigarh.

Organised by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the two-day National Meet, being held from 6–7 September 2026, brings together Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of SBBs and UTBCs from across the country, along with senior officials, experts and scientists, a release said.

In his address, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav highlighted India's long-standing environmental ethos and referred to initiatives under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi like Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Amrit Sarovar and the Green Credit Programme. India takes along its scientific prowess as well as traditional community wisdom together in this conservation journey, he stated.



He also called for People's Biodiversity Registers to evolve into dynamic planning instruments for local bodies, enabling information on local biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge to contribute to local planning and sustainable development.

Referring to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Minister noted that the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 have further strengthened and streamlined the biodiversity governance framework. He urged States and Union Territories to align their rules, institutional mechanisms and implementation processes with the amended framework.

The Minister appreciated India's progress in fulfilling its international biodiversity commitments, including the submission of the 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 1st National Report on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Emphasising implementation at the grassroots level, Yadav called for making the more than 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees functional and effective.

On Access and Benefit Sharing, the Minister noted that the National Biodiversity Authority has shared over Rs 200 crore of ABS funds with farmers, local communities, Biodiversity Management Committees, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils and research institutions. He emphasised that ABS should deliver tangible benefits to communities while contributing to conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Addressing the gathering, Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria highlighted India's rich biological heritage and traditional environmental ethos. He emphasised that ecological security is closely linked with food and water security, livelihoods and sustainable development, and underlined the importance of combining traditional knowledge and community participation with contemporary approaches.

The Governor drew attention to the ecological significance of its wetlands, riverine ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity. He stressed the importance of strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers and called for stronger coordination among biodiversity institutions and local communities.



The event saw the release of knowledge products, including the document on the last year's achievements of the NBA, giving an overview of the ABS scheme and efficient distribution of these funds among the stakeholders.

Highlighting the linkages between biodiversity and climate action, Bhupender Yadav referred to how over the years India has regularly taken decisive steps aligned with International protocols in the field of biodiversity conservation, while following a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. He talked about India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030, which is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

He called for measurable outcomes in ecosystem restoration, species and habitat conservation, agro-biodiversity and climate-resilient landscapes. He also encouraged States and UTs to become partners in contributing to the global 30-by-30 conservation target. (ANI)

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NATION AND BEYOND

Bhupender Yadav stresses local biodiversity planning at national meet



ANI Photo | Bhupender Yadav stresses local biodiversity planning at national meet

The 16th National Meet of the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) commenced on September 6 in Chandigarh. Organised by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the two-day event brings together chairpersons, member secretaries, senior officials, experts and scientists from across India.

In his address, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav underscored India's enduring environmental ethos and highlighted initiatives under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, including Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Amrit Sarovar and the Green Credit Programme. He stated that India integrates both scientific expertise and traditional community wisdom in its conservation efforts.

The Minister called for People's Biodiversity Registers to develop into dynamic planning tools for local bodies, facilitating the incorporation of local biodiversity and traditional knowledge into local planning and sustainable development.

Referring to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Yadav noted that the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, have strengthened and streamlined the biodiversity governance framework. He urged States and Union Territories to align their rules, institutions and implementation processes with the amended framework.

Yadav commended India's progress in meeting international biodiversity commitments, including the submission of the seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first National Report on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). He emphasised the importance of operationalising the over 276,000 Biodiversity Management Committees at the grassroots level.

Regarding Access and Benefit Sharing, the Minister reported that the National Biodiversity Authority has disbursed more than Rs 200 crore of ABS funds to farmers, local communities, Biodiversity Management Committees, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils and research institutions. He stressed that ABS should generate tangible benefits for communities while supporting conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, addressing the gathering, highlighted India's rich biological heritage and traditional environmental values. He noted that ecological security is closely connected with food and water security, livelihoods and sustainable development. He emphasised the need to integrate traditional knowledge and community participation with modern approaches.

The Governor drew attention to the ecological importance of wetlands, riverine ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity. He advocated for strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees and People's Biodiversity Registers and called for enhanced coordination among biodiversity institutions and local communities.

The event featured the release of knowledge products, including a document summarising the NBA's achievements from the previous year, providing an overview of the ABS scheme and its efficient distribution among stakeholders.

Yadav also highlighted the connection between biodiversity and climate action, noting India's consistent, decisive steps aligned with international protocols on biodiversity conservation using a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach. He discussed India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

He called for measurable outcomes in ecosystem restoration, species and habitat conservation, agro-biodiversity and climate-resilient landscapes. Yadav encouraged States and Union Territories to contribute towards the global 30-by-30 conservation target.

16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards begins in Chandigarh

By : Ravi Jakhu First Published : Sunday, Sep 06, 2026 02:26 PM Updated : Sunday, Sep 06, 2026 02:27 PM

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16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards begins in Chandigarh

By : Ravi Jakhu First Published : Sunday, Sep 06, 2026 02:26 PM Updated : Sunday, Sep 06, 2026 02:27 PM



16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards begins in Chandigarh Centre calls for stronger biodiversity Governance

Ravi Jakhu

Chandigarh, September 6, 2026: The 16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) was inaugurated in Chandigarh on Sunday, bringing together senior officials, experts and scientists to deliberate on strengthening biodiversity governance at the state and local levels.

Organised by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), the two-day meet is being held from September 6 to 7 and is attended by Chairpersons and Member Secretaries of SBBs and UTBCs from across the country.

The inaugural session was presided over by Punjab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav, and Haryana Environment and Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh.

Addressing the gathering, Kataria highlighted India's rich biological heritage and traditional environmental practices, stressing the need to combine traditional knowledge and community participation with contemporary approaches to biodiversity conservation.

**16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards begins in Chandigarh
Centre calls for stronger biodiversity Governance**

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Chandigarh, September 6, 2026: The 16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) was inaugurated in Chandigarh on Sunday, bringing together senior officials, experts and scientists to deliberate on strengthening biodiversity governance at the state and local levels.

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Addressing the gathering, Kataria highlighted India's rich biological heritage and traditional environmental practices, stressing the need to combine traditional knowledge and community participation with contemporary approaches to biodiversity conservation.

He underlined the close links between ecological security, food and water security, livelihoods and sustainable development. He also highlighted the ecological importance of wetlands, riverine ecosystems and agricultural biodiversity, while calling for stronger Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) and coordination between biodiversity institutions and local communities.

States, UTs urged to align biodiversity governance with amended framework

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 had further strengthened and streamlined India's biodiversity governance framework.

Yadav also highlighted India's progress in meeting its international biodiversity commitments, including the submission of the 7th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 1st National Report on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

Emphasising the importance of grassroots-level implementation, the Minister called for making more than 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees functional and effective across the country.

He said People's Biodiversity Registers should evolve beyond being merely documentation exercises and become dynamic planning instruments for local bodies, allowing information on local biodiversity and traditional knowledge to contribute to local planning and sustainable development.

Over ₹200 crore in Access and Benefit Sharing funds distributed

On Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), Yadav said the National Biodiversity Authority had shared more than ₹200 crore in ABS funds with farmers, local communities, Biodiversity Management Committees, State Biodiversity Boards, Union Territory Biodiversity Councils and research institutions.

He stressed that the ABS mechanism should provide tangible benefits to local communities while supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Knowledge products, including a document detailing the NBA's achievements over the past year and providing an overview of the ABS scheme and distribution of funds, were also released during the event.

Focus on biodiversity and climate action

Yadav also highlighted the links between biodiversity conservation and climate action, noting that India has adopted a 'Whole of Government' and 'Whole of Society' approach to environmental conservation.

He referred to India's Updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030, which is aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

He called for measurable outcomes in ecosystem restoration, species and habitat conservation, agro-biodiversity and climate-resilient landscapes. States and Union Territories were also encouraged to contribute to the global 30-by-30 conservation target.

Haryana Environment and Forest Minister Rao Narbir Singh highlighted the state's efforts towards biodiversity conservation and restoration. He stressed the importance of strengthening biodiversity governance at the state and local levels and called for enhanced training and capacity building of Biodiversity Management Committees and local communities.

The two-day meet will provide States and Union Territories an opportunity to share experiences, innovations and implementation challenges. Discussions will focus on strengthening institutional mechanisms, improving the functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees, enhancing the quality and use of People's Biodiversity Registers, building local capacities and ensuring more effective implementation of the biodiversity governance framework at the grassroots level.

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Kataria, Yadav push grassroots biodiversity drive

TNN / Sep 07, 2026, 00:03 IST

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Union minister Bhupender Yadav stresses the need to make biodiversity management committees more...

Chandigarh: Calling for stronger grassroots action to protect India's rich natural heritage, Punjab governor and UT administrator Gulab Chand Kataria and Union environment minister [Bhupender Yadav](#) Sunday underscored the need to make local biodiversity institutions more effective and community-driven at the 16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity

Councils (UTBCs) in Chandigarh.

The two-day meet, organised by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) on Sept 6 and 7, has brought together chairpersons and member secretaries of biodiversity boards and councils from across the country, along with senior officials, experts and scientists.

The inaugural session was attended by Kataria, Union minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupender Yadav, and Haryana environment minister Rao Narbir Singh.

He called for strengthening Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs), while advocating closer coordination between biodiversity institutions and local communities.

Bhupender Yadav said India's biodiversity conservation efforts combine scientific capabilities with the traditional wisdom of local communities. Referring to initiatives launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, he highlighted Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, Amrit Sarovar and the Green Credit Programme.

The Union minister said the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act, 2023, and Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, have further streamlined and strengthened biodiversity governance in the country. He urged states and UTs to align their institutional mechanisms, rules and implementation processes with the amended framework.

Emphasising implementation at the grassroots level, Yadav called for making more than 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees across the country fully functional and effective. He said People's Biodiversity Registers should evolve into dynamic planning tools that help local bodies integrate biodiversity-related information and traditional knowledge into development planning.

The minister also referred to India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024–2030, aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. He urged states and UTs to work towards measurable outcomes in ecosystem restoration, habitat and species conservation, agro-biodiversity protection and climate-resilient landscape development, while contributing to the global 30-by-30 conservation target.

The meeting will serve as a platform for states and UTs to share experiences, innovations and implementation challenges, and discuss measures to strengthen biodiversity governance. Deliberations are expected to focus on improving institutional mechanisms, enhancing the functioning of Biodiversity Management Committees, improving the quality and use of People's Biodiversity Registers, and building capacity for more effective biodiversity management at the grassroots level.